

TOWN OF IPSWICH
Board of Selectmen
Minutes of March 26, 2018
Town Hall, 25 Green Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 7:00 PM in Selectmen's Meeting Room A.

With a quorum present, Mr. Craft called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Selectmen present: Ed Rauscher; William Craft, Chair; Linda Alexson; Nishan Mootafian, Vice Chair; William D. Whitmore

Welcome/Announcements

- Mr. Craft noted there were a few Finance Committee meetings, an Audit Committee meeting, and a Selectmen's meeting within the past week. He also noted the tri-board committee meeting the following night.
- Ms. Alexson and Mr. Craft met to discuss corrections to be made to meeting minutes from Board of Selectmen.
- Mr. Craft noted a possible issue identified by Sarah Johnson in regards to filings to the federal government.

Citizens Queries

Garret ChampGary Champion, 3 Palomino Way, asked Select Board for unanimous support of May 8th town meeting article to fund the new combined elementary school. Mr. Champion stated that the school committee and MSBA fully endorse this education plan and that this option would be the most cost effective short and long-term plan for taxpayers. He also noted the important opportunities for the town to repurpose the Winthrop site. Selectmen stated that the presentation at Bean Counting will provide numbers and then a poll can be taken.

Paul McGarrenMcGurin, 7 Hood Farm Road, inquired about status of water flushing problem on Hood Farm Road. Town Manager explained that the town is conducting an engineering study to look at inefficiencies in the system throughout town to bring solutions before board, and is also modifying water flushing procedures for this April which will protect homeowners as well as to flush some of the system. Mr. McGarren McGurin asked that this topic be on the agenda for future meetings of the water advisory committee.

Phil DoganGoguen, Kingfisher Road, wanted to know if there will be a pre-town meeting Moderator's forum. Town Moderator answered yes, it will be on May 1st at 7:00 in the Town Hall. Mr. Dogan Goguen asked to make the font larger for the packet given out at the town meeting. Selectmen will look into it. Mr. Dogan Goguen also noted that he has used the hearing aids at the town meetings and they work well.

Discussion of ATM 2018 Warrant Articles (possible votes on positions)

Article One – Consent Calendar

Motion to approve numbers as presented by Mr. Mootafian and seconded Mr. Rauscher.

→Vote: *The motion passed unanimously*

Article Two – Finance Committee Election

Awaiting recommendation from Finance Committee, Select Board will recommend at Town Meeting. Possible there will be recommendations from the floor or from the Finance Committee.

Article Three - FY 2019 Municipal Budget

Board has already taken a position and has voted. 5-0 in favor.

Article Four – FY 2019 School Budget

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Had been voted on previously, 5-0 in favor.

Article Five – New Elementary School Funding

Discussion on final wording for the article which will be sent to Bond Counsel and MSBA for approval. Kevin Murphy (7 Pitcairn Way) reported that it has already been accepted but needs to be sent back with final numbers instead of percentages. This will be carried out by Mr. Murphy and Mr. Hall will be the point person. Will be the subject of a presentation to be made at Bean Counting on April 7th.

Article Six – FY 2019 Whittier Regional High School Budget

Motion to support Whittier Budget for \$520,000 by Mr. Mootafian and seconded by Mr. Whitmore.

→Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed

Article Seven – FY 2019 Essex County Technical Institute Budget

Discussion regarding districting and how many students from Ipswich attend the Tech Institute. Ms. Johnson stated that she believes 9 students attend.

Motion to support budget of \$189,000 by Ms. Alexson and seconded (not clear who seconded from tape).

→Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed

Article Eight – Transfer of FY 2018 Appropriated Budget Funds to Educational Stabilization Fund

Recommendation will be made at Ttown Mmeeting.

Article Nine – Transfer FY 2018 Budget Funds to Special Education Stabilization Fund

No firm numbers have been identified yet.

Article Ten – Annual Capital Plan

Article Eleven – Water Main Replacement

\$1.5 million bond for water main replacements which was supported at the last meeting on a 5-0 vote.

Article Twelve – Town Farm Road Sanitary Sewer Extension

Mr. Hall reported on the subject of sewer extensions and the standing for the LLC to bring a citizen petition. Town meeting approval is not required but permit would need to be approved by Zoning Board of Appeals as part of a comprehensive permit. Motion was passed at last meeting but moved to reconsider given new information. Motion to reconsider vote on Article 12 by Mr. Mootafian and seconded and Mr. Whitmore.

→Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed

Motion to vote at Ttown Mmeeting by Mr. Mootafian and seconded by Mr. Whitmore.

→Vote: Passed unanimously 5-0

Article Thirteen – Public Safety Building Study

HSelect Board heard from Public Safety and the Bboard voted at last meeting 5-0 to support \$140,000 request. Will recast article to include the word “stabilization” as the source of funds and add a summary. Mr. Rauscher requested to be recorded as a no vote for last week’s vote. Mr. Mootafian noted that he does support a new Public Safety Building but if Article Five does not pass he would suggest this study possibly waits until the fall since the Winthrop site would not be a possibility. Chief Nikas explained that it is not clear what is needed yet for the new site, which is what the \$140,000 study will determine. This study will need to take place whether or not the Winthrop site is available as an option for new Public Safety Building, so it is not contingent on the school vote. Mr. Whitmore noted that he thinks this is a good time to do this study.

→Vote: 4 in support, 1 against (vote taken last week but was recorded as 5-0 which was inaccurate)

Article Fourteen – Stabilization Funding

Last week 3-2 vote in favor, no motion to reconsider. Mr. Mootafian and Ms. Alexson were opposed.

Article Fifteen - Other Post-Employment Benefits Funding

Last week 5-0 vote in support. Article now contains current numbers (\$152,433 free cash and \$70,500 from payroll).

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Article Sixteen – Revisions to Central & General Business Districts Zoning

Informational only, not vote. Hearings with planning board are ongoing and final language will be in by April 2nd. Heidi Paeck reported on updated materials. Q&A will be on town website and slides were provided to discuss mixed use buildings downtown.

- Requesting a by-law update to allow for flexibility on parking restrictions for property owners downtown. This would allow property owners to offer satellite parking for residents as opposed to requiring on-site parking. Current parking requirements are restricting property owners from using space for residential purposes.
- Also looking to change density limits to make use of interior space in downtown buildings on small parcels with multiple floors. Would be on special permit.
- Inconsistent standard on two business zones. Seeking to allow up to 4 stories with special permit while keeping the maximum height of 45 feet.
- Seeking to introduce 15% flexibility on height in CB district as well as in GB properties greater than 1 acre. Noted that this may be harder to pass and might put the other proposals at risk.

Article Seventeen – Open Space Zoning Revisions

Hearing is yet to take place so wording is not yet final.

Article Eighteen – Non-Binding Ballot Question Regarding Adoption of an Open Checkbook System

Board voted previously not to support (unanimous).

Article Nineteen – Non-Binding Ballot Question Regarding the town of Ipswich Conducting Quarterly Forensic Audits

Board voted previously not to support (unanimous).

Article Twenty – Non-Binding Ballot Question Regarding Adoption of Term Limits for Elected Town Officials

Board voted previously not to support (unanimous).

Article Twenty-one – Non-Binding Ballot Question Regarding Use by the town of Ipswich of Inventory Control Software

Board voted previously not to support (unanimous).

Article Twenty-two – Election of Planning Board Members

Board voted previously, 1 in favor, 4 opposed.

Motion to relocate from article 22 to article 18 made by Mr. Mootafian and seconded by Ms. Alexson

→*Vote: 4 in favor, 1 opposed. Mr. Whitmore is opposed*

Follow-Up & Adoption of FY2019 Capital Budget – J. Engel

- To be discussed at tri-board meeting tomorrow night as well. Version 3
- Line 39: change the use from “demolish the barn” to “Pony Express improvements” to allow for flexibility with use of money.
- Line 44: Highway Garage Generator spreadsheet has wrong number (typo), should be \$30,000 not \$20,000
- Column F: 6 and 7 discussed. IT security risk assessment \$15,750, with annual recurring cost of \$10,000. Would not advise to spend this money until migrate to the cloud.
- Email Migration to cloud total cost \$47,344 with annual recurring cost of \$25,000. Would solve problems regarding emails during power outages but concern raised about what the additional benefits are and if it is worth the cost.
- Numbers from schools are current and have not changed.
- Line 29 town school facilities assessment: numbers that came in at the end of January were to anticipate \$200,000 cost over two years, however seems high. Recommendation to get real bids for individual items. Note that this item is separate from previously discussed administrative audit.
- Library windows \$40,000 for year one of a two-year project.
- Line 41: looking at emergency generators throughout town but focusing on police station. \$120,000 would likely address a number of generators. Also putting togethertogether a town-wide emergency generator study which may identify needs for the future.
- Item 62: discussion on including source of funding for pumper truck on capital plan so that full cost is shown.

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- Discussion on whether or not new \$55,000 command vehicle is needed for the new deputy chief or if a current vehicle can be updated and used instead. Town manager recommended this be considered in order to make the new deputy chief position effective. Moved to reconsider but no second.
- Discussion on parks and cemetery department requesting three vehicles and whether or not some of this be funded by the cemetery perpetual care fund or can wait until next year.
- Line 77: extension of downtown Riverwalk \$70,000. Ms. Alexson voiced opposition to Riverwalk.
- Comprehensive Plan Update \$30,000, Resiliency Planning \$25,000
- Total: \$1,517,524- discussion on where money could come from.
- Motion to eliminate Riverwalk Extension for this year by Ms. Alexson, no second.
- Mr. Rauscher moved to strike the command vehicle for \$55,000, seconded by Mr. Mootafian.
→*Vote: passed unanimously 5-0*
- Line 39: Mr. Mootafian moved to keep the original definition of “demolish barn” and also to cut the budget to \$20,000, seconded by Ms. Alexson. Mr. Rauscher suggested to keep the budget at \$35,000 but add a stipulation that the board be consulted in regards to where the excess funds will go for Pony Express. Ms. Alexson asked to clarify that the \$35,000 is above the original Pony Express amount that was voted by the town and stated that she against raising that amount. Mr. Mootafian withdrew his previous motion. Mr. Mootafian made a motion to ask that any expenditures over and above the demolition of the barn come back to the BOS for consultation and seconded by Mr. Whitmore.
→*Vote: 4 in favor, 1 opposed. Ms. Alexson opposed.*
- Motion to remove items 6 and 7 by Mr. Rauscher, seconded by Mr. Mootafian.
→*Vote: 2 in favor of keeping (Mr. Whitmore, Mr. Craft), 3 in favor of removing (Mr. Rauscher, Ms. Alexson, Mr. Mootafian).*
- Recap: lines 6, 7, and 64 are not supported.

Temporary Town Manager Report – J. Engel

No other business.

New Business* – W. Craft

No new business.

Old Business – W. Craft

- Discussion on non-medical marijuana availability and use in town and whether or not it should be a part of the upcoming town meeting. Recommendation is that action does not need to be taken at the town meeting.
- Motion to approve minutes from February 5th, 12th, 20th, and 26th, made by Ms. Alexson, seconded by Mr. Rauscher →
Vote: passed unanimously 5-0
- Question for Ttown Mmanger about code enforcement and fees in regards to raising rates without a public hearing. Town Mmanager reported that according to by-laws certain departments can raise fees without public hearing or Select Board approval. Can request that departments consult with the Bboard.

Adjournment - The Selectmen unanimously adjourned at 10:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By

Alyson von der Esch

4.2.18