

**Town of Wendell**  
**Selectboard Meeting Minutes**  
**May 1, 2024, 8:30 p.m.**  
**Town Hall**

**Present:** Chair Laurie DiDonato, Vice Chair Gillian Budine, Member Paul Doud

**Also Present:** Glenn Johnson-Mussad, Town Coordinator

**I. Roll Call/Call to Order**

With all members present, the meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m.

**II. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**III. Selectboard Updates and Comments**

Effect of Police Staff on the Budget

Leverett passed a budget approving a full-time police officer.

This will have implications for Wendell's budget. Finance Committee should be consulted.

Fire Services Regionalization Study Project in Leverett

Fire Chief Joe Cuneo and Glenn Johnson-Mussad attended a launch meeting about the study and will be gathering documents for the first phase of this project.

**IV. Selectboard Meeting and Warrant Schedule Review**

The Selectboard reviewed the schedule as printed in the May 1 meeting agenda.

**V. Approve Minutes of April 17, 2024**

**Laurie moved to approve the April 17, 2024, Selectboard meeting minutes. Paul Doud seconded.**

**Discussion**

The minutes were amended to include the following: Under item XI, Battery Storage Project, change Anna Weatherby to Anna Gyorgy.

**The amended motion passed unanimously.**

**VI. Items Not Anticipated.** Glenn

Chief Procurement Officer

- Glenn is preparing a bid and a Request for Proposal for a new contract for assessors' services; the contract for the services of the current assessor, the Regional Resource Group, will expire in June.
- Glenn submitted a draft of a bid for a new three-year contract to Town Counsel David Doneski, who marked it up and returned it with these comments:
  - a. The Board of Assessors must form an Evaluation Committee for the proposals that come in.
  - b. The contract must also go through Wendell's chief procurement officer (CPO). Documentation has not been found to indicate that Wendell ever appointed a CPO.

- Question for the Selectboard: Does the board want to officially take on the duties of the Town's procurement officer or assign that role to Wendell's Town Coordinator, using the draft motion Attorney Doneski sent?

### **Discussion**

Glenn has completed the training for a Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official and received the certificate yesterday.

**Gillian Budine moved that the Board designate and appoint the Town Coordinator as the Chief Procurement Officer under and pursuant to Chapter 30B of the General Laws. Laurie DiDonato seconded. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### Mowing Service

- Glenn is in talks with Gerry's Landscaping for new quotes to do the landscaping in Town.
- Issues involved include mowing just what's necessary while making efficient use of the landscaper's time, and controlling the amount of money the landscaper has to spend on upkeep and equipment damage.
- The schedule the landscaper presents has to be flexible because it will be based on different amounts of sun and rain.
- Nina Keller proposed that the Town organize a volunteer day to make the Common look better.
- The Selectboard agreed to give Nina permission to develop a plan while considering an estimate from Gerry about the cost of fertilizing (organic methods preferred) certain areas.

### Digital Equity Implementation Funding Opportunity

The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative is offering to reserve \$56,603.77 out of a larger grant it has for municipalities to conduct approved digital equity implementation activities.

- The funds may be able to be used to connect people who currently lack access to digital communications.
- Laurie was asked to sign the contract, which is due by June 21.
- The deadline to submit the proposal is July 31, 2025.

## **VII. Adjournment**

**Gillian moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. Paul seconded. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Documents**

Selectboard Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2024

Selectboard Posting and Agenda, May 1, 2024