



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Veronica Kell, *Chairman*

Chaz Sexton-Diranian, *Vice Chairman*

Theresa A. Morse, *Clerk*

R. Eric Slagle, Town Administrator

RECEIVED
OCT 18 2022

Board of Selectmen Meeting APRIL 27, 2022
MEETING ROOM 2, 272 MAIN STREET, TOWNSEND, MA.
And Via ZOOM for convenience

TOWN OF TOWNSEND
TOWN CLERK

Preliminaries: Board of Selectmen meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m. with Chaz Sexton-Diranian, Theresa Morse, and Veronica Kell present.
Pledge of Allegiance.
Announced that the meeting is being recorded via zoom and will be posted on Town YouTube channel later.

Chairman's Additions or Deletions: Add under Announcements and Communications (5.3) CVRLF closeout report and CDBG report.

Public Comments: Veronica Kell welcomed Theresa Morse to the Board of Selectmen.
There were no other Public Comments.

There were no minutes to be approved.

Public Hearing: (6:16) A motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Theresa Morse to enter into the public hearing for a Wine and Malt license for Honeyland Farms that was continued from 4/20/2022..
Motion passed with all in favor.

Public comment was solicited from those present and from those on zoom.

A resident asked if the request for the Malt and Wine license is in-line with the Town's bylaws as far as distance goes from the churches on the common and from the family events that occur on the Common. It was noted that there is a distance, and it is 500' from a church according to MGL - within 500' from a school or church unless the local licensing authority establishes in writing that it is not detrimental to the educational purposes or of the church.
There were no comments from Police.
One abutter noted that it was detrimental to the educational purposes of the school in the church.
One abutter felt that the license would enhance the product line of the store, and she was in favor of it.
A Town employee stated she is hearing two sides at and suggested the owners could bridge the gap by handing out substance abuse flyers and info on the recovery drop-in center.
A resident asked that the store keep the area tidy with respect to wrappers, litter.
Comments were solicited from BOS. There were none.

Gene Rauhala, counsel for Homeland Farms, says it [this license] is two additional products that could be offered to people who came into the store. They would take the product out of the store and away from the premises.



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A motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Theresa Morse to close the public hearing for a Wine and Malt license for Honeyland Farms at 6:29 p.m.

Motion passed with all in favor.

Motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Theresa Morse to approve the Wine and Malt license for Honeyland Farms.

Discussion:

Theresa Morse understands the concerns of abutters that the license would be detrimental to educational and spiritual purposes but feels it is not detrimental because people can walk across the street [to Townsend Package Store].

Chaz Sexton-Diranian says this has nothing to do with the business. Concerns are: parking issues - could increase traffic in area because of the traffic flow through the parking lot; Close to church and there is a school in the church; has heard comments with respect to Historic District Commission and signage; peer recovery center right next door; there is another facility to buy beer and wine close by; [the Town has] a limited amount of licenses and he would rather have a license in the West Townsend Area, since we have a package store on the East side of town and one in the center already.

Veronica Kell has a concern about proximity to school and church. Concern about events on Thursday nights on the Common. There is beer and wine availability close by. Traffic on corner and cut-throughs - the entry and exit to the convenience store is a problem.

Gene Rauhala says that leaflets may be a solution and would cooperate with traffic requests. Churches get day licenses for their events. Signage - no question could be addressed.

Discussion of entry and exit to the convenience store.

The question was asked if the Selectmen can vote at another meeting.

Chaz Sexton-Diranian is concerned about safety.

Can questions be directed to town counsel regarding conditions around the permitting. Ross Perry suggests asking what can be permitted.

Conditions discussed could be:

Size of packaging - no single cans; no nips.

Entry and exit to the area.

Trash. Policing the site.

Flyers? Recovery center is funded through grants and private donation, so may be a burden to provide. Is having the peer recovery center next to a liquor store a detriment?



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Appointments:
per diem
Firefighter/medic

No vote was taken on the motion on the floor.

Motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Theresa Morse to continue the deliberations to Wednesday, May 11 at 6:05 p.m.

Motion passed with all in favor.

Check was done that all have signed in for the hearing, including those who were on zoom and spoke.

Motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Theresa Morse to approve the appointment of Colby Fiske as a per diem Firefighter medic contingent on a CORI check and a pre-employment physical with a one-year probationary period.

Motion was passed with all in favor.

Open Space and
Recreation Plan
Committee
member

Motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Theresa Morse to appoint James Gates as an at-large Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee member from today through June 30, 2023.

Motion passed with all in favor.

Street Closure for
antique car rally:

Motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Veronica Kell to close Brookline St from Honeyland Farms to 9 Brookline St for the Yankee Ingenuity Club for their 40th anniversary antique car rally on Sat, June 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Motion passed with all in favor.

Selectmen will notify the police that this was approved and John Barrett will discuss with Lt Peach to arrange for the detail.

FY23 Budget
discussion and
ATM planning:

Yesterday, the override vote failed at the polls. The budget must be trimmed.

Options for going forward without the override include:

- bring the budget that requires an override back to Town Meeting floor, and if it passes, have another paper vote.
- Plan B: Use stabilization to cover the overage in the budget
- Plan C: Cut as much as needed to have a balanced budget.

Budget included 3% increase for all employees in budget that override did not pass to allow.

Today, cuts made to fund the budget include:

- Temporary Help line for BOS reduced
- Mileage/travel in state for all departments reduced in favor of using Town vehicle
- Additional hours that were requested by departments not granted or reduced.
- Town Counsel reduced (as new Town Administrator is an attorney and new Admin Asst is a paralegal)
- Positions not in a union or not under a personal services contract receive a 1% increase or level-funded.



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FY23 Budget
discussion and
ATM planning,
cont'd:

- Cancelled third party contractor to cut grass at town buildings.
- Police salary reduced to 2.75% increase and cut one open spot for police.
- Police training reduced
- Fire/Ems wages reduced with new Lt. Paid for with ARPA Revenue Loss.
- Maintenance for buildings cut back
- Level funded travel for building inspectors
- Turn off half the street lights (line 543 in budget)
- All professional services and office supply increases kept at 2%
- Library Director level funded and Library techs 1% increase

Budget is a 2.4 % increase from last year, and there is a deficit of about \$75K with this new budget with cuts as described above.

Layoffs are avoided and Town Services have not been cut.

This deficit of about \$75K can be covered by either free cash or stabilization funds.

Discussion of the school budget and if the schools are re-considering their figures. Request that additional funding from the state is passed on to Towns.

Selectmen reviewed the lines that changed and each Total line in each Category of the budget..

A motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Veronica Kell to approve the General Government budget at \$1,684,012.

Motion passed with Chaz Sexton-Diranian and Veronica Kell voting yes and Theresa Morse abstaining.

A motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Veronica Kell to approve the Public Safety budget at \$3,503,016.

Motion passed with Chaz Sexton-Diranian and Veronica Kell voting yes and Theresa Morse abstaining.

A motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Veronica Kell to approve the Education budget at \$14,653,466.

Motion failed with Veronica Kell, Chaz Sexton-Diranian, and Theresa Morse voting no..

A motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Veronica Kell to approve the Highway and Streets budget at \$735,329.

Motion passed with Chaz Sexton-Diranian and Veronica Kell voting yes and Theresa Morse abstaining.

A motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Veronica Kell to approve the Solid Waste budget at \$765,939.

Motion passed with Chaz Sexton-Diranian and Veronica Kell voting yes and Theresa Morse abstaining.



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FY23 Budget
discussion and

A motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Veronica Kell to approve the Human Services budget at \$517,199.

Motion passed with Chaz Sexton-Diranian and Veronica Kell voting yes and Theresa Morse abstaining.

Discussion with Library Trustees Chair, and noted that the trustees have approved a contract with the Library Director for a 2% salary increase.

Library techs will be funded at 3% using other areas of the expenses budget in the library which were adjusted by line.

A motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Veronica Kell to approve the Culture and Recreation budget at \$488,263..

Motion passed with Chaz Sexton-Diranian and Veronica Kell voting yes and Theresa Morse abstaining.

ATM planning,
cont'd, cont'd:

Discussion of Article 6, Article 7, and Article 8 of the Annual Town Meeting warrant to determine how to fund any deficit in the budget.

Article 6 is the Prop 2 1/2 override question, and will be passed over.

Article 7 is to use Free Cash to balance the budget. Requires a majority vote.

Article 8 is to use Stabilization to balance the budget. Requires a 2/3 vote.

Preference is to use free cash to fund the budget deficit.

Town
Administrator
updates and
reports:

Discussion of Greenville Rd project re-engineering and bid assistance by Green international.

Jim Smith was able to extend the state \$500K grant for another year.

Motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Theresa Morse to spend \$14,550 to hire Green International Affiliates to prepare bid documents and access MA DOT permits and NH permits and to authorize Town Administrator to sign.

Motion passed with all in favor.

Funds will come out of existing article to fund the bridge.

Reorganization of
the board:

\$17K reimbursement for Covid sick time that will be returned to the town by the state from Covid funding.

Ross is preparing a lease for the cell tower on Dudley Rd behind the Senior Center. It will be bid out. 10-year lease with option for two 5 year extensions.

Harrison Mayotte will be working as an intern through June 1st to help at minimum wage to help with special projects as set by the Town Administrator. No more than 5-10 hrs per week.

Motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Theresa Morse to appoint Veronica Kell as Chairman, Chaz Sexton-Diranian as Vice-Chair, and Theresa Morse as Clerk.

Motion passed with all in favor



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Liaison
assignments:

Theresa Morse assigned General Government liaison; Veronica Kell assigned Public Safety; Chaz Sexton-Diranian remains Elected Boards.

Announcements, C
ommunications
etc.:
CVRLF closeout

Motion was made by Theresa Morse and seconded by Chaz Sexton-Diranian to have Ross sign the CVRLF Closeout Form.

Motion passed with all in favor.

Request from Diane Hanson, COG, to post on the website that the 2018 CDBG Grant has been fully extended, but the Town will continue to accept applications for future opportunities.

Next meeting:

Annual Town Meeting, May 3, 7 p.m.

Payroll and bills
payable warrant:

Motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Theresa Morse to review and sign bills payable warrant out of session.

Vote was unanimous - all in favor.

Executive
Session:

None

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Theresa Morse and seconded by Chaz Sexton-Diranian to adjourn at 10:14 p.m. Vote was unanimous - all in favor.

Recording of meeting found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uG-TgG-BQ7E&list=PLQpCwUSpXeCa-inxdzK0jQMgEx3wCFBbE&index=9>

Minutes written by Veronica Kell and submitted 08/02/2022