

CONCORD SELECT BOARD
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2019

APPROVED: MARCH 18, 2019

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Concord Select Board was held at 7 p.m. in the Select Board Room at the Town House.

Present were Thomas McKean, Chair; Alice Kaufman, Jane Hotchkiss and Linda Escobedo. Also in attendance was Christopher Whelan, Town Manager. Mr. McKean called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and announced that it was being broadcast on Minuteman Media Network.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Board UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: To appoint Linda Escobedo to serve as Clerk Pro Tem in the absence of Michael Lawson.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Town Accountant Warrants
- Minutes – 11/19
- One Day Special Licenses
 - The Nature Connection 3/13 6pm-10pm 54 Walden Street Wine & Malt
 - Open Table 3/29 6pm-10pm 275 Forest Ridge Rd Wine & Malt

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Board UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: To approve the consent agenda.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- The Town Meeting Warrant has been mailed.
- A housing round-table discussion is scheduled for this Thursday.
- The Police Department mistakenly published personal information in the weekly Police log on their website. The Police have notified all parties involved and the Town will provide assistance to those effected.
- There was a power outage last night during the Super Bowl and approximately 900 residences were effected.
- The Planning Division is working on licensing and e-permitting software.
- The Board of Health is working on a new food code for establishments.
- The application of Junction Village has been turned down twice now for funding from the State. The Town Manager has signed letter of support for the third round of applications.
- The Cambridge Turnpike Improvement Project will resume as planned now that National Grid's labor dispute has been resolved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- Town Manager Search Committee Public Forums were conducted in January and the job posting has been published.
- Board members attended a various seminars, programs, and events at the Massachusetts Municipal Association annual meeting.
- Resident Nancy Beeuwkes has generously gifted 143 acres of land at October Farm to the Massachusetts Audubon Society.
- Mr. McKean reviewed upcoming meeting dates.

CELL TOWER RFP UPDATE

Deputy Town Manager Kate Hodges, appeared before the Board and provided an update on the wireless communication facility RFP. Ms. Hodges noted that earlier discussions resulted in the Town

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revising the RFP to include dual sites for wireless facilities. Verizon has some interest in two sites but not as much as they do for the one site originally proposed at the Umbrella. Height issues with the proposed location. Must be accepted by this Board and also the Town. She reviewed the grading criteria for RFPs. She stated that the RFP is almost finished and it will be posted next week in the Central Register accordingly. The target deadline date is March 2, 2019 at 2 p.m.

Board members discussed height limitations and how limitations impact coverage area. Deputy Town Manager Hodges advised that she would research this further. Ms. Hodges stated that if an RFP is successfully submitted, it would be a provisional license pending permitting through the Town. All technical data would be reviewed by an independent 3rd party contractor. Board members mentioned that eight was an earlier issue with the Historic Districts Commission. Deputy Town Manager Hodges opined that a smaller tower at Keyes Road could mirror the smoke stack that once existed there and pointed out that the draft RFP was written in a way that did not limit the wireless facility to one specific area of the Keyes Road campus.

Mr. McKean asked for public comments.

Sheldon Hines, 74 The Valley Road, said that he was concerned that the direction Verizon is taking will eventually led to the implementation of 5G networks. He said that filings by Verizon with the Town of Needham indicates that Verizon have greater plans to install small-scale units on utility poles. He read from the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and discussed FCC regulations. He requested additional review and study on the matter. He said that Needham is in the same situation as Concord. He expressed concern about stealth facilities.

FY2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Town Manager Whelan advised the Board that the purpose of this discussion was to provide the Board with a preview of the budget before next week's Finance Committee Public Hearing.

As of June 30, 2018, Certified Free Cash was \$11,683,672 (10.7% percent of the current year budget). The FY20 budget will maintain this level of Free Cash, while still providing a \$1 million allocation for Town operations to reduce the tax levy.

The unused levy capacity, the amount that the projected tax levy is below the allowable Proposition 2 ½ levy limit, is projected to be \$3,271,011 in FY20.

The employer contribution for the retirement system is \$3,965,861 proposed for FY20 (an increase of 5.0% from the previous year). As of the January 1, 2018 Actuarial Valuation, Concord had a Net Pension Liability of \$17.3 million and the funded ratio was 90.5%.

The Town Manager proposed a FY20 Proposed General Fund Budget of \$25,299,513 (an increase of \$1,249,000 above the 2018 Annual Town Meeting appropriation of \$24,050,513). He reviewed how the increase in appropriations broke down. He proposed funding of \$900,000 to fund union contracts and provide parity for non-union employees, \$26,000 to fund a Receptionist/Clerk for the Town Manager's Office, \$41,000 to fund General Fund portion for hiring the Sustainability Director, \$50,000 to fund a Parks Maintainer for White Pond and Gerow Park, \$20,000 to fund start-up operations at White Pond, \$72,000 to fund technical services for Library and Police Department, \$90,000 to fund 4 Firefighters to staff Ambulance at West Concord 24 hours a day seven days a week, \$30,000 to fund increased hours and wages of Senior Services staff, and \$20,000 to fund miscellaneous increases due to inflation.

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At the request of Mr. McKean, Finance Director Kerry Lafleur and Town Manager Whelan explained the unused levy capacity. Town Manager Whelan explained the difference between debt exclusion and operating override costs.

At the request of the Town Manager, Deputy Town Manager Hodges reviewed and summarized the White Pond operations included in the proposed budget. The intention is to have the operations run on the Recreation revolving fund. The Town is actively working on how to sell passes to the beach. The current intention is to sell parking stickers in early March. Discussions have taken place regarding how to roll out the passes for existing White Pond Association members and new members. The number of parking passes available to the public will be determined by the capacity limits. The Town will need to assess the amount of daily usage/traffic. Deputy Town Manager Hodges reviewed existing infrastructure and said that while some of the structures are in good shape, there are other infrastructure components that will need to be replaced. The Recreation Department is in the process of hiring an Operations Manager. She noted that capital planning was in the early stages and briefly mentioned a few projects such as a potential mobile bathroom, new docks, and changing stations. She also said that ADA accessibility requirements would need to be considered. Ms. Escobedo inquired if the number of passes made available by the Town would be the same amount as previously offered by the WPA. Deputy Town Manager Hodges said that the amount of passes was yet to be determined and noted that this was still under review. Ms. Kaufman mentioned that the White Pond Advisory committee has worked on recommendations for White Pond.

DISCUSS SD.1817, AN ACT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Kate Hanley, Director of Sustainability, appeared before the Board and briefly reviewed SD.1817 An Act to Combat Climate Change. Filed by Senator Mike Barrett, SD.1817 is based on carbon pricing language that in June 2018 earned the unanimous approval of the Massachusetts State Senate. It gives the Governor considerable flexibility in pricing carbon. Mr. McKean said that this is part of the bigger picture in terms of addressing climate change and will require the support of multiple communities. Ms. Kaufman noted that the proposed Bill was in line with Concord's climate goals.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Board UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: To authorize the Chair to sign and transmit letter of support for SD.1817 to Senator Barrett substantially as discussed.

AMEND POLLINATOR HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARGE

The Board briefly reviewed the proposed change to the Pollinator Health Advisory Committee charge to extend the Committee's time length to May 2020. Board members had no issues with the proposal.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Board UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: To amend the Pollinator Health Advisory Committee charge as drafted.

DISCUSS MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

Mr. McKean mentioned that it was a possible that there could be a ballot question on the Town Election Warrant related to a feasibility study for a new Concord Middle School building project. Mr. McKean advised that he has filed a disclosure of the appearance of conflict of interest with the State due to his name being on the upcoming Town Election ballot. Board members inquired if the general public had been provided enough information on the subject that would allow them to make an informed decision on this matter.

Heather Bout, of the Concord School Committee, appeared before the Board. Ms. Bout advised the Board that the School Committee is in the final planning stages of a public information campaign. The School Committee will hold several Public Forums and the Middle School will be focus of the forums

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held during February. Ms. Hotchkiss said she had concerns that information on school items only are consumed by people with school-related interests. Ms. Hotchkiss encouraged the Schools to circulate information to all segments of the population.

Ms. Bout explained the Schools reasoning for going forward with a school building project at this time. She said that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) acceptance rate for funding was going down every year. She noted that the longer the Town waits to act on building a new Middle School, the higher the costs will be due to increasing escalation rates for construction. She mentioned that reimbursement money received from the MSBA would likely be offset by the escalation costs accrued by delaying action any further. Board members and Ms. Bout discussed potential MSBA reimbursement rates and how the Schools could be proactive to educate the public on the current conditions of the Middle School buildings, the potential options that the Town could pursue, and the costs associated with pursuing those options. Ms. Bout advised the Board that the Schools have been working with several community groups to raise awareness on the subject.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Julie del Sobral, 18 Bartkus Farm Road, provided the Board with correspondence regarding her opposition to the cell tower at Middlesex School that was approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals and is currently under appeal. She urged the Town to engage with all the parties involved in the litigation to work towards an amicable resolution. Ms. del Sobral said that she would come back at a future meeting to discuss the matter further once the Board has had a chance to review her materials.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Escobedo summarized the Council on Aging meeting that took place earlier in the day. She attended a discussion held by Rep. Tami Goveia on the topic of how legislation is developed and processed. Rep. Goveia will hold office hours at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center as well.

Ms. Kaufman attended the Trustees of Town Donations meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS/CORRESPONDENCE

None.

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

David Witherbee of 195 Heaths Bridge Road to the SuAsCo River Stewardship Council

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

At 8:25 p.m. upon a motion duly made and seconded the Board UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to adjourn the meeting for the evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Escobedo, Clerk Pro Tem