



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Veronica Kell, *Chairman*
Chaz Sexton-Diranian, *Vice Chairman*
Theresa A. Morse, *Clerk*

R. Eric Slagle, Town Administrator

Rec'd Townsend Town Clerk
10 FEB '23 PM1:51

I. PRELIMINARIES:

- 1.1 Call the meeting to order and roll call.
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 Announce the meeting is being tape recorded.
- 1.4 Chairman's Additions or Deletions.
- 1.5 Public Comment Period.

- 1.6 Review/Approve the meeting minutes for August 30, 2022 and September 7, 2022, and Jan 3, 2023.

II. APPOINTMENTS AND HEARINGS:

Topic: Board of Selectmen

Time: January 17, 2023 18:00 Eastern Time {US and Canada}

Board of Selectmen meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m. with Chaz Sexton-Diranian, Veronica Kell, Theresa Morse present in person.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Veronica Kell announced that meeting is being recorded, is live on channel 9 and will be on the Town's YouTube channel afterwards.

Additions: None

Deletions: None

Town Clerk Kathy Spofford stated that nomination papers for the Annual Town Election are available with many openings, papers can be taken out until March 3rd, 2023, and papers need to be back by March 6, 2023. The Town Clerk office is open and has the paper packet for pickup, openings can also be viewed on the website. Dog Licenses are due by March 1, 2023. After that late fees will be applied. A submission before Feb 1, 2023 can win a dog blanket and the #1 dog tag. Dog Licenses can be paid for online and the current rabies certificate can be submitted via email to receive a tag via mail.

Motion was made by Theresa Morse and seconded by Chaz Sexton-Diranian to approve meeting minutes for 08/30/2022. Motion was passed with all in favor. The front page had a fragment that was removed and Karen Fiber channel mention was removed.

Motion was made by Theresa Morse and seconded by Chaz Sexton-Diranian to approve meeting minutes for 09/07/2022. Motion was passed with all in favor.

Motion was made by Theresa Morse and seconded by Chaz Sexton-Diranian to approve meeting minutes for 01/03/2023. Motion was passed with all in favor.

Ross Perry was present in person. Ross Perry summarized of what was done previously as a continuation and follow up on what the Energy Committee had started to account all Town buildings into one account and to buy electricity. A Town meeting vote is required for all Town resident's Municipal aggregation. Ross Perry further presented the Power Point Presentation: Townsend Municipal Aggregation Plan. The Town can decide if the option

2.1 (6:30) Meeting with
Ross Perry and Good
Energy re: Aggregation

green energy is utilized. The residents get offered a lower electricity cost better than third parties. All households will be combined into one purchasing block. Good Energy is also the provider for Fitchburg, MA and 30 communities. Townsend will only pay for the Townsend community. Unitil is still the contact for problems with bills. There will be only fluctuation in rate when the Department of Public Utility petitioned for it. For opt in of a solar user it will change whatever power is bought from Unitil but doesn't change the Solar contract. If someone is under a different provider or has power on their own than they won't be in the pool they can opt in 6 months or 9 months later if wanted, but Good Energy will not undo an already purchased service plan. There will be more public exposure to the topic through different channels. After Town Meeting authorization and after DPU approved the plan, Good Energy will go out to bid with a very short term on the bids to accept the rate. When the bid is due the Board will find out the rate and R. Eric Slagle would need authorization to secure the rate. Goal is the reduction of Unitil rates. Townsend residents are automatically opted in, most people won't realize the Town got them a great rate. A TCAM Broadcast is planned. In late February will be the first public hearing of the Aggregation Plan, then another hearing late March about the amended plan then in April before Town Meeting and have Town Meeting vote on it. Consultant fee for Good Energy will be part of the bid and part of the bill for Unitil on everyone and no separate bill. The rate will be per household. The Town can add a small fee for energy efficiency staffing within the Town. Next steps are public outreach up to the Town Meeting. The Board okayed Earth Day promotion on April 22, 2023. The Board directed Eric Slagle to contact Karen Clement for a booth.

III. APPOINTMENTS OF
OFFICIALS/PERSONNEL:

3.1 Appoint Dylan
Dennis as a full-time
Town Police Officer.

Motion was made by Theresa Morse and seconded by Chaz Sexton-Diranian to appoint Dylan Dennis as a full-time Town Police Officer. Police Chief Jay Sartell introduced Dylan Denis and Rafael Huertas as well as Peter Eldridge with a short summary of their bio and background. Motion was passed with all in favor.

3.2 Appoint Rafael
Huertas as a full-time
Townsend Police
Officer.

Motion was made by Theresa Morse and seconded by Chaz Sexton-Diranian to appoint Rafael Huertas as a full-time Town Police Officer. Motion was passed with all in favor.

3.3 Appoint David
Werlin to Townsend
Affordable Housing
Trust for 2-year term.

Motion was made by Theresa Morse and seconded by Chaz Sexton-Diranian to appoint David Werlin Townsend Affordable Housing Trust for 2-year term until January 30, 2025. Motion was passed with all in favor.

3.4 Appoint Cheryl
Aldrich to Townsend
Meeting Hall Gallery
Committee.

Motion was made by Theresa Morse and second by Chaz Sexton-Diranian to appoint Cheryl Aldrich to Townsend Meeting Hall Gallery Committee. Motion was passed with all in favor. Discussion: Veronica Kell noted that Townsend is bordered to New Hampshire. The Senior Center services NH and Cheryl Aldrich is an active member of the Senior Center and uses it as a relevance for this appointment. Motion passed with all in favor.

IV. MEETING

BUSINESS:

4.1 Review DLTA Grant submissions

Eric Slagle shared status. The Town doesn't have a Bylaw to address the MBTA community requirements. The Planning Board requested to have MRPC finish drafting the Bylaw and help with the reporting piece to present to the Town Meeting. A general proposal was submitted by the Planning Board on 1/17/23 reviewed by Board.

Motion was made by Theresa Morse and seconded by Chaz Sexton-Diranian for R. Eric Slagle to work with the Land use planning staff for submission of the DLTA grant with connection of Karen Chapman. Motion was passed with all in favor. R. Eric Slagle was directed by the Board to check if the submitted Housing Choice Community documentation from 2015 is still relevant and if not to move forward with the grant

Laura Shifrin made a comment about 182 Warren Road, Parcel ID 31-36-0. The Chair Veronica Kell moved this for discussion to the February 7, 2023 meeting.

4.2 Discuss Planning Board quorum issues

Special Permit can't be granted if there is no quorum at the meeting. An associate member position is open. Call to the Public for interest in the position and to come forward. Another 2 regular positions are open, one is a 5-year position and one 5-year position in addition to the associate member. It is critical for the Town to have a functioning Planning Board.

4.3 Discuss providing a letter to MA Dept of Fish and Game supporting the purchase of two land-locked parcels abutting Fish and Game properties in Townsend - Parcels 23-24-0 and 23-38-0

Request from MA Department of Fish and Game. Veronica Kell shared screen. 2 Parcels off of South Row Road and Pierce Road, landlocked parcels on Map 23, purchased from the owner.

Motion was made by Theresa Morse and Chaz Sexton-Diranian to provide a letter to MA Dept of Fish and Game supporting the purchase of two land-locked parcels abutting Fish and Game properties in Townsend - Parcels 23-24-0 and 23-38-0. Motion was passed with all in favor.

4.4 Review proofs for British Commonwealth Project

The Board preferred picture 3 with the rectangular shape. R. Eric Slagle will let the British Commonwealth Project know, that they can proceed with the shape and language provided.

4.5 Authorize the Mass Trails grant to be submitted (deadline for submission is Feb 1).

Mass Trails grant submission for Design, Engineering and Inspection. The Board is okay with submitting it by February 1, 2023. Nothing to review at this point.

4.6 Review/vote on MOU with Supervisor's Union re: Stipend for Water Superintendent

MOU documents in SharePoint were reviewed by the Board.

Motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Theresa Morse to authorize the MOU with Supervisor's Union re: Stipend for Water Superintendent and authorized R. Eric Slagle to sign it out of session. Motion was passed with all in favor.

4.7 Review/vote on
MOU with
Water/Highway Union
re: Tiered wage structure
for Water Operators

This is to be an incentive because it is a struggle to hire and pay not high enough to get someone with experience. This enables to hire and then get licenses with bump in pay.

Motion was made by Theresa Morse and seconded by Chaz Sexton-Diranian to approve the MOU with Water/Highway Union re: Tiered wage structure for Water Operators. Discussion: Chaz Sexton-Diranian didn't recall a vote by the Water Commissioners, David Vigeant clarified that it was voted on in September. Motion was amended to include that R. Eric Slagle is to check with the Water Commissioners that they approved this. Motion was passed with all in favor including the amendment.

Theresa Morse left room at 7:46 p.m. Theresa Morse returned 7:48 p.m.

V. WORK SESSION:
5.0 ARPA Projects
5.1 Town Administrator
Updates and Reports.

None

1. Free cash got certified. Short Discussion about paying for articles and put the rest in stabilization.
2. The Finance Committee had a meeting. The Finance Committee voted no on the article for the Town Accountant. They however misread the contract information of the Town Accountant and after review of the contract will amend their vote in a meeting of January 24, 2023.
3. The School Department is adamant that the capital debt is only for Ashby but the Communities have to vote on it. R. Eric Slagle will be checking with Nancy and Town Counsel if the Board should take no action after another meeting. Articles of elevator: Finance Committee would like to amend the article to put the money in the reserve fund. Town Counsel will review for recommendation on motion to amend the article.

5.2 Reports from Board
liaisons.

5.2.1 General
Government
5.2.2 Elected Boards
5.2.3 Public Safety

Capitol Planning: Confusion as to nomination of Board of Selectmen representative to the Capital Planning of Veronica Kell and Theresa Morse. Veronica Kell set up the zoom meetings. Review of 5-year capital plan and every Wednesday at 5PM. Second week R. Eric Slagle will tell what money is to spend. Then Department heads will be talked to the following two weeks after presenting the Capital Plan to the Board. Deliberation, Deliberate and Finalize, then Finalize and turn over to the Board of Selectmen.

Veronica Kell will be appointed as a community member by John Barrett. Theresa Morse is okay with being the Board of Selectmen representative.

Chaz Sexton-Diranian:

1. The Planning Board needs volunteers.
2. Email from Library Director from Stacy Schuttler stating the Holiday Fair was extremely successful. The Friends of the Library did a fantastic job with raising funds. Big Thanks to everyone involved and Stacy Schuttler.

5.3 Announcements,
Communications, etc.

5.4 Next meeting -
Supplemental Special
Town Meeting and
Special Town Meeting,
Jan 24, 2023, 6:55 pm,
in the Great Hall; Feb 7,
6 pm, Selectmen's
Chambers

5.5 Review and sign
payroll and bills payable
warrants out of session.

VI: EXECUTIVE SESSION:

6.1 Executive Session
pursuant to GL c. 30(a),
s. 21(a)(3) To discuss
strategy with respect to
litigation if an open
meeting may have a
detrimental effect on the
litigation position of the
public body and the
Chair so declares.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Veronica Kell:

1. Wild and Scenic Stewardship Grant, will be submitted by the Conservation Commission, signage for watershed areas, funding and removal of Japanese mugwort and hardware cloth. Another grant round for land protection will be in April may include funding and surveying to cut off pieces that abut.

Theresa Morse:

2. Energy Committee Meeting, the Schools have not been very responsive with grant finalizing. Up for reapplication for LED lighting will be in April 2023. R. Eric Slagle will reach out to Karen Chapman and the School Administration. R. Eric Slagle will try to increase the communication and find solutions collaboratively with the members of the School Board to have a working relationship and link up. The School meeting info will be linked with the Town website.

Resignation of Shirley Coit as TEMA director.

Public Hearing for the Stormwater Management Plan 01/23/23.

Next meeting will be Supplemental Special Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting, Jan 24, 2023, 6:55 pm, in the Great Hall; Feb 7, 6 pm, Selectmen's Chambers. Special Town Meeting will be recorded but will not be on Zoom.

Motion was made by Theresa Morse and seconded by Chaz Sexton-Diranian to review and sign payroll and bills payable warrants out of session. Motion was passed with all in favor.

Motion was made by Chaz Sexton-Diranian and seconded by Theresa Morse to enter Executive Session at 8:25 p.m and to adjourn from Executive Session:

1. Executive Session pursuant to GL c. 30(a), s. 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the public body and the Chair so declares regarding Clark v. Robert DeMoura

Motion was passed with all in favor.

Recording of meeting found

at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k15z4mAYGok&list=PLQpCwUSpXeCa-inxdzK0jQMgEx3wCFBbE&index=1&t=7764s>

Minutes submitted by Sabrina Moore on 02/07/2023.

