

Tuesday, March 28, 2023
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Gala Room, Town Hall
7:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Leah Gibson, Chair (LG)
Stephanie McGowan, Vice Chair (SM)
Dennis Keefe, Clerk (DK)
Seth Ferguson (SF)
Mark S. Elfman (ME)

Also Present:

William Keegan Jr. Town Manager (BK)
Christina Metcalf, Communications Specialist (CM)
Katie Lang*, Executive Assistant (KL)
*Attended remotely

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on Government Channel 22/38 and at FCATv.org/live**

1. 7:00pm - Citizen's Input

2. 7:05pm Use of Public Way Application - NAC 5K & Super Hero Dash – Kristy McDougal

2.1 Review and vote on Use of Public Way Application for the Norfolk Advocates for Children Inc. NAC 5k & Super Hero Dash on 4/30 from 9:00am-12:00pm on to be held on Payson Road, Chestnut Street, Mechanic Street, Railroad Ave, Bird Street and Baker Street.

Hi I am Kristy MacDougall, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office and the Norfolk Advocates for Children located in Foxborough. April is Child Abuse Prevention month and are hosting this 5k which will start at 12 Payson Road. We are following the Bailey's Run Route for this 5k and have volunteers at the busy corners along with Police.

**Motion to approve the Use of Public Way Application for the Norfolk Advocates for Children Inc.
NAC 5k & Super Hero Dash on Sunday, April 30 from 9:00am-12:00pm by D. Keefe, 2nd by M.
Elfman. Approved, 5-0.**

3. 7:15pm - Cooks Towing Continued Hearing

3.1 Continued Hearing for Class III Auto License for Cook's Towing & Transport, Inc. at 24 East Belcher Road. Applicant has withdrawn application without prejudice

Ms. Gibson stated that the applicant has voluntarily withdrawn this application and we will be closing the hearing and there is no further action warranted by this Board.

**Motion to accept the withdrawal of the Class III Auto License for Cook's Towing & Transport, Inc.
at 24 East Belcher Road and close the public hearing by D. Keefe, 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.**

Mr. Elfman asked if this will be a Zoning Issue to which Ms. Gibson replied that it would be a ZBA matter.

4. 7:25pm Human Services Department Update and Use of Public Way Application for Memorial Day

4.1 Human Services Director Marc Craig, Recreation Director Renee Tocci and Veterans' Services Director Ally Rodriguez to give update on all Human Services Division

Mr. Craig began by reminding what the new Human Services Department looks like right now, which is that Recreation and Veterans' joined the Council on Aging and Human Services last year and is under the Human Services umbrella. The Senior Center is located at 75 Central Street. The senior center is an active place for passive and active activities. I'm very happy with how the Senior Center works. The Human Services department has Pam McGuire and Kate Fennyery who are incredible resources and are available for any one 18+ years old. Our normal

average attendance has returned. We see usually see 175-200 people on Wednesday/Thursdays and we see about 75 on the Friday half day and about 40 people a day. We have Senior Olympics this June. We have transportation we have the Van-Go and the mini-Van-go. They stay within 11 miles and do trips. We do shopping trips and local trips as well as trips down to the Cape. We have \$145,000 of alternate funds from grants and the Friends of Foxborough Seniors.

Ms. Tocci presented the Recreation division of Human Services. There are three properties that we oversee, Payson Road, Booth Complex, and Mill Street. Booth is where my office is and where the new pavilion will go. At Mill Street we have the pool and did upgrades last summer. We sell individual and family memberships and have sold more memberships last year than ever. The Farmers Market will be held starting June 1 and are looking for vendors. This is in conjunction with the Foxboro Jaycees concerts. We are looking for helpers for the farmer's market vendors to make it easier getting their products to the Farmer's Market

The Booth Summer Program is coming up and filling up with campers. It runs for 8 weeks. We added for the 2nd year our middle school adventure.

Mr. Elfman asked how many people is filled for the 6-9th grade and Ms. Tocci responded with 50 is filled.

Ally Rodriguez began the Veterans' Service portion of the presentation, we service veterans and their families. I see a lot of widows and children of veterans. We do a lot with grave markers and ordering flags for the town. We provide flags for the Rock Hill Cemetery and St. Mary's. We are always looking for volunteers to help as well.

On Veteran's Days from last year we had the American Bombshells and Silver Star recipient Jonathan Hill. It was the best attended Veteran's Day since I've been here. We took a field trip to the Seabee Museum in Rhode Island with Veterans. From memorial day we had the first female commander from the USS Constitution. I was in Washington DC with Seth Moulton to get more training for VSOs. This Memorial Day is all about the Spanish American War with Jack Authalet will be the key note speaker. We will have a parade and feed everyone afterwards.

Mr. Craig stated with our combined departments, we've had a lot of coordinated success with combining our shared resources and staff. It's easier when we are working together with a combined goal and it is a fantastic team.

Ms. Gibson commented having the department's together made sense and over the last year it has shown it has been a great success. Mr. Keefe added, you have tripled your effectiveness and it is great.

4.2 Review and vote on Use of Public Way Application for Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on 5/29 from 10:00am - 12:00pm on Central Street and around the Common

Ms. Rodriguez stated that it's the same application as last year with the same parade route.

Motion to approve the Use of Public Way Application for the Memorial Day Parade on May 29, from 10:00am – 12:00pm on Central Street and around the Common by D. Keefe 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

5. 7:45pm Department Update - Health Department

5.1 Director of Public Health Matthew Brennan to give update on the Health Department

Mr. Brennan started out with stating that our Health Department has grown due to the Public Health Excellence Grant and have hired a regional food inspector and regional housing inspector. We have a capacity assessment that is being done by the Department of Public Health. If there are room for improvements and could add additional staff to serve the region and the Bristol-Norfolk Public Health Partners (BNPHP).

The Board of Health regulations are in need of update and plan to do so over the next few months and do a public information and outreach campaign to gain public and board comments. We also received a Community Health

Network Alliance Grant and held several wellness class offerings and will be collaborating with Renee and Marc on more wellness programs in the future. We have a lot of environmental cleanup sites in Foxborough such as 131 Morse Street. This and other sites need to be addressed and will be working with the University of Connecticut Technical Assistant for Brown Field program to review them. We are also looking to increase our nuisance property enforcements we have a few properties who are in need of receivership to repair those properties. We've had a property that was abandoned and is late on taxes.

Mr. Keefe asked if that a candidate for a tear down. Mr. Brennan replied that it is a historical house and large lot. I'm asking the court to fix the violations that I cited. Once remedied it should be okay and would have to go through the planning and building process. Mr. Elfman asked if the Attorney General's Office is amendable to requests like this. Mr. Brennan responded affirmatively that they even have a program dedicated for this and is free for the Town to have these services.

We are working on the Opioid Settlements and those funds. We are waiting for the new Town Manager to get here and then start the conversations about where those funds should be distributed. Ms. McGowan asked if those funds have to be used by a certain time. Mr. Brennan responded they can be used regionally(recommended) or town, and there is no time constraint, we just need to report when we use the funds. Mr. Keefe asked about opioid programs that's support pregnant and parenting women and their families including babies with neonate abstinence syndrome. Mr. Brennan stated I would have to my research on that. Ms. Gibson stated that it's great to see the proactive approach Mr. Brennan is taking.

Mr. Keegan stated we have come a long way in the Health operation and appreciate Matt's operation. I'm grateful for your team and doing so much activity.

6. 8:05pm Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review

6.1 Review and vote to approve the naming of the Debbie Giardino Pavilion at Booth Playground

Heather Harding, Board of Recreation Chair stated that the Recreation Board approved this unanimously and also presented at Advisory Committee who support this article.

Motion to approve the naming of the Debbie Giardino Pavilion at Booth Playground by D. Keefe 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

6.2 Review and possible vote to approve and sign the May 8, 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Keefe said he was surprised with all the cleanup of definitions for the zoning. This suggests that there have been issues. Mr. Keegan stated with new eyes on policies and bylaws, it helps make it better for the town and operations. Ms. Gibson said that we slimmed down the language for changing the time and place for the Town Meeting Warrant. We aren't taking positions as we wouldn't have them on the warrant if we didn't support them.

Mr. Ferguson asked if there were they any reservations or concerns about any of the Zoning articles as he had not seen the meetings where these changes were reviewed. Mr. Keefe said he didn't have any concerns. Mr. Elfman stated that historically we don't have ownership of articles. Zoning does the work and have ownership and present at Advisory Committee and Town Meeting. If they find there are definitions their bylaw that needs re-defining, then they are the ones presenting those. Ms. McGowan said there is a big difference in changing definition and changing zoning and that she is good with the language clean up.

Ms. Gibson it is our responsibility and I have followed along so I'm not sure that's a fair statement. Ms. McGowan stated that the articles just appear on the warrant and the only one we had a discussion on was the changing the name of the board. Ms. Gibson replied that is an unfair statement because the time of the meeting is the one that I had added and asked the Board to move forward on this article as I think we needed some flexibility on the way our

bylaws are written. I hear what you are saying but the time that we are voting isn't the time to ask questions, they should have been raised sooner.

Mr. Keefe stated it's about delegation to the content experts and bringing forth changes to produce those changes. I have great confidence in the department heads bringing these forwards.

Ms. Gibson while the Select Board owns the warrant, other elected boards can bring forward warrant articles. Mr. Ferguson asked if they can bring whatever they wanted and Ms. Gibson replied that it is unlikely other boards would do that. She stated there is a process, especially with zoning that has a lot more steps.

Ms. McGowan said that she wished the Board was more consistent on how we vote or don't vote on articles. Ms. Gibson stated that we've been consistent and I've made the very intentional to be consistent as Chair and it's unfair to say we've been haphazard over the years.

Mr. Elfman said I probably had a different approach as chair and now we are being more consistent because of the discussion we had in past years.

6.3 Vote on revised budget - FY24 Total of 93,504,890 (Southeastern Regional School District assessment lower than expected by \$91,801)

**Motion to approve the revised FY24 Budget Total of \$93,413,089 by D. Keefe, 2nd by M. Elfman.
Approved, 5-0.**

7. 8:20pm Town Manager's Update

7.1 General Update on Town operations and business – We had a potential issue at one of the schools today that turned out to be a false alarm.

7.2 Governor's Office Announces End of Covid-19 Public Health Emergency in Massachusetts

7.3 Town Property Use Approvals - Horseshoe League on DPW adjacent property April - Sept, from 6:15pm - 9:00pm, Memorial Day Ceremony, 5/29, 10:00am - 12:00pm on the Town Common, and Lions Club Fall Festival on 9/16, 10:00am - 3:00pm on the Town Common

Ms. Gibson stated that there could have a potential conflict with the Lions Club but a solution is in the works.

Mr. Keegan stated that Ally Rodriguez has been offered and will accept the VSO position in the City of Taunton. We will miss Ally and she has left an indelible mark on the community. She set a high bar for the next VSO to follow. We are all grateful for what she's done here, congratulations to her.

We did meet with the Finance Director sub-committee earlier today and will have a recommendation for you at the next meeting. Thanks to Seth for sitting in on that.

This is my last official Selectmen's meeting and I wanted to say thanks to everyone for supporting me.

LG – We'll have the chance to tell when you do go. I can't thank you enough for your leadership and everything you've done for the town.

8. 8:30pm - Selectmen's Update

8.1 New Business - Hydrant Flushing in Zones 6-10 starting March 27 through the beginning of May

8.2 New Business - FCA Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition - Ms. Gibson did not want to miss the chance to thank them for the meetings and also for all the events, sports, music events, and everything in town that they volunteer to do.

Mr. Elfman commented that when we talk to other Select Boards from other towns, they don't have nearly the support of cable access that we do in Foxborough. It is an incredible group of people.

LG – We now have an HD channel, meetings are indexed and they are rolling out new features all the time.

8.3 Old Business

9. Action Items

9.1 Boyden Library - Accept \$3,549 donation from Lakeview Pavilion for Museum passes

Motion to accept a donation of \$3,549 from Lakeview Pavilion for Museum passes for Boyden Library 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

9.2 Historical Commission - Accept a donations totaling \$1,400 to the Historical Commission for new Veteran's markers from Bill Sides -\$200, Janet Haynes - \$100, Mary Ellen Doona - \$100 and Foxboro VFW - \$1,000

Motion to accept donations totaling \$1,400 to the Historical Commission for new Veteran's markers from Bill Sides -\$200, Janet Haynes - \$100, Mary Ellen Doona - \$100 and Foxboro VFW - \$1,000 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

Mr. Elfman stated that there are several signs that have gone up already.

10. Adjourn – 8:06pm

Motion to adjourn 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.