

SELECT BOARD

Minutes of Meeting of January 25, 2023. The hybrid meeting took place in person at the Public Safety Facility Community Room at 4 Fairgrounds Road; and, via remote participation using Zoom Webinar. Members of the Board present were Jason Bridges, Dr. Malcolm MacNab and Brooke Mohr. Dawn Holdgate participated remotely and Matt Fee was absent.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bridges called the meeting to order at 5:58 PM following a meeting of the County Commission.

II. SELECT BOARD ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as posted.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Manager C. Elizabeth Gibson reviewed the following announcements.

1. The Select Board Meeting is Being Audio/Video Recorded.

2. Review of Applications for Appointments to Council on Aging.

Applicant Introduction and Appointments Scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2023, Pursuant to Select Board Committee Appointment Policy. It was noted that there are three vacancies and two current applicants: Erin Lynch and Abigail Camp.

3. Select Board Announcements/Comments. Ms. Mohr reviewed the Massachusetts Municipal Association annual conference held last weekend, that she attended along with Ms. Holdgate, Ms. Gibson, Assistant Town Managers Gregg Tivnan and Rick Sears and Finance Director Brian Turbitt. She noted that it was of particular interest to her being amongst so many municipal officials who work so hard to make their communities run. She added that it seemed that Nantucket is “ahead of the curve” in many areas. She said it also seemed that the new Governor and Lieutenant Governor are very supportive of local options for funding housing.

Chair Bridges commented on a tour he recently took of a “warming place” where homeless individuals can be assisted, and noted he was impressed with the dedication of the people who are involved.

IV. FOLLOW-UP ON COMMENTS FROM PRIOR SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

No follow-up comments.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Minella commented on a home rule petition he filed as a citizen at the 2022 annual town meeting, which was approved by the voters, and its progress in the legislature. He asked the Board to request the Town’s legislators to refile it.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND WARRANTS

Ms. Mohr moved approval of items VII. 1 – 3; seconded by Dr. MacNab; so voted by roll call vote: Chair Bridges – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Dr. MacNab – Yes; Ms. Mohr – Yes.

1. Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

2. Approval of Payroll Warrants for January 22, 2023.

3. Approval of Treasury Warrants for January 25, 2023.

VIII. CITIZEN/DEPARTMENTAL/COMMITTEE REQUESTS

1. Capital Program Committee: Review of FY 2024 Capital Program Committee Report. Capital Program Committee Chair Stephen Welch recognized the members of the Committee and reviewed the report as contained in the Board's agenda packet. Dr. MacNab asked how much debt the Town has outstanding. Finance Director Brian Turbitt responded and noted that the Town is not close to its cap on the amount of debt it can incur. Dr. MacNab commented that he feels the Town has "too much debt". Chair Bridges emphasized the amount of time the Capital Program Committee and Town staff spends on developing capital project recommendations. Rick Atherton suggested that back up materials reviewed by the CapCom be made available to the public, as is the case in the Select Board's packet.

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Review of Proposed FY 2024 Enterprise Fund Budgets: Our Island Home; Solid Waste. Our Island Home (OIH) administrative consultant Bob Eisenstein and OIH Administrator Peter Holden reviewed the budget materials as contained in the Board's packet. Some discussion followed.

Solid Waste consultant George Aronson and Mr. Turbitt reviewed the Solid Waste budget materials as contained in the Board's packet. Ms. Mohr asked about potential revenue opportunities. Mr. Turbitt answered. Ms. Mohr emphasized that Nantucket's solid waste disposal costs are significant. Mr. Aronson elaborated on increasing costs, nation-wide and specifically for Nantucket.

Mr. Turbitt corrected debt numbers he provided earlier in the meeting.

2. Monthly Town Management Report. Ms. Gibson said that other commitments, including attendance at last week's MMA annual conference mentioned by Ms. Mohr prevented the preparation of a formal monthly report. She noted that she was invited to be a presenter at one of the MMA workshops, which related to Succession Planning and Employee Retention Strategies. She thanked the Assistant Town Managers and Human Resources Director Amanda Perry for their assistance with preparing the presentation. She said that an interesting workshop at the conference that several of the Nantucket delegates attended was about an underground wiring project undertaken by the Town of Weston. She reviewed some current Town Administration activities including: scheduling a joint Select Board – Conservation Commission meeting as discussed a couple of weeks ago; several issues relating to the HDC, including working to schedule a meeting with HDC, Select Board and Planning Commission chairs plus the Town Manager, Planning Director and Preservation Planner to discuss a citizen warrant article for a separate HDC Administrator, an independent review of HDC operations and HDC advisory committees. She added that following that meeting it is planned that the HDC advisory committees issue will be placed on a Select Board agenda as recently requested by Board members. She said that a significant amount of time has been spent on the town meeting warrant, budgets, numerous various projects, including downtown sidewalks, and other

transportation-related projects; PFAS continues to take up a lot of time, as well as long-term solid waste planning. The Town Report which is compiled by Operations Administrator Erika Mooney, and numerous personnel issues, including collective bargaining, hiring for open positions and many real estate related items.

X. SELECT BOARD'S REPORTS/COMMENT

1. Adoption of May 6, 2023 Annual Town Meeting and Election Warrant. Ms. Gibson reviewed developments with the warrant since last week:

Operating override for affordable housing: Town Counsel John Giorgio explained the different scenarios as to putting an appropriation number in the warrant article; or, leaving it to the Finance Committee motion. Some discussion followed. Mr. Turbitt said that Town Administration, either way, is recommending an override appropriation of \$6.5 million. He explained the funding and the percentage of room occupancy tax revenue that would be "reserved" on an annual basis for affordable housing. Ms. Mohr spoke in support of the \$6.5 million number. She added that a citizen warrant article which calls for use of two-thirds of the room occupancy tax revenue, while laudable, has some drawbacks as to how the funds would be placed for use. She said she feels the Town Administration proposal is a "good compromise" and firmly supports it. She added that the town government discussion around funding affordable housing has changed "dramatically" in the last few years. Dr. MacNab concurred. Mr. Giorgio said that an option the Town would have with the proposed Town article is to be able to authorize borrowing. Ms. Holdgate expressed support for the recommendation as well. Rick Atherton spoke against an override as proposed, until "questions are answered". He expressed concern about a perpetual override and said housing should be provided for Town employees. Mr. Giorgio spoke on the flexibility that an operating override allows. He pointed out that should the funds no longer be needed in the future, the Town could vote an underride; or, use the revenue for other purposes in the budget. Mr. Turbitt noted that the funds also would not have to be raised in their entirety. Chair Bridges noted that housing is a major part of the Board's Strategic Plan. Some discussion followed. Ms. Mohr said that the creation of affordable housing allows for the inclusion of Town employees in addition to other workforce groups.

Zoning articles: two articles previously contained have been removed; and one added for time-sharing/fractional ownership. Deputy Director of Planning Leslie Snell explained this new article, noting that it is time sensitive.

Home rule petition relating to fertilizer regulation: Mr. Giorgio explained that this is a "plan B" article in the event that the article referenced under public comment by Mr. Minella does not progress through the legislature. Dr. MacNab said he saw no reason why the Board should not support the 2022 home rule petition and retain the Board-sponsored "plan B" article in the 2023 warrant. Some discussion followed. Mr. Minella asked if the Board will request the re-filing of his home rule petition as he asked under Public Comment. Dr. MacNab moved to request the Town's legislators to re-file the petition sponsored by Mr. Minella that was approved at the 2022 annual town meeting; seconded by Ms. Mohr; so voted by roll call vote: Chair Bridges – Yes; Ms. Mohr – Yes; Dr. MacNab – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes. Rick Atherton asked for clarification about the 2022 home rule petition vs. the article in the draft warrant. Mr. Giorgio said he has a doubt that the legislative advice that Mr. Minella was given, is accurate with respect to just the Select Board authorizing a re-filing. Ms. Mohr moved to include Mr. Minella's article as approved at the 2022 annual town meeting, in the 2023 warrant in the event that a reaffirmation is needed by Town Meeting rather than the Select Board re-authorizing it; seconded by Dr. MacNab; so voted by roll call vote: Chair

Bridges – Yes; Ms. Mohr – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Dr. MacNab – Yes. It was agreed that Ms. Gibson will, hopefully, confirm the legislative advice tomorrow.

Mr. Giorgio reminded the Board that due to the debt exclusion ballot questions, a two-thirds vote is necessary to adopt the town meeting and election warrant. Ms. Mohr moved to adopt the May 6, 2023 Town Meeting and May 23, 2023 Town Election Warrant as discussed; seconded by Dr. MacNab; so voted by roll call vote: Chair Bridges – Yes; Ms. Mohr – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Dr. MacNab – Yes.

2. Committee Reports. None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. MacNab moved adjournment at 7:47 PM; seconded by Ms. Mohr; so voted by roll call vote: Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Mr. Bridges – Yes; Dr. MacNab – Yes; Ms. Mohr – Yes.

Approved the 1st day of February 2023.

**SELECT BOARD
JANUARY 25, 2023 – 5:30 PM
PSF COMMUNITY ROOM, 4 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS**

List of documents used at the meeting:

- III. 2. Council on Aging membership & applicant list; COA applications; COA appointment timeline
- VII. 1. Draft minutes of 1/18/2023
- VIII. 1. FY 2024 Capital Program Committee Report & Recommendations
- IX. 1. Links for Our Island Home & Solid Waste FY 2024 budget presentations
- X. 1. Draft 5/6/2023 ATM Warrant as of 1/23 at 3:45 PM