

2024 FEB 29 PM 3:41

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Open Session Meeting Minutes
Meeting Conducted Remotely via Zoom

Members Present: Joseph Botaish, Christopher Gallo, William Harrington, Michelle Rouse

Members Absent: James Anderson

Also present: Kevin Sweet, Town Administrator; Amanda Vasapollo, Administrative Assistant; Gregory Enos, Assistant Town Administrator/Human Resources Director

Called to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Mr. Botaish. Followed by a roll call for attendance, all members and staff present.

Documentation:

January 16, 2024 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Election Warrant for 2024 Presidential Election

Email from Brian Antonioli, Director of Public Works, re Speed Limit Sign Installation

Email from Susan Najarian, resident, re High rate of speed on West Street

Press Release from Kevin Sweet & Rachel Benson re Multi-Family Zoning Law

Multi-Family Zoning Requirement for Wrentham Presentation

MBTA Communities – a Quick Guide

List of Significant Town Administrator Accomplishments 2020-2024

Letter of Support from Stephanie Duquette, residents and special projects coordinator

Announcements:

Mr. Harrington read the following, Annual Town Election will be held on April 1, 2024. Nomination papers for open positions are available in the Town Clerk's Office and are due back February 12, 2024. Voter Registration for Presidential Primary Election to be held on Friday, February 23rd from 9AM to 5PM at Town Hall. State Primary Early Voting will be held at Town Hall February 24th through February 29th. See Town Clerk page for details. We're pleased to announce we're now offering AutoPay for Real Estate Tax, Personal Property Tax, Excise Tax, Boat Tax and Water transactions! 2024 Dog License deadline is February 28, 2024. Spring 2024 registration is open for Wrentham Youth Baseball Softball Association. Registration available through TeamSnap. Wrentham Recreation is holding Pickleball Open Play Thursday nights February to March at the Wrentham Elementary School. For more info and registration can be found at wrenthamma.myrec.com

Approval of the Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Gallo, seconded by Mr. Harrington, the Board voted to approve the January 16, 2024 Open Session Meeting Minutes. Followed by a roll call vote, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-0.

Vote to Sign Warrant for March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary

Motion made by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the Board voted to sign the warrant for the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary. Followed by a roll call vote, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-0.

Approval of Sign Installation(s) – West Street

Present was Director of Public Works, Brian Antonioli

Mr. Harrington read the following into the record, Hello Mr. Sweet -I am writing to notify you of the ongoing safety issue that we are all having out here on West Street from 121 all the way to Jenks Rd in Wrentham. The speed limit is 35 mph and unfortunately the vehicles traveling on our road - through our neighborhood are not adhering to that speed and have turned our street into a dangerous speedway with excessive speed and passing on double yellow lines. We would like more speed limit signs posted please as coming from 121 there is one on the right (35 mph) and not another one until past the posted dangerous intersection at Spring Street and on the way from Jenks St to 121 there is ONE 35 mph speed limit sign right past Jenks Road and not another until about 1925 West Street and no more all the way to 121!! Between 1758 and 1800 West Street there is a school bus stop for elementary and high school and no bus stop sign is present. Between 1758 and 1800 there are a total of 9 children- please erect a school bus sign in that area. Please erect more speed limit signs and caution children signs along West Street. Currently it is hazardous to wait for the school bus and get off the school bus, check your mail, pull out or into your driveway and drive down West Street. We know personally as our daughter and myself were hit by a speeding car and that sent us both to the hospital, our daughter with a leg injury and whip lash, myself with whiplash and permanent hearing loss. Please please help us out here on West Street from 121 to Jenks Road with erecting the much needed signs in addition to the speed limit sign that digitally shows the rate of speed like the one on Madison and in front of City hall. The flow of traffic will realize that the speeding will no longer be tolerated. Warm regards, Susan Najarian and neighbors

Mr. Antonioli spoke, reviewed the proposal of installation of speed limit sign locations.

A discussion took place amongst the Board, Mr. Antonioli and Mr. Sweet regarding type of signs being installed and whether additional signs may be beneficial in the area.

Mr. Sweet spoke, noted that the Chief McGrath added the location to targeted enforcement and provided a brief update on the blinking stop sign in the area that hasn't been working.

Cherri Leonard of 1996 West St spoke, mentioned the importance of the maintenance of brush and tree overgrowth.

Mr. Antonioli noted that any resident who notices brush or tree overgrowth should contact the Department of Public Works.

Motion made by Mr. Gallo, seconded by Mr. Harrington, the Board voted to approve the installation of speed limit signs as indicated by the list provided by the Director of Public Works. Followed by a roll call vote, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-0.

Discussion and Overview of MBTA Communities Zoning Law

Present was Director of Planning and Economic Development, Rachel Benson

Ms. Benson spoke, provided a presentation of the multi-family zoning requirement for Wrentham. The presentation included in introduction an overview of the MBTA Community Zoning, Wrentham's

designation, requirements of the zoning mandate, and recommendations for Wrentham. The presentation also included comparable communities and important clarifications.

A discussion took place amongst the Board regarding the MBTA Community Zoning Requirements. The Board strongly opposes this regulation and is seeking alternative available options for Wrentham. The Board discussed the reasons they each chose Wrentham as their home community and why this zoning requirement would change the landscape and dynamic of the area.

Carolyn Castellano of 97 Archer Street spoke positively about the Board's reaction and comments to the Zoning.

Paula Sullivan of 900 West Street spoke, in favor of Wrentham keeping the small-town qualities and that the town continues to smart about the growth.

Vicki Hall of 65 Jones Street spoke in appreciation of the Board's reaction and comments.

Mr. Sweet spoke, provided clarification that this is not a Town or staff proposal, it's a response to a mandated law and noted that he has written letters of opposition on the matter. Mr. Sweet spoke on the State's progression of enforcement of the mandate. Mr. Sweet read the following excerpt from a letter provided to the Town of Milton from Attorney General Andrea Campbell:

As a matter of state law, compliance with the Act is not optional, as we have clearly and consistently advised. My office will not hesitate to compel compliance with the MBTA Communities Act, through legal action if necessary, should a municipality refuse to comply... In closing, we are eager to work with the Town to meet its legal obligations. Should the Town chart a course in contravention of state law, however, the Attorney General's Office will carry out its responsibility to enforce the law, without hesitation.

Mr. Sweet advised the Board of the potential ramifications of non-compliance with the MBTA Zoning.

Ms. Benson spoke, advised that the Board thoroughly review the proposed bylaws.

Discussion of Tri-County Vocational High School Building Project Debt Schedule

Mr. Sweet spoke, reviewed the budget numbers for the Tri-County Vocational High School Building Project. Mr. Sweet provided an overview of the Town's current debt schedule and reviewed the impact analysis for a debt exclusion for Wrentham's portion of the project. Mr. Sweet expressed the importance of educating voters on the topic.

Vote to Reappoint Town Manager term February 14, 2024 to February 13, 2027

A discussion took place amongst the Board and Mr. Sweet reviewing the reappointment term and reviewing the significant accomplishments provided by Mr. Sweet for 2020 to 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Ms. Rouse, the Board voted reappoint Kevin Sweet as Town Manager for a term effective February 14, 2024 to February 13, 2027. Followed by a roll call vote, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-0.

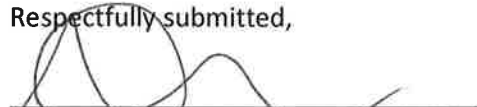
Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Sweet spoke, provided an update on the Town's health insurance renewal and the average increase for the budget. Provided a brief update on the FY25 budget process. Provided an update on the proposed project for 775 South Street property. Mr. Sweet welcomed new Animal Control Officer, Lexi Lenk. Mr. Sweet provided updates on the status of the Public Works Building Project and Municipal Aggregation.

Adjournment

Motion made by Ms. Rouse, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the Board voted to adjourn the open session meeting at 8:31PM. Followed by a roll call vote, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Vasapallo, Executive Assistant