

**Hull Select Board  
Final Minutes  
November 9, 2022**

The meeting of the Hull Select Board was held at 7:30 p.m. on November 9, 2022 at Hull Town Hall, 253 Atlantic Avenue, Hull, Massachusetts.

Present: Jennifer Constable, Chair; Donna Pursel, Vice-Chair; Irwin Nesoff, Clerk; Greg Grey, Member. Absent: Domenico Sestito, Member. Also present was Town Manager Philip Lemnios.

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

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**APPOINTMENTS**

**Mike Buckley and the Board of Assessors re: Tax Rate Classification Hearing for FY23**

Town Accountant, Mike Buckley, was present as well as Assistant Assessor Kathy Pizzella. Buckley said they are holding this Hearing in order to ask that the Select Board adopt a single tax rate for all types of property in the Town as well as to ask that they not adopt either a residential or small business exemption. Buckley said that the Board of Assessors has traditionally recommended a single tax rate because there is such a low percentage of commercial property in Hull and any shift to a split rate would place an inordinate burden on commercial properties.

Pizzella noted that adopting a residential exemption shifts the tax burden to higher priced homes and in Hull there are quite a few seniors who live in higher priced homes that have been in their families for years as well as lower income people living in neighborhoods with more expensive homes and these residents often find it difficult to handle the additional tax burden. Buckley said they also do not endorse adoption of a small business exemption in the Town because of the low percentage of commercial properties in Hull. He noted that he does not know of any towns the size of Hull that have adopted these exemptions.

Buckley said that the tax rate for FY23 will be \$12.17, which is a decrease of 3%. This decrease is offset, however, by an almost 7% increase in the assessed value of homes. He said they have proposed three motions that they are asking the Board to vote on so they can move forward with having the Town's tax rate approved by the DOR.

<b>Motion</b>	Nesoff	To adopt a single tax rate for the Town of Hull
<b>Second</b>	Grey	
<b>Vote</b>	Unanimous	
<b>Motion</b>	Grey	To not adopt a residential exemption for the Town of Hull
<b>Second</b>	Pursel	
<b>Vote</b>	Unanimous	
<b>Motion</b>	Grey	To not adopt a small business exemption for the Town of Hull
<b>Second</b>	Nesoff	
<b>Vote</b>	Unanimous	

Pizzella said that this Hearing would need to be continued once DOR approves the FY23 tax rate.

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**DISCUSSION**

**No Place for Hate Committee re: Request for the Select Board to adopt the following pledge:**

**“The Hull Select Board believes in the strength and vitality of an inclusive, equitable and diverse community. We will work to support and promote these qualities in Hull through the town’s policies and operations.”**

Constable noted that Pam Wolfe and Steve Greenberg from the Hull No Place for Hate Committee were present and that the Committee has asked the Board to adopt this pledge. Nesoff said the Pledge is very clear and concise and reflects the values of their town and what they should all be working toward. Wolfe said that they appreciate the Board's support.

<b>Motion</b>	Pursel	That the Select Board adopt the Pledge as read at this meeting
<b>Second</b>	Nesoff	
<b>Vote</b>	Unanimous	

**Bartley Kelly, Chairman, Hull Redevelopment Authority re: Request to appoint temporary Hull Redevelopment Authority vacant seat.**

**Harry Hibbard, Chair, Hull Planning Board re: Request to appoint temporary Hull Planning Board vacant seat.**

Constable said that Kelly had notified the Board on October 24<sup>th</sup> that HRA member Robert DeCoste had submitted his letter of resignation to the Town Clerk. She said the HRA is requesting that the Select Board schedule a joint meeting to consider candidates to fill the seat vacated by DeCoste until the next town election. She also noted that Hibbard had written in June requesting the appointment of a temporary Planning Board member to fill the seat left by Irwin Nesoff's election to the Select Board. Lemnios said there was no vote needed on these items but that both bodies should be scheduled to appear at the Board's meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> to select members for each of those bodies.

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## APPROVALS

**Proclamation re: Honor of Anne Musmeci for her many years in service with the Hull Garden Club**

Constable read the following resolution honoring Anne Musmeci, Hull Garden Club, from a grateful Town of Hull:

**WHEREAS**, Anne Musmeci has been a resident of the Town of Hull for many years and

**WHEREAS**, Anne was a founding member of the Hull Garden Club since its inception in 1966 and

**WHEREAS**, Anne served as its President of the Hull Garden Club from 1997 to 1999 when the Daffodil Program was created and

**WHEREAS**, Anne has sold over 180,000 Daffodil bulbs during her time on the Garden Club giving her the name "Hull's Daffodil Lady" and

**WHEREAS**, Anne was responsible for having the Daffodil named as the Town flower and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the years, Anne has dedicated her time, talent and effort to beautify our surroundings and enhance our quality of life by sharing her gardening skills with our community through the "Adopt a Garden" program and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Select Board, acting on behalf of the Citizens of the Town of Hull recognizing that Anne Musmeci is worthy of public acknowledgement for her outstanding commitment to the Town of Hull hereby expresses the Town's sincere and heartfelt appreciation and issues this resolution on this 9<sup>th</sup> Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.

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Anne Musmeci thanked everyone in the Hull Garden Club and said she had a great deal of help over the years. Constable thanked Musmeci for all her work to make Hull a beautiful place to live.

**Mike Buckley, Chair, Hull Retirement Board re: Request to reappoint Eileen White, Treasurer-Collector, as the Select Board's representative to the Hull Contributory Retirement Board.**

<b>Motion</b>	Grey	To reappoint Eileen White, Treasurer-Collector, as the Select Board's representative to the Hull Contributory Retirement Board.
<b>Second Vote</b>	Nesoff Unanimous	

**South Shore Recycling Cooperative re: Request to appoint Joan Taverna, Director of the Board of Health, as one of the two Town of Hull Representatives to the South Shore Recycling Cooperative. Director Taverna will fill the balance of retired Director Sullivan's term through June 30, 2024.**

<b>Motion</b>	Grey	To appoint Joan Taverna, Director of the Board of Health, as one of the two Town of Hull Representatives to the South Shore Recycling Cooperative. Director Taverna will fill the balance of retired Director Sullivan's term through June 30, 2024
<b>Second Vote</b>	Nesoff Unanimous	

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## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Kevin Loechner, Member, Board of Library Trustees re: Letter of Resignation**

<b>Motion</b>	Nesoff	To accept Kevin Loechner's Letter of Resignation from the Board of Library Trustees
<b>Second Vote</b>	Grey Unanimous	

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## **UPDATES**

Lemnios said the Atlantic Avenue paving project is moving forward and they are slightly ahead of schedule. He said that in the recent election Town Clerk Lori West and her team went through many months of preparation to provide as much opportunity as possible for those in the town who wanted to vote.

Lemnios also said that he will be meeting soon with COA Director, Lisa Thornton and Kathy Pizzella to set up an exemption process for seniors living in Hull. Since this is something that would need to be voted on at Town Meeting they are already starting to work on it. He said the Public Works Department is making sure equipment is in good condition for the winter and is looking for plow drivers. He stated, however, that across the state there is a problem finding qualified employees for open jobs.

Pursel said that she had attended the Plymouth Advisory Committee meeting and much of the meeting was spent reviewing the success of the Cares Act program and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. She said that there was a slight delay in releasing some of the funds but they feel they are now caught up and have capped out at about 50% of the available funds. She said that Hull should reach out if they do not feel they have received all of the funds they were due.

Pursel asked Lemnios if the Town had ever attempted to negotiate a "best waste" collection contract with any of the waste management companies that do business in Hull. Lemnios said that the Board has examined this issue numerous times in recent years. He explained that in 1982, when Proposition 2 ½ was adopted, Hull had eliminated waste removal as part of their budget. Since that time numerous recycling programs have been developed in the state but in 2018 the recycling market collapsed and the cost of recycling programs increased dramatically. He said that if the Board were to propose a town-wide recycling program they would need to have an operational override to raise the money needed to guarantee a contract with a provider. He said that such a program at this time would be

very expensive and would involve a fee structure for Town residents. There was some discussion about the current situation, in which residents utilize a number of different companies to provide trash/waste disposal and the disruption to neighborhoods that this involves.

Constable reminded everyone that Friday is Veteran's Day and the Veteran's Day ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the War Memorial. She also congratulated the Hull High School fall teams for their very successful seasons.

In response to a question from Patrick Finn, Lemnios said they are close to completing plans on Fort Revere and are going to contact Mass. Historic and hope to have the project bid by late winter. He said this will be bid in two phases, interior and exterior, because they do not know what will happen with the cost projections due to supply chain issues. He said they are also taking a look at the first Town Hall/Fire Station to prepare bids for the exterior portion of that building. He noted that Chief Russo has done a lot of work upgrading the inside of the building

On a motion by Grey, seconded by Nesoff, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Recorded by Kathleen Fanning

Approved by:

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### **Documents**

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

- Agenda and Added Agenda for the Select Board Meeting on November 9, 2022
- Materials related to the Tax Classification Hearing
- Letter from J. Michael Buckley, Chair of the Hull Retirement Board, regarding the reappointment of Eileen White to the Hull Retirement Board
- Resolution from the Hull Garden Club regarding Anne Mesmuci
- Letter from Kevin Loechner resigning from the Board of Library Trustees
- Letter from Bartley Kelly to Jennifer Constable regarding the resignation of Robert DeCoste from the HRA
- Letter from Harry Hibbard, Chair of the Planning Board, to the Select Board regarding the vacancy on the Planning Board