

Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Gala Room, Town Hall, 40 South Street
7:00 p.m.

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Paige Duncan, Acting Assistant Town Manager (PD)
Katie Lang, Executive Assistant (KL)
Marie Almodovar, Finance Director (MA)
Thomas Welch, Chief Assessor (TW)
Paula Maloney, Treasurer/Collector (PM)
Renee Tocci, Recreation Division Director (RT)
Tom Miller*, Counsel for Renaissance/Hilton (TM)
Farouk Rajab*, proposed Manager of Record, Renaissance(FR)

*=Attendance via Zoom

**All Select Board meetings are recorded and broadcast by Foxboro Cable Access on Government Channel 22/38
and at FCATv.org/live**

1. 7:00pm - Citizen's Input – No one in attendance

Presentation, not on the agenda, by the Foxborough Commission on Disability.

Sue Collins, Chair of Foxborough Commission on Disability and Margaret Chaisson, Vice-Chair. Presents the Above and Beyond Award to Cumberland Farms, Karen Keiling, who employees an individual with a disability who is said to be the most reliable and enthusiastic worker on staff. Presents the group Above and Beyond Award to a group of educators from the Ahern Middle School – Barbara Gemba, Kim McDowell, Melissa Henry, Julia Shilber & Karen Frasier. Educators have put together unified sports teams – basketball and bocce ball which has really been a success for the students involved as well as the school and created a very inclusive environment for all.

2. 7:05pm Use of Public Way & Use of Town Property Application - Light Uptown - Central St. from Wall St. to the Town Common, South St. from Central St. to Cocassett St.

2.1 Review and vote on Use of Public Way and Use of Town Property for Foxborough Recreation's Light Up Town Event on November 25th 3pm to 7pm.

RT - Light Up Town has grown over the years and this year will be even bigger than last year. Closing Central. Three vendors last year to 22 this coming year. FCA just reached out today to host an event at their location. Lots of advertising which has drawn attention to the events. All backpacks at all three elementary schools, the Ahern and all Halloween bags from the parade had flyers in them so we should see a large crowd. Closing Central from Wall to the Common, turn right and then on South Street. Dance performance. Draft at the Library and COA. Blizzard at the Foxborough House of Pizza! Library, Bethany Church, COA all participating – lots of community engagement. Rain or shine event. DPW and Police will be blocking the streets.

Motion to approve the Use of Public Way Application and Use of Town Property for Foxborough Recreation's Light Up Town Event on November 25th from 3:00pm to 7:00pm by L. Gibson, 2nd by S. Ferguson.

Approved. 5-0

3. 7:10pm Change of Manager Application - Colwen Management, Inc., dba Renaissance Hotel at Patriot Place & Hilton Garden Inn at Patriot Place - 28 Patriot Place

3.1 Review and approve a Change of Manager Application for Colwen Management, Inc., dba Renaissance Hotel at Patriot Place & Hilton Garden Inn at Patriot Place from Kenneth Lavigne to Farouk Rajab

Tom Miller, representing the licensee joined by the proposed Manager of Record. More than 30 years of experience with managing more than 20 years. Bar Manager to Regional Director and was a TIPS trainer for more than 10 years. TIPS certified. Will be on location more than 40 hours per week.

Farouk, happy to be here working in the Town of Foxborough and happy to answer any questions.

Motion to approve the Change of Manager application for Colwen Management, Inc., dba Renaissance Hotel at Patriot Place & Hilton Garden Inn at Patriot Place - 28 Patriot Place from Kenneth Lavigne to Farouk Rajab by L. Gibson, 2nd by S. Ferguson.

Approved 5-0.

4. 7:15pm Town Licensing Discussion

4.1 Review licensing matrix listing licenses from Town Managers Office, Health, Building and Fire Department. Matrix to be posted on website as a resource to businesses and residents.

PD – Wanted to finalize with Department Heads and get ready to go live with this document – one last chance to know that it is available. There will be links as we transition but that is our goal. For this to be a working document for users looking for this information.

DK – Great job. Brings it all together. A bit scary to know how much we are responsible for reviewing.

SF – Great effort. Appreciate all the work. Documented well – roles and responsibilities.

ME – Living document that we can always change.

5. 7:25pm Tax Classification Hearing

5.1 Chief Assessor Thom Welch to present the proposed tax rate and exemptions for Foxborough FY24

Motion to open public hearing by L. Gibson, 2nd by S. Ferguson.

Approved 5-0.

See presentation document for review.

TW – Select Board must select a minimum residential factor to set the tax rate and vote on the options. The Board of Assessors recommends a minimum residential factor of 0.9388 and to decline the other additional splits. New tax rate will be \$13.51, a 0.70 cent decrease for residential and \$17.99, a 0.38 cent decrease for commercial/industrial/personal property.

LG – Reducing the rates but people tax bills may go up as their values have increased.

TW – There are a few variables but overall yes. All depends on the property – maybe an addition to the home or let their property go.

LG – Shifting more to commercial and less toward residential so the burden should not be so heavy. New tax rate will be \$13.51, a 0.70 cent decrease for residential and \$17.99, a 0.38 cent decrease for commercial/industrial/personal property.

SM – The market will tell us what our values are but that means nothing if you are not selling your home. Need to be aware of what our budget is but need to think of the average person is not making 4-5% increase in pay to help these added costs. These numbers are hurting a lot of people in Town.

SF – One of the caps on spending is the proposition 2.5%. Property taxes cannot be greater than 2.5%. If everyone's taxes rose at the same rate, couldn't increase by 2.5%.

TW – 2.5% is for the entire Town.

SM – I think we need to be as lean as we can. A lot of people in Town are hurting. All stems here.

DK – There are a lot of options. Downsizing at the top of the market. It's not all negative. On average it might be for the majority.

SF – I think for most people it's neutral.

MA – First and second quarter tax bills are just estimates where the Q3 and Q4 are based off the actual values.

LG – Any comment from the audience for comment?

Motion to close the public hearing by L. Gibson, 2nd S. Ferguson.

Approved 5-0

Motion pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §56 to maintain the split tax rate and adopt a Residential Factor of 0.9388 for Fiscal Year 2024 by L. Gibson, 2nd S. Ferguson.

SF – Looks like you just picked the mid-point. Is there any science behind that? No shift to the increase.

TW – If you kept the same as last year, commercial would get a \$400 tax break. 1.2% shift was last year. No dollar value.

Approved 4-1. S. McGowan abstain.

LG – The information has been in the Boards hands since Friday 11/3.

Motion to vote No on the Open Space Exemption by L. Gibson, 2nd S. Ferguson.

Approved 5-0.

Motion to vote No on Residential Exemption by L. Gibson, 2nd S. Ferguson.

Approved 5-0.

Motion to vote No on the Small Commercial Exemption by L. Gibson, 2nd S. Ferguson.

Approved 5-0.

6. 7:35pm Finance Department Update

6.1 Finance Department update on FY25 budget process

See presentation for review.

DK – Is this one organization a year gets the award?

MA – In the history of program over 1,700 submissions total over the years. In 2022, there were only 2 municipalities in MA that received the award. Website is not up to date. When we have the list of the

LG – Big congratulations on the award!

7. 7:55pm Town Manager Search

7.1 Update on Job Posting

Screening committee has been formed and set to meet 11/20. Bernie will review the process and start to review applications. Submissions due by 11/16.

7.2 Town Manager Search Committee Meeting #1 set for November 20th to review applicant submissions - due November 16th

8. 8:00pm Acting Town Manager's Update

8.1 Around Town: Hydrant Flushing in Zone 5 starts tomorrow November 8th, Ribbon Cutting on November 8th at the Northeast Health Services located at 225 Foxborough Blvd. & on a tentative ribbon cutting on November 8th at Joe's Butcher & Bay located at 31 Wall St., Pratt School bid due by November 8th at 11am, Construction Updates

8.2 Staff Updates: Matt Brennan, Director of Public Health: John D. Crowley Award, Paige Eppolito, Human Resources Director started October 30th, Current Open Positions: Communications Director on the Town Manager's team, Health Inspector on the Board of Health team & Assistant Assessor on the Assessor's team

8.3 Miscellaneous: FY24 Community One Stop for Growth Award \$90,000.00 to assist with the MBTA communities project – meeting today with the team to bring a proposal to this Board and the Planning Board – possibly joint public meeting, 200+ Town Manager Office License Renewals sent out week of October 20th with \$18K received within the first few days of launch.

131 Morse Street - Survey work around the 131 Morse / Glue Factory Pond will begin this week as part of the dam removal design and permitting process

Construction Updates - South Street and Cedar Street Raw Water Main - Sprague Road to Witch Pond. Raw water main pipe installation has reached the I-495 Bridge / State Layout on South Street. Contractor will now begin relocating to the Witch Pond / Cedar Street end of project and start working back to towards the I-495 bridge from the other direction.

East Street & Cocasset Street Intersection Reconstruction - Trees have been ordered and should be installed later this week. Striping is tentatively scheduled for November 12th, depending on weather. Contractor is still awaiting delivery of pedestrian flashing beacon for installation.

Glue Factory Pond West Dam (131 Morse Street) - Bay Colony has been hired as a sub-consultant of Pare Corp. to do an existing conditions survey around the dam this week. This is part of the FY24 Dam and Seawall Grant that was awarded to the Town for the design work and filing of permits needed to remove the dam.

Cracksealing of 41 County Street (Commuter Lot) - DPW will be meeting with the environmental consultant for MassDEP / EPA to discuss the future crack sealing of the commuter parking lot. This is to preserve the underlying cap and prevent potential soil exposure. Notice of any scheduled closure or interruption will be provided as soon as we are made aware.

MassDOT Paving on Route 140 - PJ Keating will be adjusting structures tonight and possibly tomorrow night. Paving of milled areas on Main Street and Central Street are tentatively scheduled for November 15th and 16th, but are subject to change.

9. 8:15pm Selectmen's Update

9.1 New Business: Events: Veteran's Day November 11th at 11am at Foxborough High School, 120 South St. sponsored by our Veterans Services team, Financial Summit December 5th at 6pm in the Town Hall Gala Room, 40 South St. Kraft Group signed Kenny Chesney Friday August 2024, possible second date.

9.2 Old Business

10. Action Items

10.1 Board of Registrars Appointment - Appoint Charlotte Jones as a member of the Board of Registrars for a term to end May 1, 2025

Motion to appoint Charlotte Jones to the Board of Registrars for a term to end May 1st 2025 by L. Gibson, 2nd S. Ferguson.

All approved. 5-0

10.2 Kraft Sports & Entertainment Group - Approve additional Data Sheet for the MIIA High School Football Championships on November 29th, November 30th, and December 1st to the Kraft Sports & Entertainment 2023 Annual Entertainment License played at 1 Patriot Place

Motion to approve the additional events of the MIIA High School Football Championships on November 29th, November 30th, and December 1st played at 1 Patriot Place to the Kraft Sports and Entertainment 2023 Annual Entertainment License, by L. Gibson, 2nd S. Ferguson.

All approved. 5-0

10.3 Select Board: Appoint Dan Peterson as the Advisory Committee representative to the Personnel Board for a term to end June 30, 2025

Motion to appoint Dan Peterson as the Advisory Committee representative to the Personnel Board for a term to end June 30th 2025, by L. Gibson, 2nd S. Ferguson.

All approved. 5-0

10.4 Town - Accept gift of \$22,500.00 from the United Steelworkers AFL-CIO, CLC Unit A and B to conduct a Classification and Compensation study

Postponed till next meeting.

10.5 Select Board - Approval of October 10th & October 24th Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the October 10th 2023 Select Board Minutes, by L. Gibson, 2nd S. Ferguson.

All approved. 5-0

Motion to approve the October 24th 2023 Select Board Minutes by L. Gibson, 2nd S. Ferguson.

All approved. 5-0

11. Adjourn

11.1 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Agenda documents:

2023 MIIA Data Sheet (1)

2023_Licensing

110223_Renaissance Hotel_Change of Manager Application SB

Email regarding FY24 CP Award

Finance Department Update 110723

FY24 CP Award Letter – Foxborough

FY2024 Tax Classification Hearing.FINAL

Light Uptown (1)

Light Uptown (8)

Light Uptown Application

Light Uptown Map

Red White Sample Photo Grid Holiday Christmas Market Event Flyer (4)

Select Board Meeting Minutes_101023

Select Board Meeting Minutes_102423

Tax Classification Heating 11.7.23 Fact Sheet

Important Terms Levy 11.7.2023

Memo for Wage Study- 11/7/2023 (1)