

**Hull Select Board  
Final Minutes  
March 7, 2023**

The meeting of the Hull Select Board was held at 6:30 p.m. on March 7, 2023 via the Zoom 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: Donna Pursel, Vice-Chair; Irwin Nesoff, Clerk; Domenico Sestito, Member; Greg Grey, Member. Also present was Town Manager Philip Lemnios.

Before opening the meeting Pursel led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Discussion and Vote on Reorganization of the Board**

Pursel said this vote was the result of the resignation of Jennifer Constable, the former Chair of the Board. She said that tonight's reorganization would be in effect until the next Town election in May.

<b>Motion</b>	Grey	To appoint Donna Pursel as Chair of the Select Board until the Town election in May of 2023
<b>Second</b>	Pursel	

Sestito said he would like to make a substitute motion. He said that given the retirement of a Town Manager who has been on the job for decades and the resignation of the Board's Chair, they are entering into an unprecedented time in Hull. He noted that there will be three Board positions on the ballot in the upcoming Town election in May. He said he feels that his fifteen years on the Board, with three as Chair and three as Vice-Chair, as well as his involvement in the search for the current Police Chief, make him uniquely qualified to serve as Chair of the Board until May and to guide them through the search process.

<b>Motion</b>	Sestito	To appoint Domenico Sestito the Chair of the Select Board until the Town election in May of 2023
<b>Second</b>	Nesoff	

Nesoff indicated that he felt further discussion was needed before any votes were taken. Pursel said she understands Sestito's position but feels that she was elected three years ago because the citizens of Hull wanted a change. She said that in her time on the Board they have dealt with some very difficult issues and that she has always been present and prepared for every decision they have made. She recognized Sestito's involvement in the search process for Chief Dunn, but said she feels that the Board should rely on Paradigm to guide them through the search for a new Town Manager.

Sestito said he feels that his extensive experience serving on the Board is crucial at this time. He informed the Board that he will not be seeking reelection in May when his current term expires. He feels that the selection of a new Town Manager might be a difficult process for the residents of Hull and feels that because he is not seeking reelection, he will be able to function in a more neutral way and will not be affected by public perceptions and will not be distracted by having to run a campaign.

Grey said that both Pursel and Sestito are obviously eager to serve as Chair and both are more than qualified. He respects all that Sestito has done but feels that the normal progression is for the Vice-Chair to move into the position of Chair and feels that Pursel has earned the right to do so. Nesoff said he feels that Sestito's experience would be helpful at this time but noted that once Sestito leaves the Board there would be no incumbent in the Chair's position.

A vote on the substitute motion was taken at this time.

<b>Motion</b>	Sestito	To appoint Domenico Sestito as Chair of the Select Board until the Town election in May of 2023
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<b>Second Vote</b>	Nesoff 2-2-0	Sestito – Aye Nesoff – Aye Pursel – Nay Grey – Nay
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Since the substitute motion failed a vote was taken on the original motion.

<b>Motion</b>	Pursel	To appoint Donna Pursel as Chair of the Select Board until the Town election in May of 2023
<b>Second Vote</b>	Grey 3-1-0	Pursel – Aye Grey – Aye Nesoff – Aye Sestito – Nay

Sestito said he feels it is important to have a unanimous vote in the selection of the Chair and wanted to make an additional motion.

<b>Motion</b>	Sestito	To appoint Donna Pursel as Chair of the Select Board until the Town election in May of 2023
<b>Second Vote</b>	Grey Unanimous	Sestito – Aye Grey – Aye Pursel – Aye Nesoff - Aye

Pursel said they now needed to vote on the position of Vice-Chair.

<b>Motion</b>	Pursel	To appoint Domenico Sestito as Vice-Chair of the Select Board until the Town election in May of 2023
<b>Second</b>	Nesoff	

Sestito said that in the interest of continuity he would respectfully decline the nomination and feels that the position should be held by one of the two people who are not up for reelection. Pursel withdrew her motion.

<b>Motion</b>	Pursel	To appoint Greg Grey as Vice-Chair of the Select Board until the Town election in May of 2023
<b>Second Vote</b>	Nesoff Unanimous	Pursel – Aye Nesoff – Aye Grey – Aye Sestito – Aye

Since Nesoff was already Clerk of the Board, no further votes were needed.

On a motion by Grey, seconded by Nesoff, the Board voted unanimously 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 Select Board's office upon request:

- Agenda for Select Board Meeting on March 7, 2023