

Town of Cohasset
Select Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 25, 2023
Town Hall Auditorium

Select Board Members Present: Jack Creighton, Chair
Jean Healey Dippold
Paul Grady
Corey Evans
Diane Kennedy
Others Participating: Christopher Senior, Town Manager

Chair Creighton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll Call Vote; All present.

Motion by Select Member Dippold to go into Executive Session Exemption #6-To consider the purchase, exchange, lease, and value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body, seconded by Select Member Evans. Roll Call Vote, All-aye.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:32 p.m.

The Board came back into Public Session at 7:28 p.m.

Public Comment-None

License/Permits/Events-Applicants Pam Kelly-15 Border Street and Patrice Smith-6 Ledgewood Farm Drive reviewed their application and asked that the application fee be waived. **Motion by Select Member Grady to approve the Cohasset High School Pre Prom Red Carpet Event on Thursday, May 25, 2023, and waive the application fee, seconded by Select Member Kennedy.** Roll Call Vote: All aye. Mr. Senior advised the Board that Town Hall will close at 3 p.m. on the day of the event.

Building Permit Fee Schedule-Review & Vote-Building Inspector John Hallin advised the Board he has reviewed the fee schedule and compared it to surrounding towns and is recommending changes to building, plumbing and electrical fees. **Motion by Select Member Kennedy to adjust the fess as presented, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote, All aye.**

Annual Town Meeting -Town Hall Building Committee-(THBC)Presentation-Chair Phil Lehr, Carolyn Coffey, Wayne Sawchuk were present as well as Mark Cameron via Zoom. Phil Lehr advised the Board that the Total Project Cost is \$25,803,738 less prior appropriation of \$1.5 million and CPC Grant recommendation of \$1 million. That brings the funding needed to \$23,303,738. Vertex estimated the updated cost to renovate the building as is to be \$21-\$22 million. A renovation would include new systems, roof, a restored auditorium, accessibility, updated bathrooms and fixtures and repaired & remediated water damage. Needs not met by a straight renovation would include a more attractive building, public restrooms for community events, appropriate office & meeting space, space for 143TV & Safe Harbor, flexibility to change the layout to accommodate future needs and a catering kitchen for revenue-generation. Mr. Lehr stated the THBC voted unanimously to recommend the renovation/rebuild project. Jon Lemioux-Vertex, Jim DiMarzio-Commodore Builders and Phil O'Brien-Johnson Roberts Associates-Architect answered questions from the Board. Select Member Dippold reviewed the type of

increases the Town would incur for town hall and cautioned to remember that there are other major infrastructure projects and requests from the schools. Select Member Evans stated the Select Board cannot raise taxes only Town Meeting can do that. The town hall project has been discussed for many years and it's ready to go. Right now, they need to move that forward and not worry about schools until those projects are ready. Select Member Kennedy agreed with Select Member Evans. Select Member Grady added the public needs to understand that they will be asked over the next 3 or 4 years for tax increases for projects that have to be done.

Article #10-Capital Budget-Review & Final Vote on Projects- Mr. Senior advised the Board he spoke with Superintendent Sullivan earlier today. They are requesting Interactive Smart Panels and Data Center Updates which has been approved by Capital Budget and Advisory will vote tomorrow night. **Motion by Select Member Evans to recommend Article #10 Project #5 and Project #8, seconded by Select Member Kennedy. Roll Call Vote, All aye.** **Article #12-One Time Costs**-Mr. Senior stated there are two additions to Allocation of Funds for One Time Costs. There is \$35,000 for the annual Cemetery lot fund and \$10,000 for the Waterways Fund. **Motion by Select Member Evans to recommend Article #12 with addition of Cemetery Funds and Waterways Funds, seconded by Select Member Kennedy. Roll Call Vote, All aye.**

Review Speakers for Articles-Chair Creighton recommended that Select Member Kennedy speak on Article #1 and Select Member Grady on Article #16.

School Projector Funding-Review, Discussion & Vote-Mr. Senior advised the Board the schools are looking for \$25,722 for School Projectors and \$60,000 for Osgood Security Improvements. This will fully fund the middle/high school classroom smartboard/projector upgrades, as well as bring the available funds for the Osgood project to \$100,000 (\$40,000 from a previously approved capital allotment, plus \$60,000 from the remaining ARPA funds). Supt. Sullivan is going to follow up about a possible re-allocation of the proposed free cash being set aside for full-day kindergarten, if the schools don't need all \$300,000. Some money might be reallocated to the Osgood project. **Motion by Select Member Kennedy to approve \$25,722 for School Projectors and \$60,000 for Osgood Security Improvements from ARPA funds, seconded by Select Member Dippold. Roll Call Vote, All aye.**

Beechwood Water Main Project: Confirmation Vote on Norfolk County ARPA Funding-Mr. Senior advised the Board Norfolk County now requires a vote of the Board. **Motion by Select Member Grady to approve \$200,000 in ARPA funds to fund a small change order to the Beechwood Water Main project, seconded by Select Member Kennedy. Roll Call Vote, All aye.**

South Shore Recycling Cooperative-Review & Vote on IMA Renewal-**Motion by Select Member Dippold to approve the IMA Renewal Contract with South Shore Recycling Cooperative, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote, All aye.**

Board/Committee-Appointments-Cohasset Common Historic District Committee-Historical Society Rep.-**Motion by Select Member Dippold to appoint Lynne DeGiacomo to the Cohasset Common Historic District Commission as the Historical Society representative for a one-year unexpired term, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote, All aye.**

Board Committee Update-Alternative Energy Committee-Chair Tanya Bodell gave an update on the AEC initiatives including creating town benefits of \$1.6 million with the potential for another \$400,000 by the end of the year if they continue to get help from town staff and replacing two members on the committee.

She discussed the Solar Energy Array savings, the electric vehicle charging stations and educating the town on new building stretch codes, zoning bylaws, climate action and optimizing grants. She reviewed other opportunities including the electric school bus demonstration project, batteries for Harborview, Green Communities Energy Regulation for Osgood and Deer Hill, Renewable Energy Credit Contract for solar energy and solar panels on the replaced roofs on town buildings. She talked about next steps including new members, approval of AEC initiatives and support from the town.

Town Manager Update-The Town is working with the Department of Revenue on a program that will allow the Town to hire a college intern to work in the Finance department for the summer at no cost to the town. He reminded everyone that the Annual Town Meeting is Monday, May 1st at 7 p.m. at Cohasset High School Auditorium. They are finalizing the motions.

Select Board Comments-Select Member Evans asked if on the next agenda he can update the Board on the MBTA Advisory Committee. He stated he has been following the THBC for the last few years and he learned a lot more tonight and the more he thinks about it the one thing that stands out is the idea of restoring this building to what it was a hundred years ago, and this is an opportunity for a paradigm shift of how this building is and could be set up for the hundred years. The project is ready to go and to him is worth sharing with people and investing in. It is an opportunity to do things in an efficient way. The more he learns about the process and how they came to the conclusion, the more he is impressed. Select Member Dippold stated she thinks it will be an interesting town meeting. As they move forward, she continues to feel strongly that they need to look at the big picture. The more they can do, which is part of their job, to provide more information to the voters, the more they are serving the citizens. Select Member Kennedy agreed they have to get as much information as possible on the town hall project to the public. She reminded everyone that THBC is having a public forum Thursday night. Also, she reminded the Board they should start thinking about reaching out to people about upcoming board/committee openings in June. Chair Creighton stated people need to be informed. The problems are not going away and will just get more expensive. They need to be responsible stewards of the town. There has been a lot of work and public and sometimes contentious meetings.

Motion by Select Member Evans to adjourn, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote, All aye.

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Creighton, Chair