

Approved: August 29, 2023

Select Board Meeting: July 11, 2023

Present: Olney, Ulfelder, Sullivan Woods, Aufranc, Lanza

Also Present: Jop

Meeting Documents:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Select Board Calendar
3. Draft SB Minutes: 7/27/22
4. Correspondence re: DPW Donations
5. Todd Germain Resume
6. David Soar Resume
7. Panel Interview questions submitted by Municipal Resources Inc.
8. Wellesley College PSI submission from VHB and Wellesley College
9. Draft Policy: Establishing a Subcommittee
10. Letters of Police Commendation

1. Call to Order

Ms. Olney, Chair, called the Select Board to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Executive Session M.G.L c. 30A §21A, exemption #3 to discuss strategy with respect to PFAS litigation. M.G.L c. 30A §21A, exemption #3 to conduct strategy with respect to WFL Staff Association and Supervisor Association (Library) and Local 1795, IAFF (Firefighters)

Ms. Olney requested that the Board vote to convene in Executive Session for the purposes of discussing union negotiations with the Firefighters and Library Association Unions and to conduct a strategy session regarding PFAS litigation and declared that having such discussions in Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining position.

At 6:03 pm upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Aufranc, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to enter Executive Session under M.G.L c. 30A §21A, exemption #3 to conduct strategy with respect to PFAS litigation and to enter Executive Session under M.G.L c. 30A §21A, exemption #3 to discuss strategy with respect to union negotiations with WFL Staff Association and Supervisor Association (Library) and Local 1795, IAFF (Firefighters) and to invite Meghan Jop, Dave Cohen, Jamie Jurgenson, Marla Robinson, and Town Counsel Tom Harrington to join as the Chair has declared that having such discussion in open session would have a detrimental effect on the Town's position.

Following the adjournment of executive session, the Board will return to open session to continue the remainder of the agenda.

**Olney – Aye
Sullivan Woods – Aye
Ulfelder – Aye
Aufranc – Aye
Lanza – Aye**

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Aufranc, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session to continue the remainder of the agenda.

Olney – Aye

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

3. Call to Order Open Session

The Board returned to open session at 6:31 pm.

Ms. Olney announced the meeting was being streamed live on Comcast channel 8 and Verizon channel 40 and by Wellesley Media and recorded for subsequent viewing on the cable channels or at wellesleymedia.org.

4. Citizen Speak

None.

5. Executive Director's Update

Ms. Olney deferred the minutes included in the packet until the next meeting. Ms. Jop noted several Town events would be held that weekend and in the coming weeks. She stated that due to the heat and heavy rain residents should empty any standing water on their properties to reduce the mosquito population and that the Town would be spraying. Ms. Jop reviewed the gift information.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Aufranc, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to approve the gift from Hartney Greymont of services that included pruning, fertilizing, and checking the cabling of the Town's Station Oak with an estimated value of \$5000.

Olney – Aye

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

6. Discuss and Vote Joining Class Action PFAS Litigation

Mr. Cohen, DPW Director, joined the Board. Mr. Cohen reviewed the PFAS litigation information and the firm that is handling a class action lawsuit, noting that the firm is also representing the Commonwealth as well as additional municipalities. He noted that there are other class action lawsuits pending that the BPW had investigated, but has determined a firm to join the class action suit. Ms. Olney stated that the Board had discussed the matter in Executive Session and had asked many questions at that time.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Aufranc, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to join the legal services agreement for the PFAS action litigation and to authorize Meghan Jop to sign on behalf of the Town.

Olney – Aye

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

7. Interview and Vote Interim Fire Chief

Mr. Germain and Mr. Soar joined the meeting. Mr. Duggan of Municipal Resources and Chief Pilecki joined the meeting.

Mr. Duggan reviewed the interview and assessment process for the Interim Fire Chief. Mr. Duggan reviewed the background and resume of Mr. Germain. The Board interviewed Mr. Germain reviewing his leadership and management style as well as his experiences serving as Chief in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Mr. Germain discussed his vision and experiences regarding the budgeting process. He discussed his experience training employees to take on leadership roles, recruitment and retention strategies.

Mr. Duggan reviewed the background and resume of Mr. Soar. The Board interviewed Mr. Soar, reviewing his leadership and management style and past experience serving as Chief in Weston, Massachusetts. He discussed his views and approaches to evaluating current processes and change implementations. Mr. Soar discussed his experiences in the budgeting process and training employees to step into leadership roles.

The Board discussed the candidates' backgrounds and the interview process. Board members expressed their views for the needs of the Wellesley Fire Department and how those views influenced their preferred candidate.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Aufranc, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to appoint Mr. David Soar as interim Fire Chief subject to successful contract negotiations.

Olney – Aye

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

8. Discuss and Vote PSI Recommendation PSI-23-01 Wellesley College Health & Counseling Center

Ms. Mayhew from Wellesley College and Mr. Mosca VHB Engineer joined the meeting.

Ms. Jop reviewed the Board's responsibility with regards to the PSI application process, the threshold for review, and the requirement to submit a recommendation to the Planning Board for the traffic and pedestrian safety component of the bylaw provision. She added this particular project was a reduction in square footage from the existing use. Ms. Jop stated that BETA Engineering conducted and submitted a peer reviewed of the traffic impact study and had limited recommendations. Mr. Mosca provided a review of the project that is the replacement to "Simpson Hall" and noted the location within the campus. He stated that the project would have no impact on Town infrastructure. He specified that parking would not be modified and there would be no additional traffic to the area. Ms. Jop noted that mitigation is not required, however Beta had identified several areas where ADA sidewalk ramps may be considered by the College in the future. The Board generally agreed in having a discussion regarding the ADA ramps and pedestrian access points with the College under a separate discussion rather than in connection with the project. The Board discussed the draft recommendation and the traffic study prepared for the project.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Aufranc, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to approve the recommendation to the Planning Board subject to any modifications approved by the Chair.

Olney – Aye

Sullivan Woods – Aye
Ulfelder – Aye
Aufranc – Aye
Lanza – Aye

9. Discuss and Vote Tentative Agreements on Union Contracts

Ms. Jop stated that the draft agreements with the Library Staff and the Library Supervisors were essentially identical. She noted the agreement revised the holiday schedule and longevity, and included Cost of Living Adjustments of 4%, 3%, 3% for FY 24-26. Ms. Olney noted that the Board had discussed the draft agreements in Executive Session and were familiar with the contracts.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Aufranc, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Wellesley Free Library Staff Association and the Wellesley Free Library Supervisor Association.

Olney – Aye
Sullivan Woods – Aye
Ulfelder – Aye
Aufranc – Aye
Lanza – Aye

10. Discuss Draft Policy Subcommittee Policy

Ms. Jop stated that she and Ms. Aufranc had reviewed the Board's policies and are suggesting the formation of a Policy Subcommittee on an ongoing basis to review and revise existing policies and propose new policies. Ms. Jop noted that the School Committee currently operates with a policy subcommittee, and finds the practice works well. The Board discussed the idea of drafting a policy on the operation of a policy subcommittee.

11. Liaison Update on Town Hall Interior

Mr. Ulfelder stated that the project team was reviewing several building deficiencies and recommendations regarding needed brick work and additional wood finish restoration. He added that PBC and FMD were working with the project team to review the findings and the best way to address the deficiencies within the building. Mr. Ulfelder noted discussions regarding the best location for the Weights & Measurers cabinet due to its size and weight. Ms. Jop noted that if the cabinet were to be restored, the Board could request the use of CPC funds for the refurbishing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2023, at 6:30 pm.