



SELECT BOARD
Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2022

APPROVED:

PRESENT: Wes Fowlks, Chair; John Markiewicz, Member; Les Fox, Member; Jennifer Campbell, Member and Diana Lipari, Member

ALSO PRESENT: Kirby Dolak, BXB-TV Supervisor

At 6:30PM, Chair Fowlks called Select Board meeting to order, via ZOOM pursuant to the procedures noted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – At 6:30 PM, Chair Markiewicz moved to adjourn to conduct an Executive Session via a separate ZOOM event and reconvene in Open Session after completion of the Executive Session – with respect to i. negotiations with nonunion personnel (ITA and Fire Chief), per C30A §21 (a) subsection 2, Strategy with respect to Collective bargaining negotiations (BPFPA, Local 4601; MassCOPS, Local 200 & MassCOPS, Local 200A; and UPSE, Local 424M, Unit MA Div.125), per C30A §21 (a) subsection 3, to investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to consider the filing of criminal complaints, per C30A §21 (a) subsection 5, and to reconvene in Open Session after completion of the Executive Session; further noting that to discuss in open session may have a detrimental effect the negotiating position of the Board. Seconded by Member Lipari.

Approved: 5-0 Roll Call Markiewicz “aye,” Lipari “aye,” Fox “aye,” Campbell “aye,” and Fowlks “aye.”

OPEN SESSION

At 7:00 PM, the Select Board reconvened in Open Session via ZOOM.

PRESENT: Wes Fowlks, Chair; John Markiewicz, Member; Les Fox, Member; and Diana Lipari, Member

ALSO PRESENT: Carter Terenzini, Interim Town Administrator; Rajon Hudson, Assistant Town Administrator; and Kirby Dolak, BXBTV

Along with: Mark White, L Collins, Kyungae Lim, Lisa St Amand

The documents discussed herein have been included with the file copy of the agenda packet for the above referenced date and are hereby incorporated by reference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Fowlks read the announcements.

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND PAYABLE WARRANTS

MINUTES

a. March 7, 2022 – Open Session

Member Fox moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 7, 2022, as amended. Seconded by Member Markiewicz.

Approved: 4-0 by Roll Call Fox “aye,” Markiewicz “aye,” Lipari “aye,” and Fowlks “aye.”

INTRODUCTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

a. Introductions of New Staff: Thida Long, Kyungae Lim

The Board welcomed new staff members and thanked them for their service.

b. Action RE: Board/Committee Appointment

Member Lipari moved to appoint the following resident to the Steele Farm Advisory Committee for the term identified: Christopher Hydak for a term commencing immediately running through June 30, 2025. Seconded by Member Markiewicz.

Approved: 4-0 by Roll Call Fox “aye,” Markiewicz “aye,” Lipari “aye,” and Fowlks “aye.”

c. Action RE: Board/Committee Resignation

Member Lipari moved to accept the resignation of Keith Lyons for the Personnel Board. Seconded by Member Markiewicz.
Approved: 4-0 by Roll Call Fox “aye,” Markiewicz “aye,” Lipari “aye,” and Fowlks “aye.”

CITIZENS’ CONCERNS

Mark White stated Keith Lyons recently resigned from the Personnel Board and made some very emotional comments regarding the Police Department. Mr. White stated that he does not feel unsafe in Boxborough and cannot echo these sentiments. He noted that there is a process for making allegations and that the items mentioned by Mr. Lyons are simply that, allegations, until proven otherwise. He noted that Mr. Lyons is the moderator for the Boxborough Town Center Facebook page, where there are often vile and ugly comments allowed under the guise of free speech. The Select Board has been opaque, at best, regarding the issues addressed by Mr. Lyons. Mr. White stated that he believes there is plenty about these issues that can be spoken of in open session. The Select Board’s lack of transparency frightens him. All of the full-time employees that were working in this municipality have left and this speaks volumes.

Becky Neville concurred with Mr. White’s comments. She asked about when a search firm will be hired for the Town Administrator search. Chair Fowlks stated that the Board is in the process of receiving proposals for these firms. Interim Town Administrator Terenzini stated that bids were sent to five firms, with responses due April 12, 2022. These will be in front of the Board for consideration at its meeting following this date.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Action RE: Vote of Select Board as to Useful Life of Equipment

Interim Town Administrator Terenzini explained that the payments for the Fire Truck are proposed to be spread out over 10 years. This can only be completed if the Board votes that the truck’s useful life is more than 5 years.

Member Markiewicz moved to identify the maximum useful life of the following equipment to be financed with the proceeds of the borrowing authorized by the votes of the Town passed June 12, 2021 (Article 30) and Article (Article 32) are hereby determined pursuant to G.L. c.44, §7(1) to be: Fire Pumper Truck - \$800,000 (10 years), 6-Wheel Dump Truck - \$230,00 (5 years). Seconded by Member Fox.

Approved: 4-0 by Roll Call Fox “aye,” Markiewicz “aye,” Lipari “aye,” and Fowlks “aye.”

b. Sargent Road Update

Interim Town Administrator Terenzini explained that the group has a proposal to have an engineering firm examine how many lots could be put on the property for an appraisal. Town Counsel has advised that the most recent revised letter from the developer meets all statute requirements and so the 120 clock is running as of last Monday.

c. Action RE: Taylor Farm Parcel Donation

Interim Town Administrator Terenzini explained that this is a remnant parcel. The Board can accept this as conservation land, if it so chooses, and then no vote at Town Meeting is required. The Board could also vote not to accept it and wait for it to be voted on at the next Town Meeting. The developer would then retain the title for this land. He noted that every time one of these small remnant parcels is accepted by the Board, the Board takes land off the tax roll and creates more of a management issue for the Town.

The Board noted that it would like additional information on this item regarding management and maintenance issues.

Member Markiewicz moved to table the discussion on the Taylor Farm Parcel Donation. Seconded by Member Fox.

Approved: 4-0 by Roll Call Fox “aye,” Markiewicz “aye,” Lipari “aye,” and Fowlks “aye.”

TOWN MEETING

a. Discussion/Action RE: Town Meeting

i. Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles/Update

There was no additional discussion at this time.

OLD BUSINESS –

Member Lipari requested that a current copy of the budget be provided to the Board and placed on the Town website.

SELECT BOARD & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S OFFICE REPORTS/UPDATES –

Member Markiewicz stated the Springfest was held this past weekend and was a great event. He congratulated the Rec Com and those involved with the event’s success.

ADJOURN

At 7:35 PM, Member Markiewicz moved to adjourn. Seconded by Member Lipari.

Approved: 4-0 by Roll Call Fox “aye,” Markiewicz “aye,” Lipari “aye,” and Fowlks “aye.”

Item# **Exhibits**
 Agenda

- I. Draft Minutes, March 7, 2022 – Open Session
- II. Vote of the Select Board as to Useful Life of Equipment
- III. Memo re: Gift of Land – Taylor Farm Road, November 3, 2021
- IV. Town of Boxborough, Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Internal Communications & Outgoing Communications
Minutes, Notices & Updates