

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

November 7, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Vice Chairman Melia at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. Board Members Present: Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus. Also Present: Adam D. Gaudette, Town Manager. Selectmen Collins was absent and it is duly noted.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 22, 2022. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve the August 22, 2022 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus. **September 12, 2022 [Exec. Sess.].** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve but not release the September 12, 2022 [Exec. Sess.] minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus. **September 16, 2022 [Special].** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve the September 16, 2022 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus. **October 25, 2022 [FATM and Special Town Meeting].** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve the October 25, 2022 [FATM and Special Town Meeting] minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus.

Vice Chairman Melia moved to appointments as it was not yet time for the hearings.

APPOINTMENTS/By the Town Manager: D. 1) Cameron Deraleau, Laborer, DPW-Highway Division [Effective 11.8.22]. 2) Dylan Boulanger, Heavy Equipment Operator, DPW-Highway Division [Effective 11.8.22] / Present: Jamie Luchini, DPW Director. Mr. Luchini introduced Mr. Deraleau and Mr. Boulanger to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Luchini stated that Mr. Boulanger holds a CDL Class A license, and Mr. Deraleau, has been working at the DPW as a seasonal employee for a few years. Mr. Deraleau left to join the Army National Guard where he is training as a diesel mechanic and heavy equipment operator. He will begin as a laborer and once he receives the proper licensing, he will move to Heavy Equipment Operator position. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to affirm the appointment of Cameron Deraleau as Laborer in the DPW/ Highway Division. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to affirm the appointment of Dylan Boulanger as a Heavy Equipment Operator in the DPW/Highway Division. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus.

3) Bethany Walker, Senior Library Assistant [Effective 11.8.22]. Town Manager Gaudette explained that Library Director, Rebecca Sasseville, was not able to attend tonight's meeting as she works at the Library until closing. Ms. Walker has been with us for a little while and this appointment will be a promotion for her. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to affirm the appointment of Bethany Walker as a Senior Library Assistant. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus.

PUBLIC HEARING/7:05 PM: SSJP Holdings, LLC dba Reunion, 1227 Providence Road, Whitinsville [Sargon Hanna, Mgr.]/1) Application for an All Alcoholic Beverages license; 2) Application for a Common Victualler's License; and 3) Application for an Entertainment License / Present: Matthew Bourgault. Vice Chairman Melia read aloud the public hearing notice. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Paulhus, and Melia. Mr. Bourgault explained that he is representing Mr. Hanna as he was not able to attend tonight's meeting. He advised that they have owned Reunion Tap and Table in Grafton for four years, three of which he was the General Manager. In that time, there were no liquor violations. All servers and bartenders are TIPS certified, and follow the regulations set forth by the ABCC. They are looking to expand from the

Grafton location. Mr. Bourgault noted that they have started renovating the space and are now applying for the license while they work on the renovations. He noted that the seating was listed at 100 seats, but it will actually be 84 seats. Selectman Ampagoomian asked if they have an entertainment license at the location in Grafton and what their action plan is for rowdy crowds. Mr. Bourgault replied that they do have entertainment at the Grafton location, and they make sure they keep to the allowed capacity. Selectman Paulhus asked if the set up would be similar to Grafton, adding that he has been there when they have both stages with entertainment. Mr. Bourgault explained that the Northbridge location is different as they do not have a function hall at this location like they do in Grafton. There being no further questions, Vice Chairman Melia ask if there were abutters present to express any concerns, to which no one was present. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve SSJP Holdings, LLC dba Reunion's request for an All Alcoholic Beverages License, a Common Victualler's License and an Entertainment License for their establishment located at 1227 Providence Road, Whitinsville [Sargon Hanna, Mgr.]. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus.

7:10 PM: FY23 Tax Rate Classification Hearing/Present: Robert Fitzgerald, Principal Assessor. Vice Chairman Melia read aloud the public hearing notice. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Paulhus and Melia. Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the hearing allows the Selectmen to decide whether or not to shift the tax burden between the classes of residential, commercial and industrial and personal property. The breakdown would start with the 2022 levy limit, then you would add the proposition 2 ½, and new growth add the debt exclusion of the Balmer School, Police Department roof, Turf Field and Fire Station then divide by the new valuation of the community. The new taxable value of the community, which is \$2.3 almost \$2.4 billion, went up approximately \$300 million this year. Based on that information the FY'23 rate is \$12.96, last year it was \$13.77. Mr. Fitzgerald explained the options of the tax rate to the Selectmen. 1) The first option is to have a single rate, which spreads the tax burden among all classes of property; 2) The second option is to select a residential exemption; and 3) the third option is to select a small commercial exemption. As is customary, the Board of Assessors recommends the single tax rate option. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to close the public hearing. Vote yes/ Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus. The Selectmen opted to keep the single tax rate, which does not require a vote. The tax rate will remain as is at the single rate.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

Blackstone Valley Veterans Association/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, November 13, 2022 to Sunday, November 20, 2022 to advertise their Veterans Spaghetti Supper event to be held on Friday, November 18, 2022 at the K of C. Present: Daniel Lessard. Mr. Lessard explained that they are requesting to hang a banner to advertise their spaghetti supper that will be held on Friday, November 18, 2022, from 4 PM to 8 PM at the Knights of Columbus. Veterans eat for free and anyone accompanying them will pay \$8.00. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve the above request as noted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus.

Shop Small 01588/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, November 20, 2022 to Sunday, December 4, 2022 to advertise their Shop Small event beginning November 26, 2022. Present: Jessie Schotanus. Ms. Schotanus was unable to attend the meeting. Selectman Melia stated that this has been done for several years now and he does not see an issue moving forward. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve the above request as noted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus.

Tri-Valley Front Runners [Terri Powell] / 1) Request to hold the Annual 1st Day 5K Road Race on Sunday, January 1, 2023 beginning at 11 AM subject to the safety requirements of the Northbridge Police Department; and 2) Request to close Linwood Avenue between 10:45 AM and 12 PM. A

motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve the above requests as noted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus.

Northbridge Fire Department / Tree Lighting and Parade Event to be held Saturday, November 26, 2022. 1) Request to use Rockdale Common from 3 PM to 4 PM. 2) Request to use Memorial Park from 4 PM – 6 PM. 3) Request to close Church Street from Park Street to Main Street 4 PM - 6 PM. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the above requests as noted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus.

Eyepoint Pharmaceuticals TIF Agreement/Vote to approve. Town Manager Gaudette summarized that the Board has been given presentations from Eyepoint Pharmaceuticals and discussions regarding the agreement have been underway with the Assessor, Robert Fitzgerald. He advised that Town Counsel has also reviewed the language in the agreement but the agreement before the Board tonight did have a minor change that is awaiting approval of Town Counsel. He further reminded the Board that the TIF Agreement was approved at the Fall Town Meeting on October 25, 2022, thus he proposed that the Selectmen authorize the Town Manager to sign the TIF Agreement, pending final approval from Town Counsel. From here Eyepoint Pharmaceuticals will go before the Economic Assistance Coordinating Council (EACC) who oversees the Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD) TIF Agreements. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Tax Increment Financing Agreement pending final approval from Town Counsel. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus.

Fire Station Project/Vote to approve a Grant of License for National Grid. Town Manager Gaudette explained the need to extend power from Providence Road to the site of the new Fire Station. National Grid will require a permanent easement eventually, but because the easement requires town meeting approval we are looking to do a temporary agreement under this license, and in the Spring they will come forward with an easement for permanent access. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve a Grant of License for National Grid for the new Fire Station. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus.

Riverdale Mills (WWII Memorial Easement) - Permissive Use Agreement/Vote to approve. Town Manager Gaudette explained that the WWII monument is a Town Memorial that is located on private property. In this case, we are looking for a permanent use for the property, in order to access and maintain the monument. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve the Permissive Use Agreement with the Riverdale Mills for the WWII Memorial Easement. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus.

Pine Grove Cemetery Deed/Linda St. Francis [Lot No. 31, Walnut Ave (South)]/Vote to approve. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve the sale of Lot No. 31, Walnut Ave., (South) to Linda St. Francis. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia and Paulhus.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: October 24, 2022 – November 4, 2022. Key Meetings Attended: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 – Attended the Fall Annual Town Meeting. Thursday, October 26, 2022 – Attended the weekly Fire Station Construction Conference. Monday, October 31, 2022 – Participated in the weekly Fire Station Design Team video conference. Wednesday, November 2, 2022 – Met with Tony Genga to discuss Deputy Chief Employment Agreement terms. Thursday, November 3, 2022 – Met with Vice-Chair Melia to go over the 11/7 BOS Agenda. Thursday, November 3, 2022 – Met with Stefano Loretto, our consultant for Aggregation. Thursday, November 3, 2022 – Attended the weekly Fire Station Construction Conference. **Fire Station Project:** Weekly design team meetings continue to occur every Monday morning and weekly construction meetings every Thursday afternoon with the project team, the GC M. O'Connor, and the site contractor Leahy. The GC continues to work on foundation installation in an effort to have construction ready for the winter. The GC expects to begin erecting steel in early December. The Design Team continues to work through bidding questions/change order clarifications. The

BPCC will meet next on 11/9/2022. **Northbridge Elementary School Reuse Study:** The architect team from Abacus recently conducted a site visit to evaluate the buildings' construction. Abacus has met with several stakeholders and is developing a public participation process possible for later this fall. The surveyor has completed the fieldwork and we are awaiting the existing conditions plan. The DEP Phase I study has been completed by the consultant Langan Environmental. **Linwood Basketball Courts Project:** The field survey has been completed by Activitas, the site engineer. The Town Manager, the DPW Director and Activitas have met with the Parks and Recreation to discuss design programming. The project is expected to be bid in the spring. Selectman Melia asked how long it would take to build the courts. Town Manager Gaudette stated it should be too long, around 90 – 120. **FY2024 Budget and Capital Development:** Planning for next year's budget is underway. The Town Manager is working on preliminary revenues and available capital funds in preparation for Budget Assignments later this fall. **Community Aggregation Update:** Town Manager Gaudette explained the aggregation program, which is authorized here in Massachusetts that allows Towns to form groups and as a group go out to bid on electricity rates. This program has been in Northbridge since 2016. Town Manager Gaudette explained that the current National Grid rate for those that are not part of this program the rate will be going up to 33.89¢ per kilowatt. Those who are not in the program and would like to consider joining should visit the Town's website for more information. You can also visit www.massCEA.com or call 844-627-7232.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/NONE
ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None
CORRESPONDENCE/None
EXECUTIVE SESSION/None

Town Manager Gaudette provided a reminder that the polls are open tomorrow from 7 AM to 8 PM at the Northbridge High School Field House.

Vice Chairman Melia announced that the next Board of Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 21, 2022.

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Paulhus, Clerk

/mjc

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

November 7, 2022

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A. 1) August 22, 2022**
-Copy of August 22, 2022 meeting minutes
- 2) September 12, 2022 [Exec. Sess.]**
-Copy of September 12, 2022 minutes omitted as they have not been approved for release by Town Counsel
- 3) September 16, 2022 [Special]**
-Copy of September 16, 2022 meeting minutes
- 4) October 25, 2022 [FATM and Special Town Meeting]**
-Copy of October 25, 2022 [FATM & Special Town Meeting] minutes
- II. PUBLIC HEARING/B. 7:05 PM: SSJP Holdings, LLC dba Reunion, 1227 Providence Road, Whitinsville [Sargon Hanna, Mgr.]/1) Request for a new All Alcoholic Beverages license Matthew Bourgault**
-Copy of public hearing notice
-Copy of payment receipt
-Copy of application for a new license
-Copy of entity vote
-Copy of Certificate of Organization
-Copy of Lease agreement
-Copy of layout
-Copy of Tips certification
-Copy of request for abutters
-Copy of abutters list
-Copy of license routing slip
- 2) Request for a Common Victualler's license**
-Copy of license application for a Common Victualler
-Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
-Copy of Workers' Compensation Affidavit
-Copy of license routing slip
- 3) Request for an Entertainment License /Present:**
-Copy of license application for Entertainment license
-Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
- C. 7:10 PM: FY23 Tax Rate Classification Hearing/Present: Robert Fitzgerald, Principal Assessor**
-Copy of memo to the Board of Selectmen regarding the Classification Hearing
-Copy of FY2023 tax rate breakdown
-Copy of 2022 tax rates from surrounding communities
-Copy of valuation by class pie chart
-Copy of tax shift options 2023

- III. APPOINTMENTS/By the Town Manager: D. 1) Cameron Deraleau, Laborer, DPW-Highway Division [Effective 11.8.22]**
-Copy of employment application
- 2) Dylan Boulanger, Heavy Equipment Operator, DPW-Highway Division [Effective 11.8.22] /Present: Jamie Luchini, DPW Director
-Copy of resume
-Copy of employment application
- 3) Bethany Walker, Senior Library Assistant [Effective 11.8.22]
-Copy of letter to the Town Manager from the Library Director recommending Ms. Walkers appointment as Senior Library Assistant
-Copy of job description
-Copy of employment application
- IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None**
- V. DECISIONS:**
- E. Church Street Banner Request/1) Blackstone Valley Veterans Association: Sunday, November 13, 2022 to Sunday, November 20, 2022 to advertise their Veterans Supper event to be held on Friday, November 18, 2022. Present: Daniel Lessard**
-Copy of email requesting to hang a banner
- F. Shop Small 01588: Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, November 20, 2022 to Sunday, December 4, 2022 to advertise their Shop Small event beginning November 26, 2022. Present: Jessie Schotanus**
-Copy of email requesting to hang a banner
- G. Tri-Valley Front Runners [Terri Powell] / 1) Request to hold the Annual 1st Day 5K Road Race on Sunday, January 1, 2023 beginning at 11 AM subject to the safety requirements of the Northbridge Police Department; and 2) Request to close Linwood Avenue between 10:45 AM and 12 PM**
-Copy of letter requesting a road race and to close Linwood Avenue
-Copy of the racecourse map
-Copy of Certificate of insurance
-Copy of approval from the DPW Director
- H. Northbridge Fire Department - Tree Lighting and Parade Event to be held Saturday, November 26, 2022. 1) Request to use Rockdale Common from 3 PM to 4 PM. 2) Request to use Memorial Park from 4 PM – 6 PM. 3) Request to close Church Street from Park Street to Main Street 4 PM - 6 PM**
-Copy of approval email from the DPW Director
-Copy of approval email from the Chief of Police
- I. Eyepoint Pharmaceuticals - TIF Agreement/Vote to approve**
-Copy of the Tax Increment Financing Agreement
-Copy of property map
- J. Fire Station Project/Vote to approve a Grant of License for National Grid**
-Copy of the license easement agreement

K. Riverdale Mills (WWII Memorial Easement) - Permissive Use Agreement/Vote to approve

- Copy of the Permissive Use Agreement**
- Copy of map of location**

L. Pine Grove Cemetery Deed/Linda St. Francis [Lot No. 31, Walnut Ave (South)]/Vote to approve

- Copy of Pine Grove Cemetery Deed**

VI. DISCUSSIONS/None

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Copy of Town Managers report from October 24, 2022 – November 4, 2022**
- Electricity and Aggregation Update/No documentation**

VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/None

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

X. CORRESPONDENCE/None

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None