

Approved: March 29, 2021

Select Board Meeting: March 15, 2021

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

Also Present: Jop, Frigulietti

Warrants approved: none

Meeting Documents:

1. Agenda
2. Draft BOS Calendar
3. Draft Select Board Motions
4. Draft Town-Wide Financial Plan
5. Memo from Historical Commission
6. Wellesley Free Library Foundation Grant Information
7. Police Commendations
8. BAA Update on Boston Marathon
9. MAPC The Future of Work in MetroBoston Presentation

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. Executive Session

Mr. Ulfelder requested a motion that the Board vote to convene in Executive Session for the purposes of negotiations for the land lease of real estate with Trinity Financial at the Tailby and Railroad Commuter Parking Lots and to discuss negotiation strategy with respect to collective bargaining with all unions for health insurance and declared that having such discussions in Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining position.

At 6:01pm upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Olney the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to enter Executive Session under M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(A), exemption #3 –to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with all unions for health insurance and under M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(A), exemption #6 – to discuss negotiations for the land lease of real estate with Trinity Financial at the Tailby and Railroad Commuter Parking Lots as the Chair has declared that having such discussions in Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining position and to invite Meghan Jop and Amy Frigulietti to join the meeting. Upon the adjournment of executive session, the Board will resume the meeting to take up the remainder of the agenda in open session.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Olney 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

3. Call to Order – Resume Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:50pm

4. Citizen Speak

Ms. Biro, Co-President of World of Wellesley joined the Board. She read a statement in support for the Board to affirm the decision of Town Meeting and the result of the recent town election in favor of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day.

5. Announcements

Mr. Ulfelder extended the Board's sympathies to the family Mr. Tobias Stover, a member of the Wetlands Protection Committee who recently passed away. He read a statement issued by the Natural Resources Commission regarding Mr. Stover's passing.

Mr. Ulfelder welcomed Ms. Lanza to the Board and congratulated Ms. Aufranc on her reelection to the Board.

6. Annual Town Meeting Preparation

Mr. Szczebak, Town Human Resources Director, joined the Board.

Ms. Jop stated that ATM motions were due on April 2nd, noting that Town Counsel was reviewing the current draft of motions. She reviewed the Human Resources Article 22 regarding the celebration of Juneteenth, a holiday recently recognized by the State, and noted the significance of the holiday. Mr. Szczebak stated that the current personnel policies list all of the recognized holidays and that Human Resources is proposing to update the list to include Juneteenth in the policy. Ms. Jop stated that modifications to the personnel policies in Wellesley are required to be presented before Town Meeting. The Board discussed the HR Article and motion to adopt Juneteenth and the process of implementing a new holiday. The Board expressed general support for the adoption of Juneteenth.

Ms. Jop reviewed previous discussions on the adoption of an Affordable Housing Trust. She provided an overview of the drafted motions for Article 26 and 27 regarding the Trust, the makeup of the Trust, and the powers of the Trust. She added that the Board could adopt all or some of the powers of the Trust and noted that terminology in the Zoning Bylaw would be required to be amended (Article 27). Ms. Jop stated that a public hearing on the Board's Articles would be held on March 22nd. The Board discussed the motions for Articles 26 and 27. The Board expressed support for up to seven members on the Affordable Housing Trust and the expertise needed for its makeup.

Ms. Jop stated that Article 32 proposes to rescind debt of at least \$60,000 for the Main Library Renovation Project, as well as rescinding debt for the Middle School Steam Pipe Project, the new Fire Truck, and the MSBA feasibility study. Ms. Jop provided an overview of the draft Town-Wide Financial Plan noting that a presentation before Advisory would be on the 24th. The Board briefly discussed providing comments on the Town-Wide Financial Plan and the process for completing the Budget Book.

Ms. Jop reviewed the potential funding sources to the Town from the American Rescue Plan Act, adding that more information on the funding use and restrictions was expected in the coming weeks.

7. Discuss and Vote Health Insurance Memorandum of Agreement with All Unions

Ms. Jop stated that the negotiation team had successfully agreed upon a one-year extension with all of the unions on health benefits. She added that a memorandum of agreement with all of the unions was signed in 2018, and the teams had understood that due to COVID an extension would be beneficial for all parties. She noted that a full bargaining for healthcare offerings would begin again in the summer and a new contract would come before the Board next year. Ms. Jop stated that some small changes were made in the structuring of the disbursements of payments to the high deductible health savings account, however, the amount remained the same. She noted several minor negotiated points within the agreement. The Board discussed the agreement.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Olney the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to approve the Health Insurance Memorandum of Agreement between the Town and all Town and School Unions effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

8. Discuss and Vote Appointments

Ms. Jop noted the need for the appointment of Ms. Lanza to the Board of Fire Engineers. She also reviewed the memo received from Mr. Brown on behalf of the Historical Commission regarding the appointment of Jackie Hempel to the Commission as an alternate member. She added that one additional seat remained open on the Commission.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Olney the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to appoint Ann-Mara Lanza as a Fire Engineer for a term to expire on June 30, 2021.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Olney the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to appoint Jackie Hempel to the Historical Commission as an Alternate Board Member with a term expiring 6/30/2022.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

9. Executive Director's Update

Ms. Jop reviewed the gift received from the Wellesley Free Library Foundation to be used in the renovation project in the Main Library Branch.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Ms. Olney the Board was polled and voted (5-0) approve the grant distribution from the Wellesley Free Library Foundation in the amount of \$60,000 to reduce the borrowing of the Library Interior Renovation.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Freiman – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Lanza – Aye

10. New Business and Correspondence

Mr. Ulfelder briefly reviewed the timeline for the Hardy project noting that additional information would be forthcoming and adding that the Board would be asked to vote on the project in June. He stated he would be providing dates of important meetings regarding the project and anticipated votes that would come before the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2021 at 6:00 pm online.