

Hull Select Board

Minutes

March 15, 2018

The meeting of the Hull Select Board was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evening, March 15, 2018, at Hull Municipal Building, 253 Atlantic Ave., Hull, Massachusetts.

Present: Kevin Richardson, Chair; Chris Mitchell, Vice-Chair; and Domenic Sestito, Clerk. John Reilly, Member; and Jennifer Constable, Member. Also present were Town Manager Phillip Lemnios and Town Counsel James Lampke.

.....

APPOINTMENTS

Discussion: Possible ballot question for capital projects and debt exclusion

Town Manager Lemnios reviewed the debt exclusion recommendation from the Capital Planning Committee and discussed possible ways to earmark those potential funds. He stated that option one includes seawalls, roads, and recreation, including a turf field. Option two was similar, with different variations on the same categories. Option three would focus only on roads and seawalls. Lemnios he said that he would suggest that the town select option three, with the majority of focus on roads, because seawalls are critical to the town's safety infrastructure and can't depend on a debt exclusion for funding.

He explained that the recreational needs of the town, including a turf field, are very much part of the capital plan and are important to the residents' quality of life.

He had prepared a \$10 million bond for roadway repairs, dependent on passage of a debt exclusion. He said the bond would have a 15-year life per state law. A \$420,000 home would see approximately \$200 increase in taxes in the highest year, and about \$150 increase averaged over the 15-year life of the bond. He will ask the town's highway engineers to plug the figures into their calculations and prepare a report on how the funds would be allocated for the roads. He said there would probably be three or four construction cycles and the work would probably take less than five years.

He also explained that there is a capital item in the regular budget for seawall repairs. This covers quick repairs, such as those incurred in the early-March storm. He is also proposing a bond for \$1.2 million, which would not be subject to a debt exclusion, for larger repairs and pre-work for grant funding. He also noted that the town and the DCR are looking for permission to use sand from a dredging project elsewhere. He has authorized the conservation officer to explore whether the town can get some of those sands for the beach from Phipps Street north. He said that demand for the dredged material outstrips the quantity and that this would be a long process with a lot of environmental permitting required.

Lemnios also noted that the town has accomplished \$18.7 million in capital work over the past three years, using 8% from the general fund, 48% from grants, and the remainder from bonds.

Constable said that she doesn't want to de-prioritize recreation but would support the debt exclusion plan as presented. She suggested that in the coming year the board meet with various groups about the recreational needs of the town in order to prepare for future actions. Richardson and Sestito both voiced a commitment to recreational needs and a commitment to resolving those issues in the near future.

The board voted to proceed to put a bond article subject to a debt exclusion on the warrant and to support the concept of a debt exclusion devoted to roadway work, and also the preparation of a debt exclusion ballot question for the subsequent election.

Motion	Reilly	So moved.
---------------	--------	-----------

Second	Mitchell	
Vote	Unanimous	

APPROVALS

The board voted as follows to approve a request from Jennifer Olivieri on behalf of the Hull Boosters to hold a carnival on HRA land from July 17th to July 21.

Motion	Reilly	So moved and waive the building department inspection fees.
Second	Sestito	
Vote	Unanimous	

NEW BUSINESS

Lemnios thanked the DPW, Emergency Management, Chief Russo and Deputy Chief Frazier, and the warming center staff, for their work during the recent storm. He also thanked the public for their patience. He noted that the power outage was in the same area as before and National Grid responded quickly with many crews. Richardson pointed out that neighboring towns were out for much longer than Hull.

Resident Rhoda Kanet noted that the Weymouth shelter did not open during this storm so the warming center expanded its hours. She would like a discussion on the possibility of opening a shelter in town, as during a blizzard residents can't get anywhere else. She would like this on the agenda.

Constable said that she went to a recent MAPC South Shore Coalition meeting regarding updating its metro future plan. She recommended that the town have some input into this. She will share information with the board as well as with Community Development. She stated that they also talked about the housing choice program, which is based on housing production, which Hull cannot achieve, and which will apply to credit points for grants, some of which the town applies for. She noted that effectively this is a penalty for towns that cannot achieve new housing units due to space restrictions, but there is some hope that points could be allocated for regional projects.

Kanet announced beach grass planting on March 24th. She stated that the dunes have been decimated and they need as many volunteers as possible. They are planning to have a second planting in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Recorded by Catherine Goldhammer

Approved by:

Documents

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

- Agenda and added agenda for March 15, 2018
- Debt exclusion handout
- Request to hold Hull Boosters' carnival from July 17-21.