

Approved: August 16, 2022

Select Board Meeting: July 19, 2022

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

Also Present: Jop

Meeting Documents:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Select Board Calendar
3. DPW Water & Sewer Press Release
4. State Primary Warrant
5. Lottery Commission Notice
6. Draft Select Board Minutes: 6/21/22; 6/27/22
7. Monthly Animal Control Report
8. Bike A Thon Event

1. Call to Order

Mr. Ulfelder, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm online.

Mr. Ulfelder 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.

2. Citizen Speak

None.

3. PFAS Update from Dave Cohen, DPW Director

Mr. Cohen, DPW Director, joined the Board.

Mr. Cohen noted that the interim PFAS solution had been installed and had been operating since June 18th. He stated that the solution had worked and the well had been turned back on since then. He noted the water produced from the well had been lower than before it was shut down, however, it was a help in reducing the need for water from the MWRA system. Mr. Cohen stated that the EPA had recently released PFAS health advisories, adding that DPW was awaiting guidance from DEP regarding additional regulations related to PFAS testing and remediation. He advised waiting to install and implement a long term solution until regulations are updated in order to ensure the Town has the appropriate equipment. Mr. Cohen stated that the MWRA charges a higher rate and the need to use the system contributed to the higher water bills residents recently received for the fiscal year. He noted that for the previous ten years the town hadn't had a water rate increase. He added that a long term PFAS solution that included MWRA water would mean additional increases for residents. Mr. Cohen reviewed the DPW "Smart Water" customer portal for residents to view and track their water use. The Board discussed the interim solution, the health advisories, and the current water ban.

Mr. Cohen stated that Mr. DePhillips, DPW Park & Tree Assistant Superintendent had been diagnosed with brain cancer, adding that Mr. DePhillips had undergone surgery the previous week and was home recuperating.

4. Election Update

Ms. Kato, Town Clerk, joined the Board. She stated that the State Primary was scheduled for September 6th. She provided an overview of the Votes Act of 2022 which generally made changes put in place during COVID permanent including vote by mail and early in person voting for State and Federal elections. Ms. Kato reviewed the planned election schedule for in person voting for the scheduled 2022 elections. She reminded the community of the updated precinct maps and polling locations. Ms. Kato continued to discuss the upcoming elections processes. The Board discussed the changes to the elections processes. Ms. Lanza raised concerns about access to the polls for residents in Wellesley's public housing, given that Schofield and Fiske Elementary Schools will not be utilized as polling locations. Ms. Kato suggested adding an additional early voting location in the Barton Road community to ensure voter access.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Olney, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to approve the September 6, 2022 State Primary Election Warrant.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Lanza – Aye

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Olney, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to designate the Chief of Police under MGL Chapter 54, Section 72 as the Select Board's designee to detail polling locations for all elections.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Lanza – Aye

5. Keno License Request– Wellesley Shell located at 987 Worcester Street

Ms. Sullivan Woods stated that she had filed a disclosure regarding this discussion and would be abstaining from voting as the Lottery Commission was a client.

Mr. Hamze, owner of the Wellesley Shell, joined the Board.

Ms. Jop stated that the Lottery Commission had sent notice to the Board of the intent to install a video screen for Keno at the Shell and should the Town object the Board could do so after a public meeting or hearing. Ms. Jop reviewed the existing zoning bylaw that prohibits Keno monitors and simulcasting in establishments without a CV license.

Mr. Hamze stated that he presently had a license for lottery operations including Keno To Go and was requesting a monitor. He noted he believed there were two additional Keno licenses within Wellesley. He described the different between Keno and Keno To Go.

The Board discussed the current zoning bylaw regarding Keno and the notification from the Lottery Commission.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Olney, the Board was polled and voted (4-0) to deny the Keno License request for Wellesley Shell located at 987 Worcester Street and to authorize the Executive Director to submit a letter to the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission indicating the Board's official action on the license request.

Sullivan Woods – Abstained

Aufranc – Aye
Olney –Aye
Ulfelder – Aye
Lanza – Aye

6. Vote Special Counsel Authorization

Ms. Olney stated that due to a personnel matter a special outside counsel was necessary to proceed.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Olney, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to authorize hiring of outside counsel on a personnel matter and Vice Chair Lise Olney to coordinate and work with the outside counsel.

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

7. Executive Director’s Update

Ms. Jop reminded the public that the Town had issued a heat advisory and information was available on the website for those seeking relief from the heat and humidity for the next several days. She provided an overview of the construction projects throughout town for the public to be aware of.

Ms. Jop stated that edits had been received to the draft minutes. Ms. Sullivan Woods noted that she was not in attendance at the meetings and would abstain from the vote.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Olney, the Board was polled and voted (4-0) to approve the minutes of June 21, 2022 and June 27, 2022 as amended.

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

8. New Business and Correspondence

Ms. Sullivan Woods stated that the Council on Aging Board was currently reviewing resumes for the new COA Director.

Ms. Lanza stated that the Library had issued an RFP for installing solar panels on the roof and for a battery in the garage. She briefly reviewed the expected timeline and noted that the goal was for the Library to become a “resiliency hub” and would be the first Library in the state to have the designation.

Mr. Ulfelder provided an update on the Town Hall interior project. He stated that the submission of construction documents was approximately 95% complete and noted comments to the proposed designs from the Design Review Board. Mr. Ulfelder reviewed the proposed glass treatment for the conference room in Great Hall, noting it included the Town seal. The Board discussed the proposed treatment and the use of the seal in the Great Hall and the design for the glass in the Juliani Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm

The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2022 at 6:00 pm.