

**TOWN OF WINCHESTER
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 22 , 2021
Record**

OPENING

Chair Michael Bettencourt called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM via Zoom remote participation due to the State of Emergency COVID-19. Present were Select Board members Vice Chair Susan Verdicchio, Amy Shapiro, and Mariano Goluboff. Jacqueline A. Welch was absent. Also present was Town Manager Lisa Wong. (Note - due to the remote participation all Select Board votes are roll call votes.)

*Motion: That the Select Board adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters related to MGL Ch. 30 §21(a) 6 - To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body.

Verdicchio - Goluboff

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

*Motion: That the Select Board adjourn from Executive Session to Public Session, not to return to Executive Session.

Verdicchio - Goluboff

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

1. Monday, March 8, 2021 - Regular Session
2. Monday, March 22, 2021 - Regular Session

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS

TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMENTS

1. Ms. Wong announced the following appointment in accordance with section 4-2b of the Town Charter, and she respectfully requested that the Select Board vote to waive the fifteen (15) day appointment period for: **Chief of Police - Daniel O'Connor**.

*Motion: That the Select Board waive the customary fifteen (15) day appointment effective waiting period to allow Daniel O'Connor to begin his employment.

Verdicchio - Goluboff

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

2. Town Manager's Updates:

March 10 at 8pm - Deadline to Register to Vote for those who are NOT currently registered in Winchester to be eligible to vote in the March 30 election. Register to vote at www.registertovotema.com

COVID - The Public Health Nurse has been and will continue to vaccinate home bound residents.
- The vaccination clinic at the Jenks Center scheduled for this week is ON HOLD. The state altered their distribution plan last week and have now excluded many local towns to focus on mass

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vaccination sites. - The Town finalized a contract with Project Beacon to purchase tests at \$28.50 per test, not including labor. The testing dates will be announced soon.

MBTA - The MBTA will be hosting an informational meeting Tuesday, February 23rd at 6pm. Zoom link and more information at www.MBTA.com/WinchesterStaJon.

- The project timeline will exceed the date outlined in the current license agreement (April 12) as the latest projection is for completion in May or June. The MBTA will need to seek an extension from the Select Board.

- Parking impacts are being reviewed now, including several meetings with impacted businesses. Recommendations will be forthcoming.

Waterfield Lot - The LDA is being drafted with input from representatives from the Finance Committee, Affordable Housing Trust and Housing Partnership Board, as well as staff. The Select Board will review this at a meeting in March.

- CIVICO is looking to perform site borings at the site. We are coordinating with them on what they need to do before performing this work.

Project Updates - February 2021 (Provided by the Engineering Department)

Current Construction Projects:

- Lead Lines Year IV - on hold until spring. With this current contract 90 lines have been removed and 112 will be in the upcoming construction season; leaving approximately 238 remaining lines to be removed.
- Phase II Sanitary Sewer Rehab Project - work on hold until March 1 due to winter conditions
- Parkhurst Elevator Project - ongoing. Waiting on Eversource. Hoping to install in March
- Muraco Classroom Sinks - installation complete

Current Design/Engineering Projects:

- Town Hall Flooring - gathering bids and preparing a schedule for implementation in March. Will coordinate with Department Heads to minimize disruption to daily operations
- Saw Mill Spillway - design complete waiting on permits and then will bid in winter for an early spring construction
- North Reservoir Dam - design complete, permitting ongoing and will bid in late winter for a spring construction
- Swanton Street Bridge/Culvert - contract awarded to MAS Building & Bridge, Inc. for \$2,307,425. Work to begin in May, road closure scheduled from June 15 - September 15
- Lake Street Bridge - design is finalizing and permitting is ongoing. Plan to bid in the summer with a fall construction
- ADA Improvements - hired an architectural firm and working on design plans for Town Hall and Public Library, design ongoing
- Risk Assessment - developed an implementation plan based on the Risk Assessment Study. Will package improvements to Town Hall utilizing the \$75k appropriation, work on going
- Main Street Railing - VHB completed initial survey and investigation and recommends the replacement and repair option
- Flood Mitigation Project 10 - Muraco Bridge - VHB preparing the final set of plans and specifications
- DPW Transfer Station - W&S under contract for preliminary plans and permitting with DEP.
- Winter Pond (Eversource MOU) - Toole Design Group under contract for the preparation of plans and specifications for traffic and landscape improvements for summer implementation
- Highland Avenue Traffic Improvements - Toole Design Group under contract to develop plans and specifications and cost estimates for improvements. Plan is to go back to CPC for construction funding in spring of 21
- West Side Fire Station Improvements - working with EMC for the HVAC improvements. Developing a scope of work with the fire department for the kitchen and bathroom repairs.
- Town Hall and DPW Fire Alarm Project - engineering ongoing. Will review preliminary plans and estimates next week and will prepare Capital request.
- Lincoln School Exterior - consultant on board to develop schematic plans
- Ambrose and Lincoln Oil to Gas - specifications prepared, will bid in March for summer removal

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- McCall Unit Vents - work completed over vacation week
- Downtown Business District Improvements - Toole Design Group under contract for the preparation of an improvement plan and working with Green International on a landscape plan for the river edge. Site walk scheduled for next week.
- Muraco Electrical and Roof- engineering ongoing to prepare a set of preliminary plans and cost estimates
- Town Hall HVAC engineering ongoing to prepare a set of preliminary plans and cost estimates
- Fire Department HVAC - engineering ongoing to prepare a set of construction documents
- McCall Masonry - engineering ongoing to prepare a set of preliminary plans and cost estimates
- DPW Stable Replacement - engineering ongoing to prepare a set of preliminary plans and cost estimates
- Carriage House - RFP on street, proposals due March 9th
- Lynch Elementary School - MSBA approved moving forward on the project. Will prepare RFS for the OPM by March 15.

BUSINESS

1. **MBTA Project Update** - Angel Donahue-Rodriquez, MBTA representative, reminded the Board that MBTA is hosting a Town Informational zoom meeting on February 23rd at 6:00 p.m. He also told the Board that due to several factors, MBTA will need a deadline extension. The demolition will be done by mid-May with the cleanup done by the end of May.
2. **Winchester Non-Citizen Voting Privileges** - Wei Han & Karen Hirschfeld, Immigrant Justice Committee, informed the Board that many Winchester non-citizens who are very active in the community are unable to vote in Town elections and requested the Board's support in developing an article for Town Meeting. The Board supports this and staff is already researching the process. Mr. Goluboff also explained that this doesn't require a Charter change, it would be a Home Rule petition from Town meeting that the legislature would do special legislation.
3. **Mental Health Statement** - Ms. Shapiro feels that the status of mental health is an important issue in Town and that the Select Board should adopt the statement that was approved by the Board of Health.

*Motion That the Select Board adopt the Winchester Statement on Mental and Emotional Health as presented.

Verdicchio - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

4. **Eviction Resolution** - Chair Bettencourt stated that this started as a request from the NWACP to really employ an eviction moratorium which we have seen at the state & federal level. There are issues with our authority at the local level but we are looking for a resolution to encourage any property owners' dispute with tenants to really take a step back and work with us, the tenants and the local social services. The Housing Partnership Board feels that this should be provided to the landlords, tenants but also to provide information along with it that connects both landlords and tenants with social services would help to really stave off the eviction process.

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*Motion That the Select Board approve the Town of Winchester Emergency Resolution regarding evictions as presented.

Verdicchio - Goluboff

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

5. Committees & Commissions Appointments - The Select Board appointed/reappointed the following

*Motion That the Select Board appoint Mary Grassi to the Design Review Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2022.

Verdicchio - Goluboff

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

*Motion That the Select Board appoint John Clemson to the Heritage District Commission for a term to expire July 15, 2022.

Verdicchio - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

*Motion That the Select Board appoint Andrew Kelley to the Wildwood Cemetery Advisory Committee for a term to expire May 31, 2022.

Verdicchio - Goluboff

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

EQUITY AND ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE

CONSENT AGE NDA

*Motion That the Select Board approve the staging permit for Signarama Somerville for James Covino, at 41 Thompson Street to install a new sign in existing brackets.

Verdicchio - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

Ms. Welch joined the meeting at the closing of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT : 8:20 PM

*Motion: That the Select Board adjourn for the evening.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wong, Town Manager