

Approved: June 6, 2023

Select Board Meeting: March 6, 2023

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

Also Present: Jop, Frigulietti

Meeting Documents:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Select Board Calendar
3. Winter Supplemental Appropriation Request
4. Correspondence re: Remote Town Meeting
5. West Suburban Health Group FY24 Approved Rates
6. Insurance Budget Request
7. Updated Sources & Uses
8. Five Year Capital Plan
9. Town Meeting Article List
10. Draft Town Meeting Motions
11. Draft Development Agreement Amendment
12. Notes re: The Nines
13. Draft Select Board Code of Conduct
14. One Day License Request – Wellesley Free Library Foundation
15. Gift Information: Reidy Field
16. Animal Control Report
17. Wellesley Retirement Board Election Correspondence
18. MassBay Community College Press Releases
19. Wellesley Interim Compliance – MBTA Communities

1. Call to Order

Ms. Olney, Chair, called the Select Board to order at 6:30 pm.

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

2. Citizen Speak

None.

3. Discuss and Vote Winter Supplemental

Mr. Cohen, DPW Director, joined the meeting.

Ms. Jop stated that due to recent snow events the original request had been increased to \$150,000. Mr. Cohen reviewed the winter maintenance appropriation, stating that the request should cover the remainder of the winter season barring any unforeseen large storms. The Board discussed the request and the winter maintenance budget.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to approve the winter supplemental request of \$150,000 for snow and ice removal.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye
Aufranc – Aye
Lanza – Aye

4. Annual Town Meeting Preparation

Ms. Strother, Finance Director, joined the meeting.

Ms. Jop stated that the legislature was contemplating extending remote meeting provisions including extension for the allowance of an all remote town meeting. She noted that the Town was moving forward in anticipation of an in person town meeting; the timing of any changes would need to be finalized by March 12th in order for Wellesley to change to a remote town meeting. The Board discussed the concept of changing from an in person to all remote town meeting as well as the precautions in place for an in person meeting. Some members expressed support for an in person Town Meeting and acknowledged the concerns of some residents regarding an in person meeting. The Board generally expressed a preference for keeping Town Meeting in person given the precautions available for Town Meeting Members and other attendees. The Board overall agreed that the town should request the local legislators make a change to provide a way for town meeting to be converted to remote should the Moderator decide a remote ATM was preferable.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to authorize the Chair and the Executive Director to contact the legislators and seek appropriate amendments to the legislation as discussed.

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

Ms. Jop provided a review of the health insurance rates for FY24 noting the rates reflected approximately a 10% increase over FY23. She further reviewed the updated health insurance budget. The Board reviewed and discussed the health insurance budget. Ms. Jop discussed the updated sources and uses, noting the change in revenue information that was updated. She reviewed the town-wide financial plan, noting edits had been received and were being incorporated. Ms. Jop stated that it was anticipated there would be no motions on articles 27, 28, 34, 35, 44, 45, 46. She added that the Moderator had reviewed the consent agenda articles, highlighting that articles 13, 14, and 15 would be included; she reported that a request for a presentation on article 32 had been made. She noted that the Planning Board was not expecting to bring forward a motion on article 42;she believed Mr. Himmelberger might bring forward a motion. The Board briefly discussed the consent agenda. Ms. Jop reviewed the Select Board articles noting the draft motions provided prior to the meeting. The Board briefly discussed various articles.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to approve the Town-wide Financial Plan, with a total annual budget of \$201,363,593, subject to final editorial edits from the Chair, Lise Olney and Executive Director, Meghan Jop.

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

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to approve the motions for Articles: 3, 6, 7 (Motions 1 and 2), 8 (Motions 1, 2, and 3), 9, 10, 11, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 30, 36, 37, 38, 40, and 47.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

5. Discuss 40R Development Agreement

Ms. Jop stated that comments received from the Board regarding the revisions to the development agreement were sent to counsel for the developers. She noted various components of the original agreement that would be enhanced with the second and third development phases including EV charging stations, bike lanes, trails, and place making amenities such as playgrounds. The Board discussed the development agreement and the various development phase requirements. The Board requested clarification on the phasing of the building projects in the agreement language as well as the mix of units that can be built during the phases.

Ms. Gard of 21 Laurel Avenue on behalf of Sustainable Wellesley joined the Board. She stated that Sustainable Wellesley supports additional housing provided that all building systems are designed without the use of fossil fuels. She noted concerns regarding methane leaks throughout town.

The Board continued to discuss the changes to the development agreement and understanding the potential costs associated with social support and emergency services based on current experiences of the Health Department at the site.

6. Discuss Allowance of Parklets in Public Ways for 2023

Ms. Meagher, Support Services Manager, and Mr. Marcus of Trulys joined the meeting.

Ms. Frigulietti stated that the Board would discuss public parklets at another meeting; currently staff was seeking input on a policy related to allowing individual businesses to use public ways to create parklets for individual business use. She noted the policy Needham had passed was included in the meeting materials. Ms. Frigulietti stated that staff was proposing that should a business wish to have a parklet, the business would be responsible for purchasing equipment, maintaining the area, and be responsible for installation and removal of the parklet. The Board discussed the proposed policy and expressed general agreement that a policy should be developed. Ms. Sullivan Woods expressed support for reusing materials previously procured under grants for public parklets, suggesting that the Board could allocate these materials to businesses that applied for them on a first come basis or using some other methodology. Ms. Frigulietti noted the expense to the town for installing and maintaining public parklets. The Board continued to discuss the proposal and asked that a policy be developed for the Board to review at its next meeting.

Mr. Marcus stated that he believed the parklet outside of Trulys had been successful last season, noting that Trulys had purchased their materials in anticipation that it would be reinstalled for future seasons. He added that he hoped the Board would consider allowing parklets for business use in parking spaces.

7. Draft Code of Conduct

Ms. Olney stated that she wanted to focus the discussion on the first bullet of the drafted policy regarding language pertaining to the term of “the Board’s basic function.” She noted the terms came from the Board policy manual. The Board discussed at length potential edits and concepts for a potential code of conduct.

8. Discuss and Vote One Day License – Wellesley Library Event

Ms. Jop reviewed the special license request associated with an event to be held at the Main Library.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to approve the One Day Special License for the Wellesley Free Library Foundation “Books in Bloom” event to be held at the Main Branch Library on May 12, 2023.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

9. Executive Director’s Update

Ms. Jop provided an overview of the gifts for acceptance.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to accept the gift of a new scoreboard at Reidy Field from Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to accept the \$5000 gift from Babson College for the DEI Workshop.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

10. New Business and Other Correspondence

11. Executive Session M.G.L c. 30A §21A, exemption #2 to conduct a grievance hearing with the Local 1795, IAFF and exemption #3 to Discuss strategy with respect to Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, et al v. DEP (2384 CV 00443B)

Ms. Olney requested a motion that the Board vote to convene in Executive Session for the purposes of conducting a grievance hearing and to discuss litigation and declared that having such discussions in Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the Town’s position

At 9:12 pm upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to enter Executive Session under M.G.L c. 30A §21A, exemption #2 to conduct a grievance hearing with the Local 1795, IAFF and M.G.L c. 30A §21A, exemption #3 to discuss strategy with respect to Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, et al v. DEP (2384 CV 00443B) as the Chair had declared that having such discussions in Open Session would have a detrimental effect and to invite Meghan Jop, Amy Frigulietti, Scott Smith, Ken Demerchant, and John Ryder for the first executive session and to invite Meghan Jop, Amy Frigulietti, and Dave Cohen to the second executive session. Following the adjournment of executive session, the Board will return to open session for the sole purpose of adjourning the meeting.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to exit Executive Session and Return to Open Session.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35pm

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2023 at 6:30 pm.