

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Monday, April 4, 2022

Pursuant to 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 Select Board was held on Monday, March 21, 2022, at 7:00 PM in Meeting Room A.

Board Members present: Dr. Tammy Jones, Chair; William Whitmore, Vice Chair; Linda Alexson; Sarah Player; Kerry Mackin

Also present: Tony Marino, Town Manager; Eileen Page, Recording Secretary

With a quorum present, Dr. Jones called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Welcome/Announcements

- I. Donation Acceptance from New England BioLabs Foundation to Department of ReCreation & Culture for Switch Rideable Artscape

New England BioLabs has donated \$8,000 to Sculpture in Open Spaces to be used for sculptures at The Switch Rideable Artscape at Bialek Park.

- *Vote: Ms. Player moved to accept the donation. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Town Meeting will be held on May 10 at 7 PM in the lower gym at Ipswich High School. Masks are not required, but a masked seating area will be available to those who wish to do so.

The Shellfish Advisory Board will meet on April 5 at 7 PM via Zoom.

Citizen Queries

None.

Board and Committee Appointments

- I. Select Board confirmation of Town Manager Historical Commission appointments - Linda Grimes, Alternate, and Rachel Meyer, Regular Member

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to confirm the Town Manager appointments. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Resident Suggestions to Increase Visibility in Ipswich About the War on Ukraine

Tanya Marshall (6 Mount Pleasant Avenue) is an Ipswich resident originally from Ukraine. She stated that her hometown in Ukraine is currently occupied by the Russian army. Ipswich residents have rallied around Ms. Marshall's hometown by creating a bank account where funds have been deposited and transferred to Ukrainian families to aid in humanitarian efforts and emergency evacuations. Ms. Marshall asked the Board to show that the Town of Ipswich stands with Ukraine by hanging Ukrainian flags under the American flag at Town buildings and schools, and to fly the Ukrainian flag in the Fourth of July parade as a symbol of freedom and show of solidarity.

The Board agreed to look into flying flags around Town.

2022 Annual Seasonal Liquor License Renewals

- I. Ipswich Bay Yacht Club, 124 North Ridge Road
- II. The Trustees of Reservations d/b/a Castle Hill on The Crane Estate, 290 Argilla Road
- III. KPS Food Service Holding LLC d/b/a Ipswich Clambake, 196 High Street
- IV. New England Country Club Management Inc. d/b/a Ipswich Country Club, 7 Edge Street

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to approve the renewals. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Select Board Sign April 29, 2022, Arbor Day Proclamation

“Whereas: In the year 1646, in the Towne of Boston of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the first recorded public tree planting in the New World took place as a community effort involving men, women and children; and Whereas: Arbor Day, which began on April 10, 1872, by J. Sterling Morton, is observed traditionally in Massachusetts on the last Friday in April by the planting of frees as living reminders that all citizens bear the responsibility of stewardship; and Whereas: Trees can moderate the temperature, cut heating and cooling costs, clean the air, produce oxygen, lower the Greenhouse Effect, and provide habitat for wildlife; and Whereas: Trees increase property value, enhance the economic viability of business areas, and beautify our communities; and Whereas: Trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; Now, therefore, The Select Board, Ipswich, MA in accordance with General Laws, do hereby proclaim April 29, 2022 to be recognized as: Arbor Day and urge the citizens of Ipswich to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands and to support community tree care programs; and Further, we urge all citizens to plant trees, and otherwise take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.” - Dr. Jones

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to adopt the proclamation. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

New Auto Amusement Application for Ipswich Tavern, 24-26 Hammett Street

The Ipswich Tavern requested nine (9) auto amusement machines at \$50 each.

Ms. Alexson asked how the \$50 fee compares to neighboring communities. Mr. Marino stated that he would look into it.

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to approve the application. Ms. Player seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Shellfish Enhancement Fund FY23 Budget Request

Police Chief Paul Nikas reported that at their February meeting, the Shellfish Advisory Board recommended that \$12,000 of the Shellfish Enhancement Fund be used to fund the green crab trapping bounty program. State and general funding are also available, for a total of about \$40,000-\$50,000. Trapping the invasive green crabs are vital to the health of the clam beds and saltmarshes. In addition, Chief Nikas requested that trapping bounties be paid out at \$0.40/pound.

The program has three (3) active trappers, and up to five (5) are allowed to participate. Openings are advertised, and the Shellfish Constable vets applicants to ensure they are able to trap and properly dispose of the crabs.

Ms. Alexson stated that the Shellfish Advisory Board recommended \$14,000 be allocated for the program.

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to allow the Shellfish Department to expend the following funds from the Shellfish Enhancement Fund for the following purpose in FY23: Green Crab “bounty” program, up to \$14,000. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*
- *Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to approve that the bounty be paid out at \$0.40 per pound of trapped green crab. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Provisional Commercial Clamming Permit Requests

- I. Jayson Clapp, 44 Newmarch Street
- II. Bryan Vitale, 15 Cedarview Road

Approval of the applications will put the Town at the 125-permit maximum. After an affirmative vote, the applicants have thirty (30) days to pay all associated fees and claim their permits. One (1) applicant remains on the waitlist.

- *Vote: Ms. Player moved to approve the permits. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Discuss/Vote Select Board Recommendations on 2022 ATM Warrant

ARTICLE 1: Consent Calendar

Submitted by: Select Board

- *Vote: Ms. Player moved to recommend Article 1. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 2: Finance Committee Election

Submitted by: Select Board

- *Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to Recommend at Town Meeting (RATM) Article 2. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 3: FY 2023 Municipal Budget

Submitted by: Select Board

Ms. Alexson stated that she is not in favor of the full-time position dedicated to researching grant and Water Use Mitigation Program (WUMP) being proposed in the FY23 Water budget. She does not feel that a full-time employee exclusively for the Water department is warranted and would like to see such an employee be in charge of grant work for the entire Town. She suggested that next year the Town look at salary policies and set ranges for non-union employees across all departments.

- *Vote: Ms. Player moved to recommend Article 3. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 4: FY 2023 School Budget

Submitted by: School Committee

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to recommend Article 4. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 5: FY 2023 Whittier Regional High School Budget

Submitted by: Whittier RVTHS Representative

- *Vote: Ms. Player moved to recommend Article 5. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 6: FY 2023 Essex County Technical Institute Budget

Submitted by: Select Board

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to recommend Article 6. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 7: Transfer of FY22 Appropriated Budget Funds to Education Stabilization Fund

Submitted by: School Committee

- *Vote: Ms. Player moved to recommend Article 7. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 8: Stabilization Funding

Submitted by: Select Board

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to recommend Article 8. Ms. Mackin seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 9: Other Post-Employment Benefits Funding

Submitted by: Select Board

- *Vote: Ms. Player moved to recommend Article 9. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 10: Annual Capital Plan

Submitted by: Select Board & School Committee

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to recommend Article 10. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 11: Home Rule Petition - Amend Charter - SECTION 1. Section 6. Town Manager

Submitted by: Select Board

Mr. Whitmore suggested expanding the previously mentioned 15-mile limit to allow for better flexibility. He stated very few towns require town manager residency and referred to an article that said only 14 communities have a residency requirement. He compared housing expenses of towns with residency requirements to Ipswich.

Craig Saline (Government Study Committee) stated that the implementation of the 15-mile limit was intended to address the symbolic opposition to allowing a Town Manager to live outside of town. He suggested that rather than imposing a mileage requirement, the Select Board could remove residency language altogether and address the matter on a case-by-case basis.

Chief Nikas stated that no other employees must live here to work here, including him, the Fire Chief, Director of Utilities, or the Superintendent. He has never had to look for Tony or the Fire Chief in a critical incident and does not understand the need for a residency requirement.

Ms. Player stated she is not stuck on a manager living in the Commonwealth and expects whoever is in that role would be aware of local and state issues. It's about being here when needed, response times, etc., not necessarily mileage.

Dr. Jones stated that Ipswich should be consistent with the rest of the state, and this is not. She is not wedded to the manager living in the Commonwealth but would like to eliminate the 15-miles.

Ms. Alexson felt the 15-mile requirement was a compromise. She isn't asking that the mileage radius be kept but would prefer to keep the Massachusetts residency

- *Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to remove all residency requirements from the article. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*
- *Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to recommend Article 11 as amended. Ms. Mackin seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 12: Override - School Operating Budget

Submitted by: School Committee

- *Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to recommend Article 12. Ms. Mackin seconded. The motion carried 4-1, with Ms. Alexson opposed.*

ARTICLE 13: Rescind/Repurpose Prior Water Article \$900,000 Tank Painting

Submitted by: Select Board as Water Commissioners

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to recommend Article 13. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 14: Wastewater Infrastructure Upgrades & Design Work (Aeration Project) (\$6,000,000)

Submitted by: Select Board as Sewer Commissioners

- *Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to recommend Article 14. Ms. Player seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 15: Land Disposition - 161 Topsfield Road

Submitted by: Town Manager/Planning Director

- *Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to recommend Article 15. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 16: Accept CDP Plan - Revise Existing Language

Submitted by: Planning Board

- *Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to recommend Article 16. Ms. Mackin seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 17: Open Space Bond Authorization List

Submitted by: Open Space

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to recommend Article 17. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 18: Amend General Bylaws - Chapter 35 - Create Government Study Committee

Submitted by: TGSC Ad Hoc Committee

- *Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to recommend Article 18. Ms. Mackin seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

ARTICLE 19: Town Government Study Committee Appointments

Submitted by: TGSC Ad Hoc Committee

- *Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to recommend Article 19. Ms. Player seconded. The motion carried 5-0.*

Consent Agenda

- I. One Day Wine and Malt License Applications
 - a. Eve Hamlin for Ipswich Ale Brewery for Storm the Castle Half Marathon at Ipswich resident Crane Beach parking lot on April 23, 2022
 - b. Rob Barossi for Trustees of Reservations for Hikes and Craft Beer at Appleton Farms on April 9 and 23, May 14 and 21, June 24 and 25, 2022
 - c. Paul Gentile for Gentile Brewing Company, LLC for Pizza Picnics at Appleton Farms on April 8, 15, 22, 29, and May 6, 13, 20, 27, and June 18 and 19, 2022
- II. One Day All Alcohol License Application
 - a. Andrew Skillman for Ipswich Masonic Temple for Celebration of Life on April 16, 2022

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Town Manager Report

The Town has established a Human Rights & Inclusion Commission. The Commission is made up of eleven (11) members, the Superintendent, and Chief Nikas. The group was chosen from a pool of thirty-five (35) applicants. The group will meet on April 12 in Meeting Room C.

A working group has been established to work on an Outdoor Entertainment Policy.

Select Board Member Subcommittee Update

PUBLIC SAFETY REUSE WORKING GROUP

The working group discussed forming a visionary survey to gather data on what the public would like done with the current Police and Fire stations once the Public Safety Facility is operational. They are working on developing goals and criteria to evaluate potential uses. The community gardens should be available for use this season. The group will meet again on April 13.

MBTA ADVISORY BOARD

The MBTA Advisory Board met last week and had a presentation from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development regarding proposed multi-family zoning districts. Bussing to Beverly and Salem for train access will continue through the end of April.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

Last week, the Committee met with the Owners Project Manager (OPM).

New Business

Ipswich will receive \$437,261 as part of the Johnson & Johnson opioid settlement. Payment will be made over several years. The funds will be used for awareness and recovery efforts for individuals struggling with opioid abuse.

Old Business

Ms. Alexson reminded the Board that a meeting with the Planning Board is supposed to be scheduled to discuss a building moratorium. She also asked for an update on the traffic issues on Peabody Street. Mr. Marino stated that the Town is in the process of confirming they own a parcel of land that will become a hammerhead turn.

Additionally, a keyed gate will be installed that allows businesses access to their property without cutting through the residential areas of the street.

Brian Connolly, Interim Finance Director, was introduced and talked about his background and experience.

Miscellaneous & Correspondence

None.

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to adjourn. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

The Select Board adjourned at 9:09 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
04.29.2022*