

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Monday, January 28, 2019
Ipswich Town Hall | 25 Green Street

Pursuant to Open Meeting Law M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Select Board was held on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 7:00pm in Meeting Room A.

Board Members present: Nishan Mootafian, Chair; William Whitmore, Vice Chair; Linda Alexson; Edward Rauscher

Board Members not present: William Craft

Also present: Anthony Marino, Town Manager; Eileen Page, Recording Secretary

Abbreviations Used: FY20, Fiscal Year 2020; OSHA, Occupational Safety and Health Administration; SRO, School Resource Officer; FEMA, Federal Emergency Management Agency; MEMA, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency; FDA, Food & Drug Administration

Public Information: Agenda, Meeting Packet

Executive Session

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to go into Executive Session, and Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.

Following Executive Session, with a quorum present, Mr. Mootafian called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

Welcome/Announcements

Mr. Mootafian reminded residents of upcoming Select Board meetings.

- Wednesday, January 30: Budget business only. Mr. Mootafian will not be present. Mr. Whitmore will run the meeting.
- Monday, February 4: Full meeting, with budget items on the agenda.
- Monday, February 11: Budget business only.
- Tuesday, February 19: Full meeting, with budget items on the agenda.
- Monday, February 25: Budget business only.
- Monday, March 4: Full meeting, with. Budget items on the agenda.

Citizen Queries

Phil Goguen (4 Kingfisher Road) asked Fire Chief Andre Theriault how often the hoses on the fire trucks are changed. Chief Theriault answered that while the standard is every ten years, they are tested annually. Mr. Goguen asked Mr. Marino for an update on the Town's lawsuit against Navistar and KME Engines. Mr. Marino will have a third party inspect the new engine before it is installed. While current negotiations cannot be discussed, Mr. Marino will present the details of the settlement to the Board and public once a settlement has been reached.

Shawn Parker (27 Turkey Shore Road) would like to see the Board cut back on elective projects that are forecasted in the Capital Budget, such as work done on the Pony Express fields.

Gary Champion (3 Palomino Way) asked for an update on the Essex Pastures project regarding evaluation by the Town. Mr. Marino confirmed that the Town has hired Special Counsel at the request of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Board and Committee Business

Reappointment – Craig Saline – Government Study Committee

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to approve the reappointment, and Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignation/Term Expiration – Carolyn Britt and Kevin Martin – Government Study Committee
Mr. Whitmore moved to accept the resignations, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignation – Kathryn Leva – Shade Tree Beautification Committee
Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to accept the resignation, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

FY20 Budget Review: Fire

Fire Chief Andre Theriault and Deputy Fire Chief Jeffrey French appeared before the Board to discuss the Fire Department's FY20 budget. Chief Theriault discussed the department's increased involvement with the Council on Aging on the Senior Safe Program, which provides services such as smoke detector checks. The department also provides fire education in the Ipswich schools, and runs a car seat program that provides car seats free of charge to qualifying residents, and inspections to ensure proper car seat installation.

In 2018, the department was down 8% for EMS calls, responded to eight structure fires, and had no injuries or deaths. The department issued 485 burning permits. They were awarded \$3,700 in grants to continue school-based fire education, \$2,400 to continue elder fire education, and \$2,600 to continue car seat safety programs. In-house promotions have resulted in two new lieutenants and two new firefighters.

On February 19, 2019, OSHA regulations will take effect that will require the department to have four officers on scene before they can enter a fire. Chief Theriault expressed concern over staffing issues that will make this regulation difficult to conform to, and looking ahead, at least \$540,000 would be required to guarantee full staffing, especially when other factors such as retirement, jury duty, and on-duty injuries pull firefighters away from the job.

The largest projected Capital need of the Fire Department is replacing Truck 1 (labeled "E1" on the budget lines.) The department is seeking \$25,000 in FY20 in an effort to start saving towards the purchase of a new firetruck. Projected personnel expenses include raises dictated by the collective bargaining agreement and mandatory trainings.

Ms. Alexson asked for an update regarding the department's ambulance contracts. Chief Theriault stated that the department does not currently have the facilities available to house an ambulance, but in the new Union contract all incoming fire fighters will become licensed EMTs. At a time when facilities permit, the next step would be to purchase an ambulance for the Town.

Phil Goguen (4 Kingfisher Road) asked about mandatory retirement ages, to which Chief Theriault answers that all fire fighters must retire by the age of 65 under Massachusetts state law. Mr. Goguen asked about physical requirements, and Chief Theriault explained that there is a mandatory physical that is conducted at the initial hire, and the physical is good for the rest of the fire fighter's career. Additional medical checks may be required for conditions such as heart problems and emphysema. Mr. Goguen also inquired about the impact of solar panels on the department's abilities to fight fires, to which Chief Theriault said that it inhibits the department's ability to properly ventilate a house.

Shawn Parker (27 Turkey Shore Road) suggested regionalizing calls in an effort to comply with OSHA regulations without hiring additional fulltime fire fighters. Chief Theriault stated that this would still require fire fighters to wait for a "fourth man" to arrive on scene before entering the building.

FY20 Budget Review: Police

Police Chief Paul Nikas appeared before the Board to discuss the Police Department's FY20 budget. The department's highlights of 2018 include formally training the School Resource Officer (SRO) and two sergeants in crisis intervention and de-escalation. Three additional officers will be trained next month. Additionally, a mental health counselor is currently on-call for the department for callers who may require an outreach counselor following the initial police intervention. Two officers are also now nationally recognized Drug Recognition Experts. Chief Nikas hopes to send two more officers to the month-long training and testing in Arizona.

In 2018, the department responded to 25,000 calls, which is up about 5% over the last five years. Chief Nikas attributes this rise to a societal shift in which residents call police for more than just law enforcement.

Regarding outreach, the SRO is currently running the D.A.R.E. program in the schools, and he, Chief Nikas, and Dr. Brian Blake (Superintendent of Schools) meet once a month to discuss school services. Chief Nikas also addressed the opioid crisis and its impact on Ipswich. He and other Essex County chiefs are using a database to track overdoses, which will notify him if an Ipswich resident overdoses in a neighboring town, allowing a recovery coach to reach out to the resident with available services.

Going forward, Chief Nikas would like to become an accredited department in the state of Massachusetts. Accreditation would open up the opportunity for more federal grants. Chief Nikas expressed doubt regarding the cost of body and cruiser cameras, stating that while the initial purchase of \$58,000 was covered by a state grant, a service contract must be purchased to store media recorded by the cameras. He acknowledged that they have worked well and protected Ipswich police on a few occasions, but when it comes time to replace them, the Town may want to further research their costs and benefits.

FY20 Budget Review: Emergency Management

Chief Nikas and Lieutenant Jonathan Hubbard (Emergency Management Director) appeared before the Board to discuss the Emergency Management Department's FY20 budget. The department provides first responder and CPR training to its volunteers, who assist police during weather emergencies that require emergency shelters to be opened and civic events such as Ipswich Illuminated. Lt. Hubbard also acts as a liaison with FEMA and MEMA and managements grants.

The department's goal this year is to complete a Hazard Mitigation Plan in cooperation with FEMA and MEMA. The plan has been sent to the agencies for approval, but was delayed due to the government shutdown.

Budget increases include a line to provide proper uniforms to emergency volunteers to allow for easier identification. Lt. Hubbard is also seeking to increase the supplies line by \$2,500 to provide Go Kits for the elementary school programs. Funding was previously sought through donations, but has not been secured in the last three years. When asked by Ms. Alexson, Lt. Hubbard stated that each kit costs about \$65 a piece.

FY20 Budget Review: Harbors

Chief Nikas appeared before the Board to discuss the Harbors FY20 budget. The Ipswich harbor currently has about 1,020 moorings, which is a maximum amount allowed without inhibiting a boater's ability to maneuver. Chief Nikas is working closely with the Conservation Commission to discourage residents from leaving small boats along the shoreline, as it kills the eelgrass. New buoy purchases are caught up, and the new buoys are expected to last about ten years. Solar-powered lights will be added to increase visibility.

Regarding wharf improvements, a new pedestrian walkway will be installed that will not affect parking. Chief Nikas was clear that there are no plans for a railing that may obstruct the view.

Gary Champion (3 Palomino Way) asked if fees collected at Town Wharf could be allocated for dredging. Chief Nikas agreed with the need to establish a fund for dredging. He recently spoke with the Army Corps of Engineers, and they will be coming to Ipswich in the next few months to analyze the Wharf. It has been suggested that instead of dumping the products of dredging out to sea, it could be used to build up the marshes. Previous observations have shown that Ipswich marshes are able to regenerate in less than a summer.

FY20 Budget Review: Shellfish

Chief Nikas and Shellfish Constable Scott LaPreste appeared before the Board to discuss the Shellfish FY20 budget. Last year, the Shellfish department managed a program that removed over 50,000 pounds of invasive green crab. Mr. LaPreste also assisted in the Massachusetts Oyster Project, collecting shellfish samples for the FDA.

The Shellfish department has received a \$12,500 grant from the state to continue trapping green crabs. The department will also continue working with the Department of Marine Fisheries on studies regarding the impact of global warming and temperature changes on the clam flats. According to Mr. LaPreste, he FY20 budget contains very minimal changes.

It was reported that the Town averages \$70,000 to \$80,000 in revenue from commercial and recreational shellfishing permit fees.

Ms. Alexson asked for clarification on the titling of some line items. "Other Purchased Services" for \$20,000 refers to the Town's portion of a state grant. "Turnout/Other Equipment" for \$500 each refers to various supply items such as gas cans, ropes, and bumpers. Mr. LaPreste stated that his truck and trailer are in good shape, and are not expected to need replacing anytime soon.

FY20 Budget Review: Civilian Dispatch

Chief Nikas discussed the Civilian Dispatch FY20 budget. The only major changes for FY20 will be dictated by collective bargaining agreement negotiations. The department received \$10,000 in training grants, and \$34,000 in equipment grants.

All 911 cell phone calls placed in Ipswich will be routed to the Ipswich Police, as opposed to an automatic connection to the regional dispatch center in Middleton.

FY20 Budget Review: Animal Control

Chief Nikas and Animal Control Officer Meghan Boissonneau appeared before the Board to present the FY20 Animal Control budget. In 2018, 108 cats and one dog were adopted through the Ipswich Humane Group, which boasts a 96% adoption rate. Officer Boissonneau also had the opportunity to train with the Seacoast Science Center, which allows data to be collected from living and deceased seals as opposed to waiting for a volunteer to arrive.

Going into 2019, the department will continue with state mandated training, and work with the Town to establish a dog park for the community.

Vote: Mr. Rauscher moved to approve the presented budgets with the proviso that they may be revisited at a later date in the budget cycle, and Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

One Day Wine and Malt Liquor Applications

1. Cuvilly Arts & Earth Center for a Celebration at Ascension Memorial Church on 2/15
2. Ipswich Music, Art & Drama Association for a Fundraising Art Show and Sale at Dorman Hall at Ascension Memorial Church on 4/6
3. TTOR Appleton Farms for Snowshoe for Beer at the Carriage Barn on 2/2
4. TTOR Appleton Farms for a Beer Tasting & Talk at the Carriage Barn on 2/8, 2/22, 3/8
5. Gregory Clarkson for North Shore Swing Dance at Ipswich Town Hall on 2/1

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and Mr. Rauscher seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

1. January 7, 2019
2. January 22, 2019

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to accept the minutes, and Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager Report

Mr. Marino reported that two full-time vacancies in the Fire Department were filled by call firefighters, Jack Bowen and Warren Grant III.

New Business

Mr. Whitmore reported that he attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association conference last Friday and Saturday and attended very informative sessions.

Old Business

None.

Miscellaneous and Correspondence

None.

Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to adjourn, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Select Board adjourned at 9:19pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
01.29.19*