

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Monday, October 1, 2018
Ipswich Town Hall | 25 Green Street

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, October 1, 2018 at 7:00 pm in Meeting Room A.

With a quorum present, Nishan Mootafian called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Board Members Present: Nishan Mootafian, Chair; William Whitmore, Vice Chair; Linda Alexson; William Craft; Edward Rauscher

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

Abbreviations Used: MWRA, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; HHW (Household Hazardous Waste)

Public Information: Agenda; Meeting Packet

Welcome/Announcements

Ms. Alexson announced that tomorrow night's Shellfish Subcommittee meeting is cancelled and issued a reminder on behalf of the Shellfish Constable that as of October 1, 2018, oyster season is open through April 30, 2019. Oyster harvesting is limited to 30 oysters per day, twice a week. Regarding clamming, commercial clammers are currently limited to 300 pounds of clams per day. All clammers were reminded to call the shellfish line to check flat status before harvesting.

Mr. Mootafian reminded residents that the Tri-Board will meet on Tuesday, October 9, 2018. The next Select Board meeting will be held Monday, October 15, 2018, and Special Town Meeting will take place the following night on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Ipswich High School Performing Arts Center.

Citizen Queries

None.

Board & Committee Appointments

Stephen Miles – Historical Commission – Reappointment

Vote: Mr. Craft moved to reappoint Mr. Miles to the Historical Commission, and Mr. Rauscher seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Discuss, Reconsider & Vote Naming of Middle Green

Mr. Mootafian reminded viewers that Town Planner Glenn Gibbs presented the possibility of officially naming Middle Green at the September 17, 2018 meeting. In response to disapproval from the general public, further discussion is being considered. Jim Graffum (32 Ocean Drive) and Francis Lindquist (6 Plains Road) appeared before the Board to discuss the history of the Honor Roll Memorial, and recommend that the current Middle Green be given a name that reflects the history of the memorials erected on it, such as Veterans Memorial Green. A previous memorial had been destroyed by graffiti in the 1980s. In response, the Ipswich War Memorial Committee was created, and currently meets twice a year to maintain all Town memorials. The committee is currently researching costs to install a brick walkway inscribed with the names, branches, and dates of service of Ipswich veterans. Marlene Doyle (20 Damon Avenue) spoke on the issue, stating that the discussion of renaming the Green is unnecessary, and the Board has more serious matters they should be focusing on. Gordon Harris (17 Mill Road) stated that historically, these areas have never had official names, but rather gained their designations through town vernacular. Personally, he supports naming the area Memorial Green. Ms. Alexson stated that she feels the Board "jumped the gun" on voting to name the Green, as the issue had only been raised just before the last Select Board meeting. She feels that historical significance should be considered, and would like input from local veterans' groups and the public. Mr. Rauscher raised concerns about naming the area Memorial Green due to the possibility of

memorials being relocated, but supports more time and consideration on the issue. Mr. Whitmore supports reconsidering, but raised concerns that visitors to the town may be confused by the name Memorial Green, as there are memorials to veterans on nearly all of the town greens as is. Mr. Mootafian would like to table the discussion until there is a more solid plan surrounding the public safety building, as that could affect relocation of memorials. Mr. Graffum stated that he fully supports putting the needs of the police and fire departments above the location of the memorial.

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to reconsider the September 17, 2018 meeting vote naming Middle Green, and Mr. Craft seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: Winter Water Rate Hearing (2 of 2)

Mr. Mootafian read the public hearing notice.

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to open the public hearing, and Mr. Craft seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Water & Wastewater Director Vicki Halmen appeared before the Board to present on the proposed water rate changes. Discussion followed regarding the financial benefits of the current rates in generating revenue. Ms. Halmen advised that the Town has currently deactivated some wells within the Ipswich River Watershed Basin, and that most water is currently coming from the Parker River Watershed. Further discussion will take place within the Water & Wastewater Subcommittee regarding the implementation of a water bank. Mr. Whitmore noted that residents are currently causing a 10 million gallon increase in the summer season, and more needs to be done to encourage conservation. Mr. Rauscher agreed, and brought up that in the past, Willowdale has utilized water impounding. Ms. Halmen said she is working closely with Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA).

Vote: Mr. Craft moved to approve the residential Winter Water Rates, changing the rate from \$12.99 per 100 cubic feet to \$5.99 per 100 cubic feet, and Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Craft raised the issue of a resident who had requested that their rates be reduced due to a leak. Following investigation, it was recommended that the rate not be adjusted for the period of time in which the leak was present.

Vote: Mr. Craft moved to accept the recommendation against a reduction in billing for the period of time in which there was a leak, and Mr. Rauscher seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: Mr. Craft moved to close the Public Hearing, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2018 Special Town Meeting Speaking Assignments

Regarding Article 16, Mr. Mootafian stated that although he previously voted in favor of the article, upon further reflection he has changed his mind, viewing it as a homeowner as “one more time the government will tell me what I can and can’t do with my home.” As a result, he will not be speaking on it at Special Town Meeting.

Ms. Alexson would like to keep keypad voting on the radar, with the goal of obtaining it on a trial basis for Spring Town Meeting. Mr. Marino confirmed that Town Clerk Pamela Carakatsane is working on it.

Mr. Whitmore questioned why the Finance Committee is scheduled to discuss school budget issues instead of the School Committee. Mr. Marino answered that he compiled the speaking assignments based on past practices, and is open to changes as needed.

Warrant State Election

Mr. Mootafian reviewed the three state warrant questions, and individuals running for office by district.

Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to approve the Warrant, and Mr. Rauscher seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – September 17, 2018

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to accept the minutes, and Mr. Craft seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. One Day Liquor License Applications
 - i. Wine & Malt – Ipswich Ale Brewery for Down on the Farm Concert Series at Appleton Farms on 10/7. Ipswich Cultural Council for Annual Art Show at Ipswich Town Hall on 10/19. True North Ale Company for a birthday at 116 County Road on 10/13.
 - ii. All Alcohol – Ipswich Masonic Temple for a birthday party on 10/20
- B. One Day Entertainment License Applications
 - i. True North Ale has applied for a One Day Entertainment License at 116 County Road between 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm on 10/13
- C. Street or Sidewalk Blocking Applications
 - i. Chris Carye – Partial Sidewalk Blocking at 19 Hammatt Street from 10/3 to 10/5

Vote: Mr. Craft moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager Report

FIRETRUCK CASE

In regards to the Town's lawsuit against Navastar and KME, mediation has been scheduled for November 27, 2018. Mr. Marino will be attending with Fire Chief Andy Theriault and Town Counsel George Hall.

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF SEARCH

The Assessment Center list is still active, and letters have been sent to applicants. Mr. Marino is currently awaiting applicant signatures.

PAYROLL BENEFITS OFFICE

Due to another notice of resignation given, Mr. Marino, Finance Director Sarah Johnson, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Brian Blake are working together to move forward to create a combined payroll and benefits office for the schools and Town offices.

BUILDING COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Jim Boone has accepted the position, and will start on October 15th. He is an Ipswich resident and has previously worked for Newburyport. He is fully certified. Mr. Rauscher spoke to Mr. Boone's professionalism and character.

UNION CONTRACTS

Mr. Marino has one meeting left regarding union contracts, which will be with the police department. Mr. Whitmore has been accompanying Mr. Marino to contract meetings.

PART-TIME LIBRARY POSITION

Ms. Megan Peterson has been hired as the part-time archivist for the Ipswich Public Library.

GENERATOR UPDATE

Town Hall and Police Department generators will be replaced with allocated funds.

New Business

Mr. Rauscher reported downed trees across the walking path of the Dow Brook Conservation, and overgrown brush blocking trails on Linebrook Road. Mr. Marino will address both of these.

Ms. Alexson shared that she recently attended the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association meeting. She inquired about the process of becoming a Safe Harbor town, which requires establishing a housing plan. Mr. Marino stated that he is working with Mr. Gibbs and Senior Planner Ethan Parsons to attain Safe Harbor status.

Mr. Whitmore thanked residents who took advantage of the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and electronics recycling programs last weekend. Recycling Coordinator Marlene Connelly reported that 260 vehicles were

recorded dropping off HHW materials, and more than 140 vehicles were recorded dropping off electronics. Over \$5,000 was raised. Mr. Craft praised the efficiency of Town employees that volunteered.

Old Business

None.

Miscellaneous & Correspondence

Approved Banner List

Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to approve the banner list, and Mr. Craft seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Employee Changes

A Human Resources director position has been advertised to serve in the new combined payroll and benefits office.

A part-time building inspector has been hired, and he is working on his certifications. He will be employed in addition to Mr. Boone, bringing the Town to 1.5 inspectors.

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to adjourn at 8:35pm, and Mr. Craft seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
10.1.18*