

Town of Auburn
Minutes of the Meeting
Of the Board of Selectmen
Auburn Town Hall Selectmen's Meeting Room
104 Central Street, Auburn, Massachusetts
March 25, 2019

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

Absent: Doreen M. Goodrich

Vice Chairman Kenneth Holstrom called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Mr. Holstrom 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.

There were no public comments.

Public Hearings/Presentations

Update on Elementary School Redevelopment Projects – Pennrose Properties

The Board voted to move up Town Manager Item 6a) Update on Elementary School Redevelopment Projects – Pennrose Properties to take with 3a)-Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume and voted in favor 4 to 0.

Town Manager Julie Jacobson presented the item as an update by Pennrose on the elementary school redevelopment projects for Mary D. Stone and Julia Bancroft School Buildings.

Vice Chairman Holstrom then noted that the Telegram reporter, Craig Semon, had arrived at the meeting and was making an audio recording only.

Charlie Adams of Pennrose Properties, LLC gave a presentation on the status of the projects and timelines. Mr. Adams said that they are waiting for the approval from the state on tax credits. He also presented photos of the project.

Auburn's Economic Development Coordinator Shannon Regan gave information on the Town's work in support of the school redevelopment projects.

Mr. Berthiaume asked about the number of floors for the Mary D. Stone site. Mr. Adams replied that there were three floors.

Mr. Carpenter asked about timelines and if, after the Mary D. Stone site was started, Pennrose would begin the process for Julia Bancroft. Mr. Adams responded that would be the case.

Mr. Laliberte asked if the approvals for the tax credits would come one at a time.

Mr. Adams responded affirmatively.

Mr. Holstrom remarked favorably on the photos. He asked if the old buildings were being secured and maintained.

Ms. Jacobson replied yes to both issues.

Mr. Berthiaume asked if it would be more cost effective to demolish the old parts of the buildings now to save on securing and maintaining them.

Mr. Adams said that they have to wait until the funding is in place.

Board members thanked Mr. Adams for his presentation on the status of the projects.

Petition by National Grid for Pole and Wire Locations on Homestead Avenue – Continued Hearing:

Homestead Ave – National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on Homestead Ave. beginning at a point approximately 190 feet Northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Homestead Ave. and Bryn Mawr Ave. (which is pole 5) and continuing approximately +/-83' feet in an eastern direction. National Grid to install pole 6 on Homestead Ave., approximately 83 feet east of existing pole 5 in front of 80 Bryn Mawr Ave.

The Board voted to re-open the hearing at 7:35 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 4 to 0.

As requested, DPW Director Bill Coyle had reviewed the location plan and met with Steve Soucy from National Grid and they both were in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Soucy gave a summary of the last board meeting and Mr. Aponte's opposition to any pole on his property. He presented various options that he and Director Coyle prepared, (Exhibits A to F) with A being the original, and reviewed the pros and cons of each.

Mr. Coyle gave an update on his visit to the area with Steve Soucy. He discussed Exhibit B and the different possibilities for Pole #6 and the guy wires that are currently attached to a tree.

Mr. Soucy said that he met with Mr. Aponte once himself and one time with Bill Coyle where they explained the options to him.

Grover Gentry of 12 Bancroft Street and a member of Bethel Lutheran Church was in attendance and spoke on behalf of the church since the pastor could not attend the meeting. Mr. Gentry said that the church was willing to move the pole from the back of the parking lot to the island or to move the other pole a little bit closer to the sidewalk. But he voiced opposition to another pole on their property due to the activity at the building for pre-school and church services and activities.

Mr. Lou Aponte on 80 Bryn Mawr Avenue said that he didn't want Pole #6 on his side of the street at all. Mr. Aponte discussed the exhibits presented and he said that he was disappointed that there were not better options. He wondered why there was no proposal to move Pole #6 closer to Bryn Mawr Avenue and he said that then the guy wires wouldn't affect the pre-school children playing and other church members going to services. He said that he thought that the point of continuing the hearing was to look at designs that did not involve the Pole 6 on his property at all.

Mr. Aponte said that he would like the opportunity to review the various plans on site prior to the Board's vote.

National Grid Design Engineer Steve Soucy addressed the comment and said that the poles that service the area needed to be supported at the proper angles to function properly and prevent the poles from leaning over time.

Mr. Coyle agreed with Steve Soucy on the issue of supporting the poles to avoid leaning.

There was discussion on Exhibit A and that there would be 2 primary guy wires with that plan.

Mr. Berthiaume spoke on Exhibit A and he said that he did look at the two trees on the Homestead Avenue side of Bryn Mawr Avenue and he asked about the impact on those trees with that plan. Mr. Soucy said that he reviewed the matter with the overhead line supervisor and he said that they may have to cut one branch minimally on the western tree.

Mr. Berthiaume asked about the stakes that have been placed and if the fence would need to be altered. Steve Soucy said that it would not; they might be 2 feet from the fence but the stakes would be going straight down.

Mr. Berthiaume discussed Exhibit C that would be a pole between 2 trees and he inquired if any trees would be altered with that plan. Mr. Soucy replied negatively; that there would just be a little trimming with that option.

Board members continued discussion on the effects of the various options on the trees, Mr. Aponte's fence and existing poles and service.

Mr. Soucy stated that they can't move Pole #5 across the street because they can't put underground service there without digging up the street at considerable cost to the church.

Mr. Carpenter voiced support for Exhibit A (the original petition) due to concerns with children walking in the area because of the nearby school.

Mr. Berthiaume agreed with Mr. Carpenter after hearing and understanding about the angles and the stakes. He observed that the pole in Exhibit A would be no more impeding on that homeowner's property than on any others he saw as he walked up and down the street.

Lou Aponte said he would still like to meet again with Steve Soucy and Mr. Coyle to review the exhibits at the site.

Mr. Holstrom asked if the Board wanted to continue the matter for Mr. Aponte to meet again with Mr. Coyle and Mr. Soucy.

Mr. Soucy said that he's already with Mr. Aponte twice.

Mr. Berthiaume said that he didn't see a reason to hold off further; the hearing had already been continued once for further review. He said that he went to the area and he understands the situation better now and he was in agreement to go with the original plan.

Mr. Laliberte spoke in favor of holding action as he wasn't present at the last meeting and he would like to try to come up with a compromise.

Mr. Aponte said that the meeting he had with Mr. Coyle and Mr. Soucy wasn't a planned meeting; he was just leaving his house when they were there and showed him the options they were discussing. He said that he needs another opportunity to look at the options and discuss them while at the site. He maintained that Option A was detrimental to the trees.

Mr. Holstrom asked Lou Aponte what the impact was to his property. Mr. Aponte said that the impact was on the trees that have had wires wrapped around them for years and years. Mr. Holstrom said that National Grid is trying to correct that problem at his request.

Mr. Carpenter voiced support for Exhibit A due to concerns with public safety and with school children walking in the area and he didn't want too many poles or wires in the public way. Mr. Carpenter repeated that National Grid seems willing to do everything possible to save the trees.

Mr. Laliberte repeated his preference to try to compromise and he didn't see a problem with the added material in the area.

Mr. Carpenter then made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Berthiaume seconded the motion and the Board voted in favor 4 to 0.

Mr. Carpenter made a motion to approve the petition (Exhibit A) as presented. Mr. Berthiaume seconded the motion and the Board voted in favor 3 to 1. Mr. Laliberte opposed.

The Board then voted to move forward agenda item 5e) May 7, 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant - Vote to Approve Subject to Final Review by Town Counsel (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Laliberte) voted in favor 4 to 0.

CFO/Asst. Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz discussed a proposed revision to the warrant after talking with the Fire Chief and the Police Chief and agreeing to postpone Article 31 on the draft warrant.

Board members had questions on the following warrant articles.

Article 17 – Seeks the Town Meeting to accept Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 71F, pertaining to Non-resident or Foster Care student tuition, which authorizes the Auburn Public

School Department to accept and deposit with the Town Treasurer into a separate account, such tuition payments for non-resident students and state reimbursements for foster care children, which then may be expended by the School Committee without further appropriation for expenses incurred in providing education for such students. Dr. Maryellen Brunelle explained the reason for the article to pay for tuition payments for specialized programs for non-resident students and state reimbursements for foster care children.

Article 21 – Seeks Town Meeting appropriation of the sum of \$200,000.00 from Community Access Enterprise Retained Earnings for the reconstruction/renovation of the Camp Gleason Meeting Hall for government meeting and community related activities. Town Manager Jacobson explained the rationale for the request. DPW Director Bill Coyle further discussed the reconstruction/renovation plans for Camp Gleason.

Article 22 – Seeks Town Meeting appropriation of a sum of money from general fund revenues for the purchase of a new hosted email solution for the Town of Auburn. Director of Information Technology Mike Marino explained the changes required to the system to be compliant with updated regulations and deadlines to meet to be able to receive data.

Article 27. Seeks the Town Meeting authorization of \$2,200,000.00 to be borrowed to install an emergency force main bypass under Route 20 to serve as an emergency means of pumping wastewater from the Pinrock Road pump station to the Upper Blackstone treatment plant. Asst. DPW Director and Sewer Superintendent Jeff Mitchell explained the article, which seeks to proactively address unexpected breakdowns in the system that could result in devastating costs.

Article 28. Seeks Town Meeting appropriation of \$220,000.00 to be funded through Sewer Retained Earnings to perform flow monitoring to comply with DEP's 314 CMR 12.04 Operations Infiltration and Inflow Analysis. Mr. Mitchell explained that the article is needed to be able to comply with DEP regulations.

Article 29. Seeks the Town Meeting vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to submit legislation to amend the Acts of 1963 Chapter 708. Mr. Mitchell explained that the amendment will be to loosen the language to the publishing requirements for changes in rules and regulations proposed by the Sewer Commission. He said that the requirements are outdated and very stringent.

Article 30. Seeks the Town Meeting vote to abandon the permanent and temporary sewer easements identified as PE-26 and TE-21 on a plan recorded at the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 352, Plan 56, and to accept in place thereof a permanent 30' wide sewer easement granted to the Town of Auburn by Acorn Allocations, LLC a Massachusetts limited liability company with a principal place of business at 714 Main Street, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, said easement being a portion of the premises conveyed by the Town of Auburn to Acorn Allocations, LLC by a deed recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 56606, Page 308 and shown on a plan prepared by Thompson-Liston Associates, Inc. dated May 30, 2018 and available for inspection and review in the Auburn Town Clerk's Office and with the Grantor responsible for payment of any and all costs, including recording fees, associated therewith.

Jeff Mitchell explained the problem that was brought to light during the Central One Federal Credit Union expansion when it was discovered that the sewer line runs in the middle of the building.

Articles 33 and 34 (Citizens Petition) – Seeks to amend the Town of Auburn Zoning Bylaws to include provisions for a “Tiny House Unit”. Dan Carpenter questioned the petition process and he expressed concern with how it unfolded with the Planning Board. Town Planner Adam Menard explained the sequence of events that led to the submission of the petition and the Planning Board’s preparation of a bylaw for Tiny Houses.

The Board voted to move forward agenda item 6b) Tax Abatement and Exemption Advisory Group Recommendations (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 4 to 0. The Town Assessor Cynthia Cosgrove was in attendance and explained Articles 23 and 24 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant from the Tax Abatement and Exemption Advisory Working Group.

The Board of Selectmen then voted to approve the May 7, 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant as presented, with the omission of Article 31, and subject to final review by Town Counsel (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 4 to 0.

The Board voted to move forward agenda item 6g) LED Streetlight Project Update and Schedule (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 4 to 0. Energy Manager Matt Benoit was in attendance and provided an update detailing the challenges of the process with National Grid. He also discussed next steps to the LED Streetlight Conversion Project and plans to get information out to the public on what to expect.

Communications

There were no items.

Board of Selectmen General Items

Vote on 2019 Annual License Renewals Secondhand (Junk) Licenses – per list.

The Development Coordinating Group, including the Police Chief, has reviewed the list and advised that there are no specific concerns about granting the license renewals.

The Board of Selectmen voted to approve the license renewals as per the list (attached), provided that all applicable requirements of the state and town and any of its departments, boards and commissions have been fulfilled. Said license is subject to all the conditions stated upon it. Failure to comply with any and all the conditions shall invalidate the license and render it null and void (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Laliberte) voted in favor 4 to 0.

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

- 1) DPW Highway Division – The Board voted to approve with gratitude and a letter signed by the Chairman a gift acceptance of goods, a granite counter top (approximate market value of \$4,000.00), from Proline Service for the Highway Division break room (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 4 to 0.

March 25, 2019

LIST OF LICENSE RENEWALS - Secondhand (Junk) Licenses

1. Hannoush Jewelers - Auburn Mall
2. GameStop, Inc. - Auburn Mall

Proclamations/Recognitions

There were no items.

Discussion and Vote on the Language of the Ballot Question regarding the Plastic Bag Ban that will be on the Annual Town Election Ballot, which is included in the May 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

The Town Manager explained the process and asked for discussion on what kind of wording the Board wanted for the ballot question. Mr. Laliberte said that it may not be a ban on all plastic bags and it might be best to use the word “reduction”.

Mr. Berthiaume said that “single-use” needs to be accurately reflected and he suggested that the question should list the types of plastic bags that might not be affected, e.g. meat, fish and produce bags.

Mr. Carpenter advised that the Board should be careful with too many details so as to avoid providing information that could be seen as supporting one side of the question over the other.

The item will be on the next agenda for the full board discussion and vote.

Town Manager Items

Town Manager Jacobson described plans for the following town events:

- 2019 Summer in the Park Concert Series Schedule
- Independence Day Celebration Event July 1, 2019 with rain date of July 2, 2019
- Reminder about April 8, 2019 6:00 P.M. Board of Selectmen Meeting Room - Listening Session for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant
- 2019 Citizens Leadership Academy begins on March 28, 2019

Tabled Items

There were no items.

Board of Selectmen Member Items

There were no items.

Public Comments

There were no additional public comments.

Vice Chairman Holstrom asked if there were any errors, corrections or omissions in the minutes of February 25, 2019. There being none, Mr. Holstrom accepted the minutes of February 25, 2019 as presented.

The Board discussed the recent fire at the Chester P. Tuttle Post on Bancroft Street.

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Laliberte) voted in favor 4 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 March 25, 2019 and are retained in the Executive Office of the Town Manager:

- March 25, 2019 Agenda
- Application Documents – Pole and Wire Locations Hearing, Homestead Avenue, Auburn, MA. - Petition by National Grid
- 2019 List of Annual Renewals – Secondhand (Junk) Licenses per List (attached)
- Gift Acceptance Form – DPW Highway Division
- Draft May 7, 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant
- Tax Abatement and Exemption Advisory Group Recommendations
- Minutes of February 25, 2019