

2024 APR 11 PM 3:16

Select Board
Open Session Meeting Minutes
Meeting Conducted Remotely via Zoom

Members present: Joseph Botaish, James Anderson, Christopher Gallo, William Harrington, Michelle Rouse

Members absent:

Also present: Kevin Sweet, Town Administrator; Amanda Vasapollo, Administrative Assistant; Gregory Enos, Assistant Town Administrator/Human Resources Director

Called to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Mr. Botaish. Followed by a roll call for attendance, all members and staff present.

Documentation:

March 5, 2024 Open Session Meeting Minutes
Letter from Wrentham 350th Anniversary Committee re Gift Donation
Letter of Resignation from William Burns from the Zoning Board of Appeals
James' Breaks and More – Special One Day License Application
Brief User Guide on MAPC MBTA Communities Act District Suitability Analysis Tool
Correspondence from Representative Marcus Vaughn
Correspondence from Senator Rebecca Rausch
Correspondence from resident Melissa Folsom
Correspondence from resident Joe Stewart
Correspondence from "MA Citizen"
Correspondence from Kevin Kelly
Correspondence from Beth Bryson and Rio Sacchetti regarding 10 & 15 Commerce Blvd
2024 Annual Performance Evaluation of Town Manager, Kevin Sweet
Wrentham Estimated Share of Tri-County Building Project Worksheet
Press Release re Tri-County School Building Project Debt Exclusion
Yes / No Vote Graphic
Proposition 2 ½ and Debt Exclusion Explained (from website)

Announcements:

Mr. Harrington read the following, Debt Exclusion Ballot: Wrentham voted in favor of the Tri-County School Building Project in October 2023. Now, residents are voting on whether to authorize the Town to raise the amount needed, outside of the Levy Limit, to make principal and interest payments on the 30-year bonds. Each year, the Town would add to the total amount of the Tax Levy the specific amounts needed for that year to pay the annual principal and interest payment. If no debt exclusion were used, the Town would need to absorb the costs of those annual payments within the existing Tax Levy. Based upon the size of the debt payments, it is the Town's position that raising such funds within the Levy Limit would reduce the amount of funds available for Town operations, services and other projects. Departments such as elementary education, police, and fire may be significantly impacted. Vacancy: The

Zoning Board of Appeals is seeking interested volunteers to join. There are currently 3 (three) vacancies, 2 (two) full member and 2 (two) associate members. See the town website Volunteer Opportunities for application and details. The Wrentham Lions Club is pleased to announce that it will be offering four (4) scholarships to area graduating seniors, including one scholarship that will also be available for qualified adult residents seeking to continue their education. Applications are available now and will be accepted until April 02, 2024. Scholarship criteria, applications, and directions for submittal can be found on the Wrentham Lions website at: www.wrenthamlions.org

Approval of the Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the Board voted to approve the March 5, 2024 Open Session Meeting Minutes. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Acceptance of Resignation from William Burns from the Zoning Board of Appeals

Present was Bill Casbarra from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Casbarra spoke highly of Mr. Burns and noted he will be missed; noted the vacancies on the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Gallo, seconded by Ms. Rouse the Board voted to accept, with regrets, the resignation of William Burns from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

James' Breakfast – Special One Day Application

Present was James Arsenault from James' Breakfast and More located at 850 Franklin Street

Mr. Arsenault reviewed the submitted application and confirmed that all staff handling alcohol have been tip certified.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Harrington, the Board voted to approve the One Day License Application for James' Breakfast at 850 Franklin Street for April 19, 2024 from 6PM to 9PM and to authorize the use of electronic signatures. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Discussion of MBTA Communities Multi-Family Zoning

Present was Chris Kluchman from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities on behalf of Governor Maura Healey and Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities Ed Augustus

A discussion took place amongst the Board and Ms. Kluchman regarding the requirements of Section 3A of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, also known as the MBTA Community Multi-Family Zoning Law. The Board expressed their concerns over the impact that zoning at this density would have on the community and noted the importance of accurately educating voters & residents on the topic. The Board indicated that importance of putting the zoning amendment before the legislative body at an upcoming Town meeting.

The Board took a recess at 7:43PM and returned at 7:46PM

Discussion of Correspondence regarding 10 & 15 Commerce Blvd submitted by Beth Bryson and Rio Sachetti

The Board requested that the Town Manager review the letter, conduct a review and report back to the Board at the conclusion.

Gift Acceptance – Holiday Lights – Lion’s Club

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the Board voted to accept the gift donation for holiday lights in the amount of \$6,729.27 from the Lion’s Club. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Gift Acceptance – Sweatt Park Benches – Wrentham 350th Anniversary Committee

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Harrington, the Board voted to accept the gift donation of benches for Sweatt Park in the amount of \$3,500 from the Wrentham 350th Anniversary Committee. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Reappointment of Karen Smith to the Board of Registrars

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Harrington, the Board voted to reappoint Karen Smith to the Board of Registrars for a term effective immediately and expiring March 31, 2027. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Discussion of MBTA Communities

The Board read the included correspondence from Representative Marcus Vaughn, Senator Rebecca Rausch, Melissa Folsom, Joe Stewart, MA Citizen, and Kevin Kelly into the record.

Approval of Town Manager’s Review

Mr. Botaish read the following into the record, Mr. Sweet joined the Town of Wrentham as our Town Administrator on February 14, 2018, after a long and vigorous search that spanned several months. The search committee was composed of town residents with a vast background of professions. The interview process included department heads along with boards and committee chairs, then finally by the Board of Selectman. The finalists were highly qualified and well vetted with one candidate who stood out above and beyond the rest, Kevin Sweet. Kevin came to our community after a ten-year stint as Town Administrator of Maynard and four years prior in Taunton in a Health and Emergency Response position. Kevin’s qualifications along with his impressive education made him the perfect candidate to take Wrentham into the future. To create Kevin’s evaluation, the Wrentham Select Board spent weeks completing a comprehensive Performance Evaluation and then by having one on one meetings with him. The evaluation focused on ten key categories related to the day-to-day duties of a Town Manager. These categories included Individual Characteristic, Professional Skills and Status, Relationships with Elected Members of the Governing Body, Policy Execution, Reporting, Citizen Relations, Staffing, Supervision, Fiscal Management, and Community. Kevin ranked highly in all these areas along with many achieving a unanimous perfect score of 5. Kevin’s strongest grades were in Individual Characteristics and Fiscal Management, with the remaining categories’ close behind. Kevin ‘s highlights are on his work ethic, intelligence, and his ability to lead and empower subordinates. He was also commended on

knowledge of local and state government, and of his many individual achievements of both his and his involvement in the board's objectives and goals. In addition, another strength shared by many of the board members was his engagement with the community, board, and committees. Tabulating the total scores from Jim, Chris, Bill, Michelle, and myself it averaged to an impressive score of 4.92, which translates to a Performance Evaluation of Excellent, which represents an almost always exceeds the performance standard. We congratulate Kevin on his outstanding performance and thank him for his dedication to the town.

Motion Mr. Gallo, seconded by Mr. Harrington, the Board voted to approve the 2024 Annual Performance Evaluation for the Town Manager Kevin Sweet as presented. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Update on Tri-County Debt Exclusion Ballot Question

A discussion took place amongst the Board and Mr. Sweet regarding the upcoming Tri-County Building Project Debt Exclusion Vote that is taking place at the April 1, 2024 Annual Town Election. The discussion reviewed information about proposition 2 ½ and what a debt exclusion means. Mr. Sweet further reviewed the differences between a "yes" and "no" vote and what impact each outcome would have on the community.

Update on the FY25 Budget

Mr. Sweet provided a brief update on the FY25 budget process, noting a full presentation will be available at the next Select Board meeting.

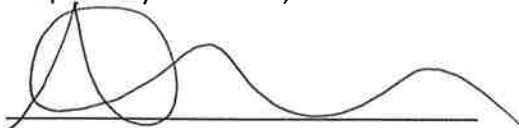
Town Manager's Report

Mr. Sweet spoke, noted the User Guide on MAPC MBTA Communities Act District Suitability Analysis Tool. Mr. Sweet acknowledged and thanked Norfolk County for their approval of the request for replacement of 2012 Ford Explorer for the Wrentham Fire Department which is a Car 3 Advanced Class 5 Level Ambulance after it suffered a catastrophic damage.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the Board voted to adjourn the open session meeting at 8:30PM. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Vasapollo, Executive Assistant