Select Board Minutes
Tuesday, March 7, 2023
7:00pm

The Select Board Regular Meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A. S.20.

Select Board participants:
Rich Maiore, Erin McBee, Kara Minar, Charles Oliver, Don Ludwig
Town Department attendees:
Town Administrator Tim Bragan, Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro, Executive Assistant Julie Doucet, Finance Director Jared Mullane, DPW Director Tim Kilhart and Fire Chief Rick Sicard
Additional participants:
Library Trustee Marty Green

Library Trustees present plans for an outdoor program space/pavilion
Trustees Marty Green and Cary Browse came to present their plans for an outdoor program area. Green explained during the Covid pandemic the library began offering outdoor programs and quickly learned the outdoor spaces were very popular. She shared pictures of the proposed pavilion. They chose a location not heavily used by other town organizations. The trustees will work with other necessary town boards/committees to bring the pavilion to fruition although it will take some time. The Select Board was very supportive of proposal as a great extension to the services and programming offered by the library.

Public communication
Abbe Besse, School Committee Chair, reiterated the recent budget and small warrant article requests voted on by the School Committee. They are asking the surplus of $83,000 be allocated to the school department allowing them to restore difficult cuts that were made and a small warrant article for Munis training (accounting system) for school department staff.

FY24 operating budget review
Finance Director Jared Mullane reviewed the revenue/expense projections, the detailed budget by department and category. He also gave a quick overview of the small warrant articles.

Capital Planning (CPIC) recommendations
Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro said 24 requests were received. She reviewed each item and the recommendation from CPIC. (Attachment A)

Kara Minar advocated for funding of the Fire Dept facility design over the DPW facility design however it was determined the DPW facility is better positioned to be completed first for various reasons. Fire Chief Rick Sicard said the state is working on a potential program similar to the school building (MSBA) for funding of fire stations.

Rich Maiore wondered if there could be another way to fund both worthy projects. All were pleased an override could be avoided this budget season.

Staff Report/Updates (Attachment B)

Sale of affordable unit – 35 Lancaster County Rd #2-B
By a roll call vote, McBee – aye, Minar – aye, Oliver – aye, Ludwig – aye, Maiore – aye, the board voted unanimously to not exercise their right of first refusal.

Executive Session per MGL Ch. 30A, s. 21(a)2
By a roll call vote, Minar–aye, Oliver – aye, McBee– aye, Ludwig – aye, Maiore – aye, the board voted unanimously to enter executive session at 8:10pm as per MGL 30A Sec. 21.2 To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. The Select Board will reconvene into open session only to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Documents referenced:
Library Trustees drawings – dated March 2023
FY24 budget & CPIC outline
Affordable unit sate – dated 2.6.2023