

**Select Board Meeting
May 1, 2023 – 7:00 PM
Sanford Hall
155 Village Street**

Present Dennis Crowley, Chair; Glenn Trindade, Vice-Chair; Frank Rossi, Clerk; Todd Alessandri, Member; Maryjane White, Member.

Staff Present: Michael Boynton, Town Manager; Allison Potter, Assistant Town Manager; Deputy Fire Chief Vinton; Carol Pratt, Finance Director; Chris Park, Principal Assessor; Courtney Riley, Senior Center Director; Peter Pelletier, Department of Public Works (DPW); Stephanie Carlisle, Sustainability Coordinator; Sandra Johnston, Communications Director.

Others Present: Historical Commission: Jeanne Johnson, Co-Chair, Cher Hamilton, Co-Chair, Paul Russell, Vice-Chair, Rich Eustis, Member; IDEA Committee: Dan Kerls, Chair, Susan Dietrich, Member.

At 7:00 PM, Mr. Crowley called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and reminded all to remember the number 19.

Public Comments:

Mr. Thomas Carson of 3 Sledding Hill Way stated his support of increasing the Senior Tax Work-Off program to \$1,500 noting the program is worthwhile, useful, and very popular as 70-75 Seniors signed-up pre-pandemic and 60 post-pandemic with 2/3rds hitting the maximum. He stated he understands that the State reimburses the Town. [NOTE: Finance Director stated after the meeting that this is not the case, the State does not reimburse the Town.] Mr. Crowley stated some seniors work more than their maximum hours and thanked all the volunteers.

Mr. Liam McDermott of 39 Populatic Street stated he was here as member of Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee and thanked the Board for the donation for their past event. He stated he was disheartened last week regarding the lack of support from the Board for changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. He would like the Board to change its vote to "To Be Determined" rather than disapproving it. Mr. Crowley stated it is Article 38 in the Annual Town Meeting warrant noting residents can vote how they feel and the Board respects Town Meeting opinion.

Approval of Minutes: April 18, 2023

The Board reviewed the draft minutes of April 18, 2023.

Mr. Trindade moved that the Board approve the minutes of April 18, 2023. Ms. White seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Alessandri requested on page one, line 9, that his last name be corrected. Mr. Crowley clarified that a standing count on a vote at Town Meeting will be via the electronic clickers and the standing count would be the final vote. He stated this was discussed with both the Town Moderator and Town Counsel. Mr. Crowley asked on page 4, line 175, that "which would cost the Town \$88 million" be added after the word goal. Mr. Rossi asked that on page 7, line 3 27, that "was designated for" be changed to "is celebrated by". **VOTE: 4-0-1.** Mr. Alessandri abstained as he was not at the meeting.

Authorization to Expend Grant Funds:

- **Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Local Cultural Council Grant - \$8,500**

- **Fiscal Year 2023 Student Awareness of Fire Education Grant - \$3,781**
- **Fiscal Year 2023 Senior Awareness of Fire Education Grant - \$2,077**

The Board reviewed the (1) notice of grant award forms, and (2) fire education grants award letter.

Mr. Trindade moved that the Board authorize the expenditure of the FY23 Local Cultural Council grant as presented. Ms. White seconded. Discussion: Mr. Crowley stated this is a yearly grant received from the State. He explained the three separate Cultural Council accounts. **VOTE: 5-0-0.**

Mr. Rossi moved that the Board authorize the expenditure of the FY23 Student and Senior Awareness of Fire Education grants as presented. Mr. Trindade seconded. Discussion: Deputy Chief Vinton stated this is a yearly grant for these educational programs. Mr. Rossi noted that what is included in the description on the expenditure authorization form was cut off. **VOTE: 5-0-0.**

Mr. Crowley stated that we lost a great man in Bill Boultenhouse and expressed his condolences to the family.

Discussion/Vote: Increase Senior Tax Work Off Program from \$1,000 to \$1,500 Maximum

The Board reviewed the (1) memo from Chris Park and Courtney Riley, and (2) MGL Chapter 59 Section 5K.

Mr. Trindade moved that the Board authorize the increase to the Senior Tax Work Off Program to a maximum amount of \$1,500 beginning in Fiscal Year 2024 as discussed. Ms. White seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Boynton stated there is no expected impact on the FY24 appropriation, but we will need to update the overlay account for FY25. **VOTE: 5-0-0**

Approval: Historical Wraps for Utility Boxes

The Board reviewed the proposed historical wraps.

Ms. Hamilton wanted the Select Board to see each of the proposed renderings noting that they run from Medway Block into the historical section of Town. They received approval from the Design Review Committee. Mr. Russell explained that each box will have different pictures on each side.

Mr. Rossi moved that the Board approve the historical wraps for the utility boxes as discussed. Mr. Trindade seconded. Discussion: Mr. Crowley asked when these will be installed. Ms. Hamilton stated in approximately three months. Mr. Crowley asked if the boxes needed to be prepped. Ms. Hamilton stated the company installing them will prep the boxes. Mr. Crowley asked if they will be sealed. Ms. Hamilton stated yes, and that will last for eight to ten years. Mr. Alessandri asked if there are too many pictures what will happen. Ms. Hamilton stated the graphic designer will determine if certain photos cannot work. Mr. Crowley stated if any new photos are added, they should go before the Committee for approval. Mr. Rossi asked for the specific placement of the pictures. Ms. Hamilton explained where they would be located. Mr. Boynton stated there is funding needed but he will work out the logistics of the funding. **VOTE: 5-0-0**

Discussion/Vote: Continuation of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Advisory (IDEA) Committee with Updated Committee Charge

The Board reviewed the proposed Committee charge and composition.

Mr. Boynton stated the IDEA Committee met with the Select Board a few months ago and suggested making this permanent. Mr. Crowley stated he would like one change relative to the composition of the committee as he does not feel an elected position should be part of the committee. His stated his

concern of potential bias from elected officials and someone not comfortable sharing their thoughts if an elected official is on it, as this is a citizens' group. Therefore, he would like them all to be residents. Ms. White stated her agreement with Mr. Crowley's suggestion. Mr. Trindade felt if a Select Board member was on this, they may be able to help with their issues but is also fine with them all being residents. Mr. Rossi stated everywhere in his corporate experience DEI is the terminology and asked if they would consider changing to that. Mr. Kerls stated inclusion resonated more than any other topic, which is why it is referenced first. Ms. Dietrich stated focus group feedback was on inclusion and the suggestion to have a member of the Select Board, School Committee, and Council on Aging was included as it was helpful to have those perspectives. Mr. Alessandri's preference was to leave the name as is and composition as it is and asked how often they plan to meet. Mr. Crowley said he is trying to avoid political entities shaping the committee's discussions. Ms. White stated a liaison could be appointed from the Select Board and School Committee. Ms. Dietrich requested that if all are going to be citizens at large a staff member be assigned to the committee. Mr. Kerls stated they wanted a couple of members to stay and himself and Ms. Dietrich would like to continue to provide continuity. Mr. Boynton stated to change the terms as follows: (1) three would be appointed for three years, (2) two would be appointed for two years, and (3) two would be appointed for one year and Mr. Kerls and Ms. Dietrich would serve the one-year terms. Following these initial appointments, the terms would all become three years. He reported that the work the IDEA Committee recommended on the website is underway.

Mr. Rossi moved that the Board approve the creation the IDEA Committee as an advisory committee to the Select Board, with the composition changed to seven citizens at large with initial terms of three appointed for three-year terms, two appointed for two-year terms, two appointed for one-year terms with the deference being to the existing members and once the two- and one-year terms end they become three year terms. Ms. White seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Discussion: Unaccounted for Water Loss (UAW) and Charles River Pollution Control District (CRPCD) Volume Update

The Board reviewed the UAW and CRPCD volume data.

This agenda item was moved to the next meeting as the sewer information was not provided to the Board.

Approval: Consultant Agreement with Colonial Power Group, Inc. to Initiate Aggregation Process on Behalf of the Town

The Board reviewed the (1) memo from Stephanie Carlisle, and (2) agreement.

Ms. Carlisle stated this is to start the aggregation process and has no cost to the Town. Mr. Crowley asked how many people have opted out of Eversource. Mr. Boynton stated that is what this group would determine noting this group was used the last time we did this. He stated the Town does not have the bandwidth to handle this on our own hence the need for a consultant.

Mr. Rossi moved that the Board approve and authorize the Chair to execute the agreement with Colonial Power Group, Inc. as presented. Mr. Trindade seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Discussion/Vote: Proposed Increase in Charges to the Curbside Trash and Recycling Program

The Board reviewed the (1) memo outlining the proposed increase in charges to the curbside trash and recycling program, and (2) solid waste budget revenues and expenses as of April 26, 2023.

Mr. Crowley requested this be moved from last meeting so the Board had more time and more data to make an informed decision. Mr. Pelletier reminded the Board of the data provided and reviewed the three proposed options provided. He stated their preference is to increase the curbside cost to \$280 and the cost for bulk items. Mr. Boynton stated we need to recover the costs we are losing at the recycling center. He reviewed those specific items we are losing money on and recommended approval of this increase. He stated the other issue is to cover overall costs noting that we will be looking at the potential of moving salaries out of enterprise fund in FY25. Mr. Crowley suggested increasing the cost from \$250 to \$280 noting that we have not increased this cost for twenty years. He stated that we used to get revenue from the blue bins and now it costs us. Bulk cost has gone up twenty-two percent and hauling costs have increased by thirty-eight percent over the last year. We have \$1 million in reserves, and we used to add to those but have eaten into those over the last few years. We will be operating at a \$375,000 loss for FY24. He stated that we need to stop the bleeding. He noted there was a suggestion to increase the cost of bags. He stated that if we are going up thirty dollars per year for curbside to \$280 and if we increase the cost of the bags as proposed that would be close to thirty dollars, as well. There are seniors that have a reduced rate, and their increase would be relative to their reduced rate. In FY25, if we make adjustments, we will get \$125,000, and if we move the indirect costs out of the enterprise fund, we may get to break even. Mr. Crowley stated he is comfortable with the proposed increase to mattress and bulk items but not the electronics. He is recommending option 1 without the electronics increase and option 3. Mr. Alessandri suggested option 3 at \$270 and option 1 including all proposed increases, as those using the Recycling Center more would pay for that usage versus those who do not. Ms. White agreed with Mr. Alessandri's suggestion. Mr. McDermott suggested reducing the services at the Recycling Center and increasing commercial fees. Ms. Carlisle stated commercial businesses should only be putting in comingled and cardboard. Mr. McDermott stated Medway runs two compactors as does Medfield, which has a much larger population than Medway. There was further discussion about Mr. Crowley's and Mr. Alessandri's suggestions. Ms. White asked why not increase bag fees, as those who use the trash more would pay more. Mr. Crowley stated he gets a lot of complaints about paying for the bags and thinks we will get more pushback from increasing the bags versus the trash fee. Mr. Trindade stated we need to balance the numbers and reiterated that everyone complains about cost of the bags. Mr. Rossi said we are trying to come up with \$270,000 so we are not operating at a loss and, if the indirects can be covered, he agrees to not increase bag fees. Mr. Boynton noted that we are the only town that does not charge an electronics fee. Mr. Rossi said a decision was needed tonight.

Ms. White moved that the Board approve the implementation of option 1 and option 2. No one seconded. The motion failed.

Mr. Rossi moved that the Board approve the implementation of option 1 and option 3. Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-2-0. Ms. White voted nay as she feels the bag fee should be increased. Mr. Crowley voted nay as he does not want to charge for electronics.

Approval of Proposed Water Utility Billing Insert Letter

The Board reviewed the proposed water utility billing letter.

Mr. Boynton stated that the Board must vote to approve any document to be included with the bills and this needs to be decided tonight. He reminded all about the billing error in the first two quarters and the need to recoup lost revenue in quarters three and four.

Mr. Alessandri moved that the Board approve the utility billing letter insert to be included in the 4th Quarter water/sewer/trash bills as discussed. Mr. Trindade seconded. Discussion: Mr. Alessandri asked if the cubic feet can be identified on their bill. Mr. Boynton confirmed. Mr. Crowley asked if

additional wording related to correcting a previous error, specifically “plus \$41.06 to recover quarter 1 and 2 shortfall” should be added to the letter. All agreed. **VOTE: 5-0-0.**

Consideration of Public Event Permit Application: Ride for Food – October 1, 2023

The Board reviewed the (1) application, and (3) departmental approvals.

Mr. Trindade moved that the Board approve the public event permit application as presented subject to the Police Chief’s recommendation and proof of appropriate insurance coverage. Ms. White seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Mr. Crowley asked if something should go in the first quarter bill for FY24 about the increase in trash fees. Mr. Boynton stated we would put that information in the curbside chronicle and insert a letter with the bill. The Board agreed to both means of communicating the fee increase.

Discussion: May 8, 2023, Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant Article 11

The Board reviewed the (1) ATM warrant article 11, and (2) bid results.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

ARTICLE 11: (Capital Stabilization Transfer: McGovern School Roof Replacement)

Mr. Boynton stated bids were received and we need \$3 million noting there is just under a ten percent contingency and \$41,000 was already spent on engineering. This will cover the rest of the project costs. This is a transfer from the capital stabilization fund.

Mr. Rossi moved to approve Article 11 for the McGovern School Roof Replacement for a sum of \$3 million. Ms. White seconded. Discussion: Mr. Rossi asked how much was in the stabilization fund. Ms. Pratt stated \$8 million. Mr. Rossi asked if we want to pay cash versus bond. Mr. Boynton stated it would add over \$200,000 to our debt service. **No Discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.**

Action Items from Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the action items dated April 18, 2023.

This agenda item was not discussed.

Town Manager’s Report

There were no items for the Board to review.

Mr. Boynton gave his condolences to the Boultenhouse family and a tip of the cap for the procedure and protocols of the Fire and Police Departments to assist the family.

Police & Fire Departments – School Incident – Well Done!: Mr. Boynton commended Lieutenant Matt Reardon, Chief Kingsbury, and all who went to the High School to deal with the reported threat. There was also a pepper spray discharge in Milford at the same time so there was additional concern of these incidents being linked.

Mr. Boynton reported that he appointed Jeremy Thompson as the Planning and Economic Development Board (PEDB) Coordinator. He is now working at the 495/MetroWest Partnership and had a great interview, but will need some mentoring.

Facility Feasibility Study – Contractor Review Meeting – Wednesday 3PM: Mr. Boynton stated \$85,000 is in the Town Meeting warrant for the Medway Block feasibility study. We will meet with GRLA to review their proposal at a cost of approximately \$83,000. No commitments can be made until after Town Meeting. Mr. Rossi asked if they have moved out. Mr. Boynton stated they have several things they are working on, specifically the large pieces of equipment. He said some Police and Fire training can be done on the property and Ms. Carlisle and Ms. Graziano are working on Brownfield funding. He stated Ms. Pratt has run some numbers and the cost is substantial, so we are not at a place to recommend uses at this time.

Medway Grid Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) Update: Mr. Boynton stated the process came to a hard right-hand turn when the EFSB decided they will not take jurisdiction on this project, which is frustrating based on the two years it took to get this decision made. EFSB has a meeting on May 10th to discuss the next step. This does not kill the project, but changes the process as this goes back to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). Medway Grid is still discussing options with their legal counsel. Mr. Crowley asked what Representative Roy's take was on this. Mr. Boynton stated he is going to discuss this with the DPU.

Water Treatment Facility – Change Order Next Meeting: Mr. Boynton stated the project is progressing nicely. There is one change with a construction issue due to a conduit lay. We received reassurance from the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) that this change meets and exceeds expectations. There are some change orders coming which will be addressed at the next Select Board meeting. We are still doing well with the project cost.

Town Meeting – Monday (6:30 Select Board Meeting, 7PM Special, 7:30 Annual): Mr. Boynton reminded the Board of the pre-Town Meeting Select Board meeting next Monday night.

Town Manager Out of Office: Mr. Boynton stated he will be off as follows:

- May 11 & 12 – Wednesday Fire Chief Assessment Process
- May 19-26 – Vacation
- June 1&2 – MMMA Spring Conference – Brewster
- June 20-30 - Vacation

NEXT Select Board Meeting – May 15, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Select Board's Reports

There were no items for the Board to review.

Mr. Alessandri apologized for not attending Clean Sweep as he was out of Town, but heard it went well.

Mr. Crowley asked for an update on the Meehan project. Mr. Boynton reported that they met last week and are targeting a June filing for a multiphase project from Elm Street to the Mobil station. Mr. Crowley asked for an update on the Plaza. Mr. Boynton stated we had a meeting with our Town Counsel but will wait until the new PEDB members are on board until we decide on the solution.

At 8:40PM, Mr. Trindade moved to adjourn. Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Langley
Executive Assistant
Town Manager's Office