

TOWN OF ACTON SELECT BOARD MEETING

February 23, 2022

6:00pm

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tom McGurty is connected to the meeting by phone. He will listen to the meeting, but will be unable to vote on any issues.

2. WARRANTS/BILLS: signed

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Kimberly Stacey–Horn made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by David Winchell, Jr. All in favor, motion carried, 2-0.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Kimberly Stacey–Horn made a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings of February 9, 2022, and February 16, 2022. The motion was seconded by David Winchell, Jr. All in favor, motion carried.

5. TOWN ADMINSTRATOR WEEKLY UPDATE:

- The Animal Control Officer extended his grateful thanks to the Select Board for the purchase of the night vision binoculars.
In the upcoming supply line of his budget he has requested a game camera and /or a drone to aid in the tracking of lost or escaped animals. The Town Administrator explained that Acton would make these equipment purchases because the equipment would belong to the Town and not to the Officer. Shapleigh would purchase other equipment.
The Animal Control Officer has also started a regimen of profolactic rabies shots to prevent him from getting the disease if he should become bitten. It is the current recommendation in his line of work.
- There will not be a Select Board meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2022.
- The Planning Board is having workshops to follow the Budget timeline. They are planning to present 6 Articles for the budget. There will be workshops on March 2, 2022, and March 9, 2022. There will be an extra meeting on March 10, 2022, at 7pm.
- David Winchell, Jr. stated that there were department increases in the budget. The staff salaries could increase across the board.
- The Select Board Meeting is from 2p-5pm on March 1, 2022, for a Budget workshop.
- The Town Administrator met with Leslie Berlin and the RSMS is up to date on data entry. The Road Commissioners will be able to enter data weekly when The Town Administrator teaches the program nuances to them. Kimberly Stacey -Horn will be the contact liaison.
- Last week, the Road Commissioner, the Fire Department and the Town Administrator dealt with an issue for a citizen with the help of The Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund.
- The roads may be posted on March 2, 2022.
- The Rec Director position may be funded with a stipend of \$13,000 -\$15,000. The job description is available for approval.
- The family of Ted Kryzak has released information stating that he appears to be doing better, but he is having memory issues. They have requested that cards be sent to The Acton Town Hall and they will bring them to him.

- On March 27, 2022, Sunday, there will be an indoor yard sale at the Town Hall to benefit Neighbors Helping Neighbors.
- There was discussion regarding the parking lot at Goat Hill. If there are any issues, Carl Davis should be informed.

6. DEPARTMENT HEAD / COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES: No updates

7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Personnel Policy:

The Personnel Policy has been reviewed and updated by the Attorney. A draft is now available for review by the Select Board. Discussion was tabled until next meeting.

B. Medical Director Position:

The Medical Director Position discussion was tabled until next meeting.

C. Transfer Station Hours:

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. RFP – Siding:

The RFP is a lengthy document and very detailed and was written by the previous CEO. The Town Administrator made changes with the CEO and updated a complete project schedule. The document will be reviewed by the Select Board and discussion is tabled until next meeting.

B. Warrant and Finance Alternate Appointment:

The alternate Warrant and Finance Committee member was presented as Philip Caruso.

Kimberly Stacey-Horn made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appointment of Philip Caruso, as the Alternate to the Warrant and Finance Committee within the Municipality of Acton until June 30, 2022. The motion was seconded by David Winchell, Jr. All in favor, motion carried.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bernard Broder stated that he appreciated the Select Board’s consideration of extending the transfer station hours. If they did not want to increase hours, perhaps the Board could give consideration to closing the Transfer Station on Mondays if they increased hours on Sunday.

He remarked that the conditional use permits for the pits stated that they were to be closed on Sundays and that would decrease the traffic on the H Road.

Mr. Broder also commented on the Rec Volunteers having a criminal background check and if it were found that the volunteer had a misdemeanor or felony they could check if it was physical assault or sexual misconduct. Some misdemeanors that he spoke about were driving to endanger, reckless conduct, drug possession, and/or indecent exposure which could be a potentially dangerous situation.

Dennis Long stated that some pay raises were radical; shocking even, but that the Town should support the staff. Inflation is at 7%, and an increase is justified, but the increases should be compared to comparable positions elsewhere. He questioned whether an hourly compensation line could be included in the budget for other circumstances. The budget will be reviewed on March 1, 2021. The Select Board recommended checking the rates every two or three years.

Ray Lopez remarked that over taxation should be avoided when considering raises. He felt the budget should be balanced but that employees should be paid according to what they are worth. David Winchell, Jr. stated that the Town has strong revenues and the goal is to keep the tax rate very low or flat. The Town Budget should stay stable and that the Board will look at future essentials first and then consider “the extras.”

Deborah Lopez asked the Select Board why the “Goodie Shack” at the Transfer Station was closed. She reported that she was told it was closed because, “People did not behave themselves.” She wanted to know what this meant. The Select Board did not have the information and replied that they would look into this and get an answer.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS: read aloud by Kimberly Stacey–Horn.

Wednesday, March 2 Planning Board Workshop 3:00 pm

Wednesday, March 2 Board of Selectmen 6:00 pm

Thursday, March 3 Planning Board Public Hearing & Regular Meeting 6:00 pm

Monday, March 7 Warrant and Finance 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 9 Planning Board 3:00 pm

Thursday, March 10 Planning Board 7:00 pm

Monday, March 14 Warrant and Finance 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 16 Board of Selectmen 6:00 pm

Thursday, March 17 Planning Board 6:00 pm

Monday, March 21 Warrant and Finance 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 23 Board of Selectmen 6:00 pm

Monday, March 28 Warrant and Finance 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 30 Board of Selectmen 6:00 pm

11. MEMBERS PRESENT: David Winchell, Jr., Kimberly Stacey-Horn, and Tom McGurty listened in by phone connection.

12. ATTENDANCE: Dennis Long, Ray Lopez, Deborah Lopez, Bernard Broder, Roger Lewis, Robin Ham, Joe Ruma, Joyce Baski, Jeff Mowry