



Select Board Minutes
Thursday, December 2, 2021
9:00am

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:

Stu Sklar, Rich Maiore, Kara Minar, Erin McBee

Alice von Loesecke was not present

Town Department attendees:

Town Administrator Tim Bragan, Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet

Emergency Meeting to call a Special Town Meeting to be held on the 17th of December at 10AM

Chair Stu Sklar called the meeting to order. He said the emergency meeting of the Harvard Select Board is being held with less than 48 hours' notice in conformance with the Open Meeting Law as a delay in holding this meeting will not allow enough time for the Town to hold a special town meeting which would prevent the Town from correcting a financial error and prevent it from executing its fiduciary duty in preparing, mailing bills which would harm the financial position of the Town.

Town Administrator Tim Bragan explained the budget approved in May contained \$914,332 more than what was needed in the raise and appropriate line item. This figure was not backed out of the total appropriation as it should have been.

To rectify this vote and in order for the State to approve our tax rate allowing the town to issue tax bills in a timely fashion the town must hold a Special Town Meeting (STM). We currently stand at an appropriation level that is above our levy limit because of the \$914,000 and as such the Dept. of Revenue (DOR) cannot approve our paperwork necessary to set the tax rate. Bragan said this came to light when Finance Director Jared Mullane was working with the Assessors and the DOR. Action necessary at a STM will be to amend article 3 of the warrant from the first session of the 2021 ATM held on May 15, 2021 by reducing the total amount previously appropriated \$33,982,197 by \$914,332 and approving a new raise and appropriate sum of \$29,796,930,

Bragan will work with Town Counsel to draft the STM warrant which will include another article to ratify and confirm all votes taken on the articles in the warrant for the second session of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting held on October 16, 2021. He explained the town's bond counsel requested this action.

Bragan advised calling the STM to clear up these items as the best course of action to take. The Select Board members agreed to hold the STM on Friday, December 17th, 2021 at 10am in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

By a roll call vote, Minar – aye, McBee- aye, Maiore – aye, Sklar – aye, the board voted unanimously to schedule a Special Town Meeting for December 17, 2021 at 10am to address budget issues and to approve the STM warrant.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20am.