

**TOWN OF DEDHAM
450 WASHINGTON STREET
DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
MARCH 16, 2023, 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| James A. MacDonald | Chair |
| Dr. Dennis Teehan | Vice-Chair |
| Dimitria Sullivan | Member |
| Erin Boles Welsh | Member |
| Kevin Coughlin | Member |

TOWN STAFF:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Leon Goodwin | Town Manager |
| Nancy Baker | Assistant Town Manager |
| Doreen LaBrecque | Assistant to Administration |

Minutes taken by Mary-Margaret Scrimger of Minutes Solutions Inc. from a recording

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, the meeting was called to order. The pledge of allegiance was said.

2. DEDHAM CITIZENS – OPEN DISCUSSION

There was no discussion.

3. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Goodwin noted that there was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Public Safety Building recently. The attendance was extremely good and he noted that the Town should be proud of the work. There are a few items that need to be addressed before employees can move in. Mr. Goodwin noted that there was an inquiry from a resident on Crane Street regarding progress with MBTA. MBTA's latest indication to the DPW director was that this area was not high on their priority list. Mr. Goodwin has reached out to Senator Rush's team regarding this.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by Dr. Teehan, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, it was resolved to approve the consent agenda including drain layers (Boston Pipe Lining Co., A1 Pipe Restoration, and Hercules C&G Drain); Signs for Plant Sale for Fairbanks Garden Club; Family Run on April 1, 2023; Farmers Market June 14, 2023, until October 25, 2023, including banners, yard signs, live music at the market, and reservation of nine parking spaces. Motion carried.

5. RECOGNITION OF DEDHAM HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' VARSITY HOCKEY TEAM

Mr. MacDonald recognized the recent success of the high school girls' varsity hockey team, as they are now the tri-valley league champions. The coaches said a few words, highlighting their hard work. The captains said a few words, thanking the coaches and the team. The Board

handed out certificates to the team. Individual Board members provided congratulations to the team. A parent addressed the room and thanked the team and community.

6. **DISCUSSION AND VOTE: APPOINTMENT OF HOUSING AUTHORITY TENANT BOARD MEMBER**

On a motion made by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, it was resolved to appoint Skye Kessler to the Housing Authority Tenant Board. Motion carried.

The Town Clerk requested that there be an appointment to the Housing Authority Tenant Board. There was only one applicant, Skye Kessler, who was eligible based on the requirements.

7. **DISCUSSION: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR FOR GOOD ENERGY**

This discussion was to address the aggregation plan for Dedham electricity. Mr. Stefano Loretto noted that the program started in 2016. It is now the eighth year of the program. It was designed as an opt-out program, which has allowed for high levels of participation. It has been very successful. Total savings have been approximately \$7 million. There have been significant savings, especially considering the increase in goods and services. Mr. Loretto outlined the programs and the savings. He also noted that Dedham has been aggregation pioneers, as this program was innovative and established the norm for northern Massachusetts. There is the intent to renew the contract in early spring. Current participants will automatically be switched to the new contract in December. No action will be needed. The Board thanked Mr. Loretto for the presentation. The Board discussed challenges with companies misrepresenting their products.

8. **CONTINUED DISCUSSION RE: FY24 BUDGET**

Mr. Goodwin noted that the budget process has been proceeding well. One of the challenges is addressing cost increases and long-term planning. Mr. MacDonald voiced concern regarding the increase to the levy and setting the tax rate. The Board discussed concern regarding increasing costs to citizens. This is especially impactful to seniors and marginalized communities. The middle class is also being impacted. The Board discussed the police budget briefly. There has been significant work to reduce costs and investigate grants to offset expenses.

9. **DISCUSSION AND VOTE: SELECT BOARD APPOINTEE TO FINANCIAL POLICIES COMMITTEE**

On a motion made by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, it was resolved to appoint Ms. Boles Welsh to the Financial Policies Committee. Motion carried.

10. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Boles Welsh noted that the Endicott Greenhouse is having struggles due to an aging Board. She asked that the Select Board help resolve this issue. Dr. Teehan noted that if anyone is struggling with postpartum depression, there is help available.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed.

DISCLAIMER

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Chair, Select Board

June 13, 2024
Date Approved