

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES

February 12, 2021

Board met in session at 10:30 a.m. via ZOOM Conferencing:

Jackie Belf-Becker, Chair
M. C. Moses Grader
James E. Nye

Jason Silva, Town Administrator

The Chair called the meeting of Friday, February 12, 2021 to order. The following roll call was taken: Mr. Grader, present; Mr. Nye, present; Mrs. Belf-Becker, present.

FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE TOWN. FY21. Jason Silva, Town Administrator, gave a presentation concerning the projected financial status of the town for FY22. The Town is facing increased financial difficulties as FY21 progresses and planning for FY22 begins. The Town's historical reliance on free cash to support the operating budget is no longer sustainable. While the Town is currently in good financial health, difficult decisions will need to be made for FY22 and beyond to ensure continued fiscal stability. The Town will continue to take proactive steps to ensure future fiscal stability.

PUBLIC HEARING. Verizon New England Inc. Request, Pole Location. Dartmouth Road. The Board reviewed the petition submitted by Verizon New England Inc., seeking permission to locate poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way or ways: **DARTMOUTH ROAD:** Place four (4) jointly owned poles, P.304/15, P.304/16, and P.304/17 on the northwesterly side of Dartmouth Road. The first pole, P.304/14 would be placed on the northeast corner of Dartmouth and Cornell Roads and continue in a northeasterly direction to the end of Dartmouth Road. Said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed in the Selectmen's Office marked – **VZ N.E. Inc. Plan No. 4AOMQ2L** dated January 11, 2021. No one spoke in favor or against the petition. Motion made and seconded to approve petition VZ N.E. Inc. Plan No. 4AOMQ2L, dated January 11, 2021, from Verizon New England Inc., as presented, subject to Verizon hiring Police details as required by the Chief. Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Grader. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mr. Grader, in favor; Mr. Nye, in favor; Mrs. Belf-Becker, in favor.

FINANCE DIRECTOR. Appointment. /Contract. Stephen Poulos, 156 Eastern Avenue, Essex, appeared before the Board as it relates to the Finance Director position. Motion made and seconded to appoint Stephen Poulos Finance Director and to sign the contract for employment as presented. Moved by Mr. Grader, seconded by Mr. Nye. On

a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mr. Grader, in favor; Mr. Nye, in favor; Mrs. Belf-Becker, in favor.

APPOINTMENT. Local Inspector. Motion made and seconded to appoint Eric Newman as Local Inspector with a term to expire in June 2021. Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Grader. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mr. Grader, in favor; Mr. Nye, in favor; Mrs. Belf-Becker, in favor.

REVOLVING FUND ACCOUNTS. Motion made and seconded to reauthorize the following Revolving Fund Accounts for Fiscal Year 2022 in accordance with Mass General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ in the amounts below:

Conservation Fines	\$ 75,000
Storm Water Bylaw	\$ 10,000

Moved by Mr. Grader, seconded by Mr. Nye. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mr. Grader, in favor; Mr. Nye, in favor; Mrs. Belf-Becker, in favor.

CONTRACT. Town Administrator. Motion made and seconded to approve the Contract for the Town Administrator as presented. Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Grader. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mr. Grader, in favor; Mr. Nye, in favor; Mrs. Belf-Becker, in favor.

CONTRACT. Appraisal Services. Village/Vine/Pleasant. Motion made and seconded to award a contract for *appraisal services* for the Pleasant /Village/Vine Street project to Greg Story of AM Appraisal Associates, Lexington, MA in the amount of \$37,500 (thirty-seven thousand and five hundred dollars) and authorize the Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Grader. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mr. Grader, in favor; Mr. Nye, in favor; Mrs. Belf-Becker, in favor.

CONTRACT. Engineering Services. Motion made and seconded to award a contract for *engineering services* to Bobrek Engineering of Danvers, MA for an amount not to exceed twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000) and authorize the Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Grader. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mr. Grader, in favor; Mr. Nye, in favor; Mrs. Belf-Becker, in favor.

LETTERS OF INTEREST. The following letters of interest were submitted to the Board:

Cultural Council: Holly Jaynes, Elisabeth Horowitz, Ann McGreevy

Conservation Commission: David Olsen

Old and Historic Districts Commission: Duncan Facey

Finance Committee: Dustin Floyd, David Patten

The Board will interview applicants for the Cultural Council at their next regular meeting on February 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. All other applicants will be interviewed at a future date to be determined.

CONDOLENCE. Motion made and seconded to send a letter of condolence to the family of Michael Mentuck. Moved by Mr. Grader, seconded by Mr. Nye. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mr. Grader, in favor; Mr. Nye, in favor; Mrs. Belf-Becker, in favor.

Mr. Grader read a statement commending the School Committee on the naming the new school the Lucretia & Joseph Brown Elementary School. Selectmen Grader noted the importance of this event. Joseph Brown, a freed slave who fought in the American Revolution, came to Marblehead where he met and married Lucretia, a free black woman. Together they owned and operated Black Joe's Tavern and created the famous Joe Frogger cookies.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Grader. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mr. Grader, in favor; Mr. Nye, in favor; Mrs. Belf-Becker, in favor.

Kyle A. Wiley
Administrative Aide