

Town of Auburn
Minutes of the Meeting
Of the Board of Selectmen
Auburn Town Hall Selectmen's Meeting Room
104 Central Street, Auburn, Massachusetts
February 11, 2019

Present: Doreen M. Goodrich, Kenneth A. Holstrom, Daniel S. Carpenter, Lionel R. Berthiaume, Tristan Laliberte, CFO/Assistant Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz and Town Manager Julie A. Jacobson

Chairman Doreen Goodrich called the meeting to order at 6:15 P.M.

The Board of Selectmen voted to go into executive session, in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (3) to deliberate upon matters, which if done in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the position of the Town, regarding strategy with respect to litigation, to come out of executive session and reconvene in open session (Motion made by Mr. Holstrom; motion seconded by Mr. Laliberte) roll call vote: Mr. Laliberte, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Holstrom, Yes; Mrs. Goodrich, Yes.

The Chairman then declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body relative to litigation and announced that the Board will reconvene in open session following the executive session.

The Board of Selectmen reconvened in open session at 7:00 P.M. In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Ms. Goodrich announced that the meeting was being recorded and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting. No one so indicated.

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

- Auburn Town Clerk Debra Gremo announced that nomination papers are available for elected town positions to be filed with the Board of Registrars by Tuesday April 2, 2019 to be on the ballot for the May 21, 2019 Annual Town Election. She advised that the last day to register to vote in the May town election would be May 1st. Ms. Gremo also reminded the residents to return their census information.

Chairman Goodrich then announced Worcester Telegram reporter Craig Semon was present and was making an audio recording only.

Public Hearings/Presentations

Public Hearing/Potential Vote Swimming Pool Feasibility Study

The Board of Selectmen voted to open the public hearing at 7:02 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Holstrom; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 5 to 0.

The Town Manager Julie Jacobson gave opening remarks detailing the initiation of the proposed project with Dr. Martha Pappas' generation donation of \$1 million for the public swimming pool. She thanked the Pappas Foundation for their grant to the town of \$30,000.00 to fund a feasibility study for the pool. Ms. Jacobson spoke about the process followed to choose a consultant to do the study, including seeking public input and comment through public meetings and surveys and recommend next steps.

CFO Ed Kazanovicz spoke about the financial impact. He said that the tax impact discussed in the report was on the base price only and did not include the potential acquisition costs and expenses for design services. Ms. Jacobson discussed the potential for user fees.

The Chairman opened the hearing to public comments.

Russell Talisman of 175 Oxford Street thanked Dr. Pappas for the donation, but he spoke in opposition to the project because he was concerned as a taxpayer with liability, legal fees and costs to staff and operate and maintain the facility. He would be in favor of consideration to re-open Rotary Beach.

Daniel Largesse of 39 Perry Place said that he was a Town Meeting Member and he has received many calls against the public swimming pool. People expressed concern with the liability, cost to build and operate and maintain it. Further he said that the costs as shown reflect today's costs. He also thanked Dr. Pappas, but he said that it would be too expensive. Mr. Largesse said that he would favor a splash park or to re-open Rotary Beach.

Selectmen Ken Holstrom said that the Town has other ongoing projects and needs. He said that the cost for the pool was prohibitive and the Town cannot sustain it.

Mr. Laliberte agreed with Mr. Holstrom and he said that he has received calls from residents opposed to the pool. He did thank Dr. Pappas and that he would support a ballot question.

Mr. Berthiaume said that the timing for the proposed pool was bad and there are other priorities needed.

Mr. Carpenter said that the pool was not a priority. He said that the town has built schools and those were needed and that the town has a lot of debt to pay off. He said that he was not in favor of a ballot question and that he was ready to vote not to go forward at this time.

Chairman Goodrich agreed and said that she was not in favor of spending additional money to do design concept to get the information if the voters approved a ballot question.

Ms. Goodrich said that one email was received for this hearing and the few residents who were present and commented on the project. She spoke about the input from public meetings and surveys.

Ms. Goodrich said that she hoped that Dr. Martha Pappas has heard the comments tonight and she appreciated Dr. Pappas' generosity over the years and for this proposal.

The Chairman read the email from Thomas Fleming of 45 Upland Street into the record that stated that he was not in favor of the proposed public swimming pool.

The Town Manager added her thanks to Dr. Pappas for her offer and thanked the Dr. Arthur and Dr. Martha Pappas Foundation for the grant funds that allowed the feasibility study.

The Board voted to close the public hearing at 7:40 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Holstrom) voted in favor 5 to 0.

Selectmen Ken Holstrom made a motion to table the proposed project indefinitely and do not send it to the voters. Selectman Dan Carpenter seconded the motion, and the Board of Selectmen voted in favor 5 to 0.

The Board voted to take a brief recess (Motion made by Mr. Holstrom; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 5 to 0.

The meeting was reconvened.

Communications

There were no items.

Board of Selectmen General Items

Annual Town Meeting May 7, 2019

The Board of Selectmen voted to open the warrant for the May 7, 2019 Annual Town Meeting (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Holstrom) voted in favor 5 to 0.

The Board voted to close the May 7, 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant on Friday March 1, 2019 at 1:00 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 5 to 0.

Update by Sub-committee on Live Streaming Board Meetings /Discussion and Potential Vote

Selectmen Laliberte gave an update on the sub-committee's meeting with the Supervisor of Cable and Community Television, Chris Hugo, regarding live-streaming of Board of Selectmen meetings. Mr. Hugo advised that he would just have to push a button to allow viewers to see the meetings on YouTube.

Mr. Laliberte presented a draft policy prepared by the sub-committee for the Board's input.

Mr. Hugo answered additional questions regarding the process to live-stream and to handle comments.

There was consensus to encourage other boards and commissions to live-stream their meetings.

Following the discussion, the Board voted to adopt the Board of Selectmen Policy regarding Live-Streaming of Meetings as presented, with the exception of changing the start date to February 25,

2019 and removing clause "F" (Motion made by Mr. Holstrom; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 5 to 0.

Gift Acceptances in Accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 53A

The Board of Selectmen considered gift acceptances to the Fire/Rescue Department from the following donors:

- Frank Tenore in the amount of \$300.00 for the Fire Department Gift Account
- Hussmann Corporation in the amount of \$100.00 for the Fire Department Gift Account

Mr. Carpenter voted to approve both gift acceptances with gratitude. Mr. Berthiaume seconded the motion and the Board voted in favor 5 to 0.

Proclamations/Recognitions

There were no items.

Town Manager Items

Discussion on Draft of Proposed Debt Management Policy per Recommendation of Chief Financial Officer

CFO Ed Kazanovicz presented the draft of the proposed Debt Management Policy for the Board's review and vote at a future meeting. He advised that the policy would also be submitted to the Finance Committee for their review and vote.

Transmittal of Town Manager/CFO FY2020 Budget to Board of Selectmen for Review and Vote on February 25, 2019 to Transmit to the Finance Committee

Mr. Kazanovicz gave an overview of the FY2020 Budget. He requested that the Board reviews it for a vote at the February 25th meeting to transmit the budget to the Finance Committee to begin its work.

Announcement of Receipt of Stanton Foundation Grant

Town Manager Julie Jacobson announced the award of a \$20,000.00 Stanton Foundation Grant for the design aspect of the dog park.

Ms. Jacobson also announced that the Town will be receiving a \$10,000.00 Downtown Initiative Grant that will fund the wayfinding and branding strategy for the Drury Square Project.

Information on MBTA Fare Proposal Public Hearing

The Town Manager presented information on the public hearing on February 27, 2019 for the MBTA Fare Proposal.

Reminder about 2019 Citizens Leadership Academy

Town Manager Jacobson reminded all citizens that applications are currently being accepted for the second Citizens Leadership Academy.

Tabled Items

There were no items.

Board of Selectmen Member Items

There were no items.

Public Comments

There were no further public comments.

The Chairman asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of January 28, 2019. There being none, Chairman Goodrich accepted the minutes of January 28, 2019 without corrections.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Holstrom; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) voted in favor 5 to 0.

Submitted: Sharon A. Kwiatkowski
Assistant to the Town Manager, Admin.

The following documents were part of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of February 11, 2019 and are retained in the Executive Office of the Town Manager:

- February 11, 2019 Agenda
- Town of Auburn Swimming Pool Feasibility Study Prepared by BSC Group; Email from Thomas Fleming 45 Upland Street, Auburn, MA stating Non-Support for the Town Swimming Pool
- Draft Proposed Board of Selectmen Policy regarding Live-Streaming of Meetings
- Gift Acceptances to Fire/Rescue from Frank Tenore of \$300.00 and from Hussmann Corporation of \$100.00 for the Fire Department Gift Account
- Draft Proposed Debt Management Policy Recommended by Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
- FY2020 Budget Summary
- Information on MBTA Fare Proposal Public Hearing
- Minutes of January 28, 2019