

**Hull Board of Selectmen
Final Minutes
February 16, 2022**

The meeting of the Hull Board of Selectmen was held at 7:30 p.m. on February 16, 2022 via the GoToMeeting platform as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

Present: Jennifer Constable, Chair; Greg Grey, Vice-Chair; Donna Pursel, Clerk; John Reilly, Member. Member absent: Domenico Sestito. Also present were Town Counsel James Lampke and Town Manager Philip Lemnios.

Before calling the meeting to order Constable led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Constable noted that the Advisory Board was on the call. Advisory Board Chair, David Clinton, called the Meeting of the Advisory Board to order.

Town Manager Phil Lemnios re: FY23 Budget Presentation

Lemnios presented an overview of the FY23 Budget. He said that as in prior years, the goal of the budget is to prevent deficits and generate surpluses on the revenue side and explained that in Massachusetts local municipal governments are required to present a balanced budget, which they have done. He said that on the receipt side, they have increased tax levies by 3.12%, state aid by 1.55%, and local receipts by approximately 4.31%. He noted that Covid has not proven to be a significant drag on local receipts, the bulk of which are associated with local excise taxes and building permits. He said that in terms of revenue components, 73% of every dollar they spend comes from local property taxes, 14% from state aid, and 13% from local receipts. The expenditure components of the budget consist of the operational budget, insurances and pensions, debt, capital, overlay/snow, and intergovernmental charges.

Lemnios said the FY23 Operating Budget is slightly over \$29 million and has increased 4.91% over FY 22, basically due to inflation pressures as well as several initiatives they are hoping to pursue in the areas of hazard mitigation and economic planning. He said they are hoping to hire additional staff in the Conservation and Planning Departments to help with day-to-day activities and to help pursue available federal and state grants and also said the Building Department budget is being increased so that they can hire and retain competent inspectors. He noted that the Town is committed to the Council on Aging and will increase staff hours to reflect increased demand for services. He said the School Department has the largest component of the budget followed by Police and Fire, Public Works, Finance, and Health and Human Services. He said that departmental budgets are about 64 cents of every dollar, debt is about 9 cents and pensions are about 9 cents and insurances are about 17 cents.

He said that at Town Meeting they will request a \$1million bond authorization for repair of the Fitzpatrick Way Seawall and have filed a \$3million grant application with the State for this but said they will only fund the bond authorization if the grant comes through. He said they are adding \$200,000 to the Stabilization fund.

Constable asked if any members of the Advisory Board had questions or comments. Dan Sullivan asked why money was being allocated in the budget for the Fort Revere Tower when the Town had voted at last year's Town Meeting that no action should be taken on this. Lemnios explained that at Town Meeting a bond request was made through a Citizens Petition, which is not the way it should be done, and at the time the full costs of the project were not known. He said that at this year's Town Meeting the full engineering report will be available and the Town will make a decision as to whether to move forward on this. Sullivan also had a question about the increase in interest expenses but Lemnios explained that they were budgeted in anticipation of Town Meeting passage of initiatives on Fort Revere and the Fitzpatrick Way Seawall, but if they were not passed no interest would be incurred.

In closing Lemnios said the Town is in a period where there is some stability in the budget and feels they are in a position to address some long-term structural issues that are facing the community, particularly in the areas of hazard mitigation, economic development, and the needs of the Town's senior population. He said they will continue to pursue grants for infrastructure and other activities as they become available.

On a motion by Jason Fradey, seconded by Bob Carney, the Advisory Board voted unanimously by roll call to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

John Dunn, Police Chief re: Police Department Presentation

Dunn said they have a twenty-five person Police Department, with twenty patrol officers as well as an Administrative Assistant, a records clerk, maintenance person, and an Animal Control Officer. He said that patrol positions must be covered 24 hours a day, which is a challenge and sometimes necessitates overtime. He said they currently have four seasonal police officers and would like to have more but they have been difficult to recruit at this time. He said that many of the Department personnel live in the Town and that they are a highly-educated force.

Dunn gave a brief overview of the many services the Department provides and noted that in 2021 they received and investigated 15,915 complaints. He also pointed out that in the five years from 2016 to 2021 they had received \$73,089 in grant money. He said the Patrol Division is the cornerstone of the Department but they also have a Criminal Investigation Unit which investigates major crimes, as well as a School Resource Officer, a full-time officer assigned to court as a prosecutor, and a plainclothes detective. He said they like to have each member of the department be familiar with the various roles. He said that Hull is a member of the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council (Metro-LEC) in which 47 law enforcement agencies work together in the greater Boston area to provide many services that a small community such as Hull might not be able to provide.

Dunn said the goal of the Department is to ensure the quality of life in the Town by providing police services consistent with the vision and values of the community-based policing organization; to conduct specialized training for all personnel; to continue to submit grant applications; and to continue to meet and adjust to the new standards and laws instituted under police reform in 2021. He said that the long-range planning goals are to develop a more efficient organizational structure for the Department, to continue to utilize technology to enhance services, and to continue working with surrounding communities to meet the needs of residents. He also said they are hoping to receive Massachusetts Law Enforcement accreditation within the next three to five years.

Constable asked Dunn about challenges the Department is facing. Dunn said one of the biggest challenges is the reduction in the number of seasonal officers. He said that because of police reform, by 2023 all police officers in the state will have to be fully sworn officers, which is a rigorous and time-consuming process, and that most people going through this will not want to work in a part-time position. He said it is possible in the next few years that they may not have any seasonal officers and would have to come to the Board of Selectmen to request manpower for a full-time officer.

Chris Russo, Fire Chief re: Fire Department Presentation

Chief Russo said the Department's common goal and mission is to serve the people of the community and they count on every member of the Department to be part of the team. He said they have balanced hiring with paramedics and EMTs and are now fully-staffed with twenty-five employees.

Russo gave a brief overview of the department's services, including the repair, maintenance and inspection of fire hydrants, working with federal and state agencies on emergency management and preparedness, submission of documentation related to grant reimbursement and relief funds, and strengthening of the Town's radio communication infrastructure. He said that training of Department personnel is a constant priority and that given the Town's location they undergo specialized training that includes water search and rescue equipment and safe maritime vessel operations. He said they have a Fire Prevention Captain who conducts safety inspections and issues permits. He noted that they work collaboratively with a number of agencies (DCR, FEMA, MEMA, USCG) as well as with other towns in the region.

Russo said that in 2021 they had almost 2500 service calls, most of which were for rescue or EMS and these calls are continuing to rise. He said that with Covid the call volume for the Department increased, as did the needs of the residents. He said there has been increased stress on employees due to staffing issues, the risk of infection, strain on equipment, and the supply chain of PPE. He said he has been applying for grants to offset these issues. He feels that overall the Department did very well in response to the pandemic. He said that a major priority is to maintain

staffing, which is a problem across the state as not nearly as many people are applying for positions. He said the Department will have to work hard on training and keeping everyone engaged and up to date.

Kurt Bornheim, Harbormaster re: Harbormaster Department Presentation

Bornheim said his department is responsible for all navigation on the waterways of the Town of Hull to ensure they are used in a safe, environmentally friendly and lawful manner. He has a part-time Assistant Harbormaster as well as a seasonal part-time Assistant Harbormaster who works from May through October. He said that from April 1st through December 25th they are on call 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

He noted they are responsible for 27 miles of coastline, 13,300 acres of water, 2 harbor islands, 2 commercial shipping channels, and Straits Pond. They oversee 870 vessels at moorings and slips and also operate the Town ferry terminal. He said they update and develop harbor-related policies and procedures, administer all documentation related to harbor management, work with local, state and federal departments and agencies, coordinate commercial shellfish activities, run boater education outreach programs, issue mooring permits, warnings and citations, assist in recording boats and collecting excise taxes, manage mooring fields, coordinate and contract for the maintenance of harbor facilities, and develop five-year capital needs program.

Bornheim said they also operate the Pump-Out boat, which was the first on the South Shore and has been running since 1994. In 2021 they pumped out 443 vessels. In addition, they operate and maintain two patrol vessels. For the period from 2016 to 2021 they have received numerous grants, including \$280,000 from the Seaport Economic Council for Nantasket Pier dredging and said they have an earmark for FY 22 for \$150,000 for repair of the A Street ramp. He said they have offered a Safe Boating course for the past twenty-one years and pointed out that boaters can now get mooring information and pay fees online. Bornheim said his primary concerns are the condition of the Town piers, ramps and waterfront infrastructure, the replacement of the commuter float at Pemberton Pier, dredging needs, and increased need for staffing.

Pursel asked about the A Street Pier boat ramp. Bornheim said they have not been able to find a Chapter 91 license for the ramp which they will need for that repair. He also said there are issues with the ramp including the lack of parking and a staging area that make it difficult to get a boat into the water. Reilly asked about the boat ramp at Pemberton. Bornheim said he cannot find a license for this ramp either and with sea level rise it is about 6' under sand and does not work as a boat ramp.

Constable asked about the Pemberton Boat commuter float and discussions with the MBTA. Bornheim said the MBTA is difficult to deal with and feels the ridership numbers at this point will be a factor for funding. Constable agreed but said she thinks the ferry at Pemberton is an asset to the community and they should be prepared to push pretty hard on this. Lemnios said the MBTA's general focus is on land transportation but did say that a new company has bought the commercial ferry boat system and they are interested in having good landing facilities which might help in conversations with the MBTA. If ridership does not come back, however, he thinks the MBTA will take a hard look at the viability of a commuter stop in Hull.

Constable asked Bornheim about the issue of swimming at A Street Pier and if anything can be done to make this safer. Bornheim said it is very difficult and unsafe and the Town bylaw prohibits swimming there.

CORRESPONDENCE

Matthew Mitchell, Advisory Board re: Letter of Resignation

Motion	Grey	To accept with regret the resignation of Matthew Mitchell from the Advisory Board
Second	Reilly	
Vote	Unanimous	Grey – Aye Reilly – Aye Pursel – Aye Constable - Aye

James Lampke, Town Counsel re: Letter to address filling HRA vacancy

Constable said that the HRA has requested that the Board appoint a member to fill their current vacancy. She said that Lampke had written a letter stating that by law the Board has the discretion to make such an appointment due to the way the notice of vacancy was done, but is not required to do so and pointing out that the Town's election is coming up in a few months at which time the vacancy would be filled. It was the feeling of the Board that given the fact that the election will be held in the relatively near future, making an appointment at this time does not make sense.

Chris DiIorio, Community Development and Planning Director re: Three Zoning Articles

Constable said this is a procedural request regarding placeholders for three Articles for the 2022 Town Meeting Warrant that would need to be referred back to the Planning Board for study and public hearings.

Motion	Reilly	To refer the three zoning articles submitted by the Planning Board back to the Board for further study and public hearings
Second Vote	Grey Unanimous	Reilly – Aye Grey – Aye Pursel – Aye Constable – Aye

Reilly asked about the report due from the Planning Board regarding the reduction in lot size in the Single-Family B District that was proposed at last year's Town Meeting. He said it was his understanding that he was the Board's representative on the Committee that was to review this proposal but has not heard anything. Bart Kelly, Chair of the Zoning Bylaw Study Committee, said they had just met and their recommendation for the Planning Board was that no action be taken on the proposal at this time as more input is needed and a more comprehensive look at general zoning should be completed. Reilly agreed and asked that he be notified about future meetings. Constable noted that the article related to MBTA Communities is designed to increase diversity and housing stock in communities and assumes that DiIorio would be making a presentation to the Board soon.

REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL

Michael McGurl, Hull Life Saving Museum Manager, re: Request for One Day Liquor License

McGurl said they would like to make the Snow Row Event something that would attract people to other businesses in Town so they are trying to expand it by having a "Meet and Greet" evening at the Museum with snacks and wine the night before the event. Lemnios said the Board also needs to approve the actual Snow Row itself, and he is hoping they can do both at once.

Motion	Grey	To approve a One Day Liquor License for the Hull Lifesaving Museum for a "Meet and Greet" event on March 4, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and to approve the Hull Snow Row Event on March 5, 2022
Second Vote	Reilly Unanimous	Grey – Aye Pursel – Aye Reilly – Aye Constable – Aye

Charles Fruzzetti, C Note LLC, 159 Nantasket Avenue re: Request for One Day Amendment to Entertainment License

Fruzzetti submitted a request for approval for the North Street Church to have a service at the venue on May 1, 2022 that would include a small band from the church. He said their Entertainment license does not allow live music at

the venue before 2 p.m. He said the actual service will be for two hours starting at 10 a.m. but the doors will be closed at all times.

Motion	Reilly	To approve the request for music/entertainment to start at 10 a.m. on May 1, 2022 for a One-Day license for C Note LLC.
Second	Grey	
Vote	Unanimous	Reilly – Aye Grey – Aye Pursel – Aye Constable – Aye

Bartley Kelly, Building Commissioner re: Building Department Fee Schedule

Constable said at the last meeting Kelly had presented a request and a schedule of fee increases to the Board for their review. Reilly said he initially had some question about the size of the increases but given how hard it is to recruit and retain qualified inspectors and the fact that there have been no increases in the last twelve years he feels the increases are justified.

Motion	Reilly	To approve the proposed schedule of Building Department fee increases
Second	Grey	
Vote	Unanimous	Reilly – Aye Grey – Aye Pursel – Aye Constable – Aye

Adrian Muir, Hull Nantasket Chamber of Commerce re: Stem to Stern Yard Sale on May 21st and 22nd 2022

Motion	Grey	To approve the Hull Nantasket Chamber of Commerce request to hold the Stem to Stern Yard Sale on the weekend of May 21 st and 22 nd , 2022 and to waive the fee for this event
Second	Reilly	
Vote	Unanimous	Grey – Aye Reilly – Aye Pursel – Aye Constable – Aye

Hull Knights of Columbus re: One Day Liquor License on March 5, 2022 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for a Baby Shower

Motion	Reilly	To approve a One Day Liquor License on March 5, 2022 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the Hull Knights of Columbus for a baby shower
Second	Grey	
Vote	Unanimous	Reilly – Aye Grey – Aye Pursel – Aye Constable – Aye

Hull Knights of Columbus re: One Day Liquor License on March 6, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a Baby Shower

Motion	Grey	To approve a One Day Liquor License on March 6, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the Hull Knights of Columbus for a baby shower
Second	Reilly	
Vote	Unanimous	Grey – Aye Reilly – Aye Pursel – Aye

UPDATES

Lemnios said the water work on Atlantic Avenue is concluding this week and they are having their pre-construction meeting with State DOT in the next week or so on the larger construction project. He said he has met with the Straits Pond Water Association and he and Chris Krahforst presented a general update of what is going on with the Pond. He said he hopes to present the roadway plan for 2022 at the first meeting in March and that this meeting will be in-person in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room. Plymouth County Treasurer O'Brien and one or more Commissioners will be there to present some checks to the Town as well as to talk about the program on Covid funds.

Reilly said there are groups starting to work on planning for the country's 250th celebration and he is getting some information that he will share at an upcoming meeting. He would like the Town to start doing some planning for events similar to those in 1976.

Constable noted that the Town Hall will be opening as of February 28, 2022, with masks optional. Lemnios said he has notified Boards that in-person meetings are okay going forward. Lampke said he believes that the legislation that was just passed the other day provided that remote meetings would be extended through a date in July.

On a motion by Grey, seconded by Reilly, the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn.

Recorded by Kathleen Fanning

Approved by:

Documents

The following documents were included in the members' packets or were presented during the meeting and are available in the Board of Selectmen's office upon request:

- Agenda and Added Agenda for Board of Selectmen Meeting on February 16, 2022
- 2022 Warrant Zoning Placeholder Request from the Director of Community Development and Planning as well as materials related to the proposed Zoning Bylaw changes
- Request from the Hull Nantasket Chamber of Commerce for approval of the Stem to Stern Yard Sale
- Materials from Building Commissioner, Bartley Kelly, related to approval of Permit Fee changes
- Letter from Matthew Mitchell resigning from the Advisory Council
- Letter from Town Counsel, James Lampke, regarding the vacancy on the HRA
- Requests from the Hull Knights of Columbus for One Day Liquor Licenses on March 5, 2022 and March 6, 2022
- Request from Charles Fruzzetti, C Note LLC, for One Day Amendment to Entertainment License