

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Gala Meeting Room
Town Hall, 40 South Street
7:00pm

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, Town Manager (PD)
Katie Lang, Executive Assistant (KL)

Paul Dumas, 4 Adams Street, Citizens Input

Chief Michael Kelleher (MK)

Deputy Chief Thomas Buckley

Foxborough Fire Department

Paul Ahearn, Executive Director Schneider (PA)

Ian Cooke, Executive Director of the Watershed Resilience Planner for the Neponset River Watershed Association

Martin Pillsbury, the Environmental Planning Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council*

Chris Gallagher, DPW Director*

Lance DelPiere, Assistant DPW Director*

Marc Craig, Human Resources Director

Renee Tocci, Recreation Director

Lauren Shurtleff, Acting Veteran Services Director

*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

2. 7:00pm - Citizen's Input

Paul Dumas, 4 Adams Street. Acting VSO, Lauren Burrill, job well done from all the Veteran's group. Police academy has a youth program coming up – applaud the department. Ambulance runs need to be better all around. Would like a formal announcement made about the potential of the community center.

2. 7:05pm - The Commission on Fire Accreditation International® (CFAI)

Congratulations to our Foxborough Fire Department on their accreditation by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International® (CFAI). PD recognized the entire department. International recognition. First in MA, third in New England. Multitude of people alongside the department, Select Board, members of the community were all involved. The Town should be very proud for all the work that has been put into this accreditation.

(MK) Reviewed the strain on the loss of Norwood Hospital and other surrounding ERs where the team is forced to do drops in Boston which takes the ambulance and teams away from the station for long hours. Trying to make due with what is around in terms of health care.

3. 7:15pm - Introduction to new Communications Specialist

Select Board to meet Maura Buckley, Communications Specialist on the Town Manager's Office team. First day was Monday and on boarding fast. (DK) Newspapers are great to get information out in the public but we need a promoter to show what we have done in the Town. Examples, the Fire Department, \$1M grant for the sewers, our GOFA award. Not a lot of it gets out – we need to promote what we are doing here for the residents and get their input to see what we can do better. (SF) Communication is a two-way street so we want to get the information out, but we want to see what we can do better.

4. 7:20pm - Review of Fire Department Additional Hire

Discuss & Possible Vote on new firefighter for the Fire Department FY25.

(MK) Working bare bones and then with the lack of hospital capacity we are tight. If we get one call, an ambulance and 2 staff go out and before the closure of Norwood, it would be 20 minutes possibly but now it could be upwards to 2 hours. With a second call, the second ambulance is with another two. With a third call, we take the ladder truck off and use the third ambulance. With a fourth call, that only leaves one staff as most cases we need three staff to transport one patient. Not optimal with one person. We are then calling out for mutual aid. Currently have two groups of 9 and two groups of 8, which is not taking into consideration time off or sick time or training. Staffing model is management by chaos.

(SF) What is the lightest time we have coverage. (MK) These are 24 hours shifts, no real peak time.

(MK) We worry about anything someone only has one of. Those issues need immediate attention. We just want to get an ambulance on site as soon as possible.

(LG) Given where we sit, especially with the Stadium, is there talk about getting more state aid?

(MK) – State aid goes to more rural areas. We have been exploring alternative funding sources and going after Federal grants.

(SM) Is there a possibility of using a private ambulance service to help with the town need?

(MK) The need to private ambulance service is slim as that is drive by nursing homes and we don't have many around here. There is such pressure in this region. World Cup will be a huge tackle.

5. 7:30pm - Use of Public Way - Sage School 5K

Discuss & Vote on a Use of Public Way application for the Sage School 5K Road Race on May 18th at 9am. Sage School parking look to Mechanic Street, right on Cabot Drive, right on Eastman Avenue, right on Oak Street, right on Kerr Road, left on Richards Street, left on Webb Street, left on Oak Street, left on Mechanic Street to end at the Sage School.

Betsy Ballard, at Sage School for the last year and half. Last race was 2018 with 118 participants. Looking to start more community-based events and making a connection. Working on the strategic plan and engaging with the community. All Town departments are on board and signed off. Will have mailbox flyers to let the neighborhood know. Maura can post on socials to let the Town of the route.

Motion to approve the Use of Public Way application for the Sage School 5K Road Race on May 18th at 9am. Sage School parking look to Mechanic Street, right on Cabot Drive, right on Eastman Avenue, right on Oak Street, right on Kerr Road, left on Richards Street, left on Webb

Street, left on Oak Street, left on Mechanic Street to end at the Sage School, by L.Gibson, 2nd by S. Ferguson.

5-0. Approved.

6. 7:35pm - Schneider Electric Update

Schneider Electric's review of plans to demolish the northern end of the Neponset Avenue complex.

Paul Ahearn, Executive Director, to review the presentation. Reviewed the plans for the Fall and how to building will be taken down. New electrical panel will be going into the building that will remain. We have begun our meetings with Town Departments to start demolition in the safest way possible. The 54 acers of the land that will remain after the building is down has no intended use just yet. Down the line, it possibly will be sold.

(LG) Want to make sure the neighborhoods around are all on board especially with construction hours. With the age of the building, we want to make sure that health issues that might be associated with buildings of this age – just want to make sure that we are going about it in the safest way possible for the community and alongside the Board of Health and Building Inspector.

(PA) Beginning in September to possible January for all structural removal. A lot of work will be done inside the building that no one will ever see.

7. 7:45 - Neponset River Watershed Association Update

Ian Cooke, Executive Director of the Watershed Resilience Planner for the Neponset River Watershed Association & Martin Pillsbury, the Environmental Planning Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to give the 2024 presentation on the Neponset River Watershed Association.

8. 7:55pm - Department Update - Human Services, Veterans, & Recreation

Human Services Director, Marc Craig, Acting Veteran Services Officer, Lauren Shurtleff & Recreation Director, Renee Tocci to give a Human Services Department Update.

9. 8:15pm - FY25 Budget Recommendations

(MK) Anyone to start on the extra firefighter? (DK) This is a safety issue within the community and we have thus far been fortunate. Made the case. (SF) Agree and comfortable bringing this to Town Meeting to let the community vote. (LG) Can we afford it?

(MA) The Town Manager budget did not have an extra firefighter. We were using \$800K but now with our insurance numbers in, we do not have a savings, its just we reduced the amount of free cash from \$800K to \$600k. Free cash should not be used for reoccurring expenditures. I would not recommend using free cash for this. (MK) Funding for this position can be done with the ambulance receipts and other funding.

(LG) Support this year one with free cash and then move it to the operating budget? (MK) Yes.

(SM) Is there anything in your budget that could be done to find the \$70k so we do not have to use free cash for FY25? Library has done it.

(MK) 92% of budget is salary. Could not make that up in the operating budget for FY25. Hiring would be posted July 1 and it could be a few more months. Possibly after Labor Day but if Fire Academy, it would be another few months.

(PD) It is our public officials who are at these stadium events that are supporting them. All the money from these events are just one-time revenue so we cannot use for salaries. We were using free cash at \$800K so the lower insurance numbers and with this position, it is still less. If the residents want this position, then I want them to vote it as it does go against our free cash principals.

(DK) This is all about risk benefit and I think we are at this point.

(SF) If we can cover this year without using more free cash then the safety issue is the overriding factor. If this is the only year, then it can be absorbed for FY26.

(MA) It is this Boards budget. We might have more insight in the next three weeks when we see what comes in from the snow and ice deficit. With that we wouldn't have to go back up in free cash and it could be applied to this position.

Select Board to make final recommendations on the FY25 budget.

Motion to approve to the FY25 budget set forth by the Town Manager with the addition of the fire fighter, by L.Gibson, 2nd by S. Ferguson.

5-0. Approved.

Review & Vote on FY25 Capital Requests.

About \$38 Million. Discussion about what debt is going to be falling off and when it makes sense to do another debt exclusion. Scenarios will be drawn up with the items that are on the ballot and how that will impact the tax bill.

Motion to approve the FY25 Capital requests, by L.Gibson, 2nd by S. Ferguson.

5-0. Approved.

10. 8:20pm - Town Manager's Update

Around Town Updates:

· Town Meeting

- o 131 Morse Street (Summit Casting article to be removed from TM warrant). Community forum on 131 Morse changed to 4.22.24 (from 3/25)

- o Will be making brief videos on major articles to run on FCA in advance of TM

- o Possible TM will be two nights. 5/13 and 5/14

- o 30 articles – BOS should decide order of articles. Work with Doc and Leah on the reading of the warrant. Along with AdComm Chair. TMO to liaise meeting.

- Town Counsel – Retiring. Will begin a search for town counsel. Who wants to be involved? Leah to liaise with Town Manager. Outside of 30B procurement. Asked Jaime Kenny and Pat Costello of their recommendations. Then those chosen can come in an interview with this Board.

- ARPA – filed our ARPA paperwork for several projects:

- o North Street Water Main Replacement

- o Water Meters & Encoder Receiver Transmitters

- o Ahern School Chiller Replacement

- o Cocasset River Recreation Area Improvements

- o Walnut Street Sewer Extension Plan

- Grant – Congressman Auchincloss announced yesterday that Foxborough received a grant after we submitted a FY24 Community Project Funding request. Secured for the MA-04 district in the federal minibuss appropriations package that was signed into law over the weekend. \$959,752 for the Town of Foxborough for Walnut Street Sewer Project.

- Parking – upcoming meeting will discuss per space fee for satellite parking lots and regulations for 15-17 Market Street parking lot which will come online soon.

- Bench – update on applications. Deadline is end of March.

- Walnut Street – construction on housing and infrastructure on schedule to begin this spring.

Human Resources Updates:

- Paige has been running training programs for staff (management rights this week)

- Current Open Positions - interviewing

- o Director of Land Use and Economic Development

- o Water Tech

- o Veteran's Services Officer

- o Human resources specialist (part time)

- o Lifeguard, summer junior camp counselor, summer rec counselor

Miscellaneous Updates:

Construction Updates

- South Street and Cedar Street Raw Water Main - Sprague Road to Witch Pond – no action right now. Waiting for MassDOT to allow last piece of pipe to put over Route 495.

Use of Town Property Permits:

- Foxborough horseshoe league starts May 4 and end August 21st. Games every Thursday at 71 Elm St from 6:30-9 pm

- Farmer's Market starts May 30th through September 5th every Thursday on the Town Common from 4-8 pm.

- Boyden Library Teddy Bear Picnic on July 10th on Town Common 6-8pm

11. 8:30pm – Selectmen's Update

New Business - Girl's Varsity Basketball advances into the D3 Quarterfinals. Thank you to Jim Evans who has been our Town Hog Reeve since 1992 - thank you for your service.

12. Action Items

Veteran Services - Accept a donation to the Veteran Services Department for retired flag lockage drop slots in the amount of \$526.05.

Motion to accept a donation to the Veteran Services Department for retired flag lockage drop slots in the amount of \$526.05, by L. Gibson, 2nd by S. Ferguson.

Approved. 4-0, S. McGowan left meeting.

Select Board to disband the Hog Reeve appointment per the recommendation of the Town Manager's & Clerk's Office.

Motion to disband the Hog Reeve appointment, by L. Gibson, 2nd by S. Ferguson.

Approved. 4-0, S. McGowan left meeting.

Extended Hours Request - Renaissance Hotel at Patriot Place and Hilton Garden Inn at Patriots Place at 28 Patriot Place to serve alcohol on Sunday March 31st, Easter and Sunday May 12th, Mother's Day starting at 11am.

Motion to approve the Extended Hours Request - Renaissance Hotel at Patriot Place and Hilton Garden Inn at Patriots Place at 28 Patriot Place to serve alcohol on Sunday March 31st, Easter and Sunday May 12th, Mother's Day starting at 11am, by L. Gibson, 2nd by S. Ferguson.

Approved. 4-0, S. McGowan left meeting.

Select Board - Approval of Minutes from February 27th 2024 meeting.

Motion to approve Select Board meeting minutes from February 13th 2024., by L. Gibson, 2nd by S. Ferguson.

Approved. 4-0, S. McGowan left meeting.

13. Adjourn

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by L. Gibson, 2nd by S. Ferguson.

Approved. 4-0, S. McGowan left meeting.

Agenda documents:

022724 Minutes

Fire Presentation

2024.03.12 - Schneider Electric, Paul Ahearn

HS Select Board FINAL

Select Board Agenda 31224

Foxboro - in-reach meeting presentation

2024 Horseshoe League

071024_Teddy Bear Picnic

2024 Farmers Market

FY25 Committee Approved Capital Requests 3.2.24

FY25-FY29 5 Year Capital Plan 3.4.24

FY24 CIP Additional Approved Requests 3.12.24

Annual Sage 5K Race Route

031224_Sage School Application

CIP Committee Mtg (2024.03.02) - Agenda_A_U

Veteran Services Donation_022824

031224 Minutes