

Town of Cohasset
Select Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 23, 2022
Virtual Meeting – 143TV and Zoom

Select Board Members Present: Jack Creighton, Chair
Jean Healey Dippold
Corey D. Evans
Diane Kennedy
Paul Grady

Others Participating: Christopher Senior, Town Manager

Chair Creighton called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Roll Call Vote; All present.

Chair Creighton asked for a motion to go into Executive Session Exemption #3-To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation of the public body and the chair do declares and for Exemption #2-To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel. The Board will get an update on the Finance Director position. Motion was moved by Select Member Kennedy, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote; All aye.

The Board came back into public session at 7:35 p.m.

Pledge-Recited.

Public Comment-None.

Set Date for Special Town Meeting-Motion by Select Member Dippold to set the date of December 12, 2022, for Special Town Meeting, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote; All aye.

Board/Committee-Appointment-Community Preservation Committee-Planning Board Rep. Motion by Select Member Dippold to appoint Chris Plecs to CPC as the Planning Board Representative for an unexpired term until June 30, 2024, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote; All aye.

Select Board Goals-Long Term Financial Planning-Update-Chair Creighton stated the group has met and followed the rules of the Open Meeting Law. Town Counsel has given an opinion on the group. Select Member Dippold stated the group met once and focused the discussion on Capital projects. They talked about the composition of the group. Steve Girardi of the Water Commission cannot meet on Mondays and asked if another commissioner could take his place and Advisory Committee is looking to add Mike Barclay instead of their Vice Chair. They discussed the Town's debt capacity, operational budget, grants, and upcoming projects. They are meeting again on September 12th. Select Member Kennedy asked when they would be coming back to the Select Board with an update. Select Member Evans suggested the Board give the group a charge, appoint members, create, and post minutes. **Motion by Select Member Dippold to appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of Select Board, Capital Budget, School Committee and Chris Pratt from the Water Commission, Rob Hillman and Mike Barclay from Advisory Committee as liaisons and Chris Senior and Michelle Leary as non-voting ex-officio members to the Cohasset Financial Planning**

Committee that supports the Select Board’s long term financial goals, seconded by Select Member Grady. The Board had a brief discussion. Select Member Evans asked if they could look at the charge and live edit it tonight. Select Member Kennedy agreed they should give the committee a charge. Chair Creighton called for a vote on the current motion which has been made and seconded. **Roll Call Vote; Corey Evans-Nay, Diane Kennedy-Abstain, Paul Grady-Aye, Jean Healey Dippold-Aye, Jack Creighton-Aye.**

Motion by Select Member Dippold to charge the Cohasset Financial Planning Committee to engage in financial planning as to Cohasset’s long-term capital needs, operational needs, as well as long-term debt capacity and demographic information all of which will serve to form the basis of recommendations from the committee to the Select Board relating to those issues, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote; Diane Kennedy-Aye, Jean Healey Dippold-Aye, Paul Grady-Aye, Corey Evans-Aye, Jack Creighton-Aye.

Zoning Bylaw Committee Update-Chair Creighton advised the Board the Committee met on Monday. It was a great meeting. Town Counsel Carolyn Murray and Judge Cutler will be providing the Zoning Bylaw Committee with an action plan by mid-September. The group is working on housekeeping items to clean up bylaws and issues that conflict with other bylaws. There are also more strategic things like single lot exemption that need work. They hope to have something to go to Town Meeting in the spring. It is not feasible for it to be ready for fall town meeting. There has been some discussion that they may have to call a Special Town Meeting just to address these issues. Select Member Dippold adding that they are discussion proactive outreach and communications to residents.

Roads & Sidewalks-Select Member Dippold stated they asked Director of DPW Brian Joyce to reach out to the consultant that did the road assessment and see if they could do a sidewalk assessment. The consultant came back with an estimate of all existing sidewalks as well as where new sidewalks could be installed with a quote of \$47,000. They have asked Chris Senior to see what type of assessment they could do internally for just existing sidewalks. Select Member Kennedy asked if the Board would be creating a Sidewalk Committee. Select Member Evans submitted a draft charge a couple of weeks ago. Select Member Evans agreed the Board should create and charge a committee. Select Member Dippold added that the existing sidewalks should be fixed and not wait six months for recommendations. After further discussion Chris Senior advised the Board that Brian Joyce was asked to come up with an alternative way of assessing the sidewalk, which he is working on. The Board asked that they receive the information from Brian Joyce for an existing sidewalk plan before the next meeting.

Fields and Courts-Select Member Dippold stated the Board asked Chris Senior and Michelle Leary to look at the land near Pond Street as suggested in the study as the 3rd option as well as looking at the other 2 options and what they would look like with some concrete details. Select Member Dippold suggested the Board consider creating a naming policy to help with funding if there is interest.

Remote Voting-Mr. Senior advised the Board he talked with Tom Baker, and he is speaking with other communities and will come back to the Board with an update sometime after Labor Day.

Communications-Website and Plans for Select Board Goals-Mr. Senior advised the Board Justin Shrair has been out sick this week and Meaghan James had a conflict tonight. He suggested the Board table this agenda item until the next meeting. They have been working on the website refresh. The CRM is still being vetted and they should have something for the Board in October. They will have to find funding.

Approval of Minutes-**Motion by Select Member Kennedy to approve the minutes of 6/21/2022,**

6/29/2022, 7/7/2022, 7/26/2022, and 8/9/2022 with the edit to the 6/21/2022 minutes as discussed, seconded by Select Member Evans. Roll Call Vote; All aye.

Town Manager Update-Mr. Senior advised the Board Sohier Street paving and sidewalk work will continue through the week. National Grid will also be working on North Main (from Forest Avenue to the town line) and Pond Street (from the High School to Route 3A). The contractor should be finished tomorrow or Thursday with the installation of the new sidewalk from Route 3A to Fair Oaks Lane. The new Assistant Facilities Director Jake Ellis started today, and the new Treasurer/Collector Linda Cole starts a week from today.

Select Members Comments-Select Member Corey Evans gave a shout out to Justin Shrair for the school safety information he sent out, and the great video of the Town Hall Greeters. He stated he looked through the town bylaws and it looks like the pronouns should be updated. Select Member Kennedy reminded the Board they should put cell service on an upcoming meeting agenda. Select Member Dippold wished everyone a Happy Labor Day and reminded everyone that school will be starting. She is glad that the Town is being proactive with public safety. She is glad they are making progress with the schools and the State will be visiting the schools in September to take a closer look.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Creighton, Chair

Documents

STM Schedule

Minutes