

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Monday, March 25, 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, March 25, 2019 at 7:00pm in Meeting Room A.

With a quorum present, Mr. Mootafian called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

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

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

Not present: Edward Rauscher

Abbreviations used: FY20, Fiscal Year 2020; FY19, Fiscal Year 2019; OPEB, Other Post-Employment Benefits; FEMA, Federal Emergency Management Agency; MBTA, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority; FCC, Federal Communications Commission; ICAM, Ipswich Community Access Media

Public Information: Agenda; Meeting Packet

Welcome/Announcements

Citizen Queries

Phil Goguen (4 Kingfisher Road) asked what Bean Counting is. Mr. Mootafian stated that the Select Board, Finance Committee and School Committee will meet to make final decisions on the FY20 budget.

PUBLIC HEARING: Annual Town Meeting 2019 Warrant

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to open the Public Hearing, and Mr. Craft seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 19

Article 19, requested by Robin Hogan (80 Essex Road), would change the hearing authority for nuisance and dangerous dogs from the Select Board to the Chief of Police, interim Chief, or his or her designee(s). The proposing party was not present.

ARTICLE 20

Article 20, requested by Alvin Boynton (41 High Street), would allow for a reduction in density allowance for mixed use IR/RRA lots. The proposing party was not present.

ARTICLE 21

Article 21, requested by Alvin Boynton (41 High Street), would increase resident parking allotment from 1.5 to 2 spaces. The proposing party was not present. Mr. Whitmore wondered if this Article being brought forward was prompted by proposed development at Lord Square.

ARTICLE 22

Article 22, requested by Philip Goguen (4 Kingfisher Road), would conduct a non-binding poll taken at Town Meeting asking residents how they would feel about setting a maximum of three consecutive terms for elected Town officials. Town Moderator Tom Murphy noted that although the word “three” appears in the Article summary, it does not appear in the motion, and it would need to be noted in the motion. He will work with Mr. Goguen to amend the language.

ARTICLE 23

Article 23, requested by Philip Goguen (4 Kingfisher Road), would poll the Town to see how taxpayers would feel about a quarterly audit. Mr. Goguen stated that he believes a quarterly audit would be easy to conduct with the use of Open Gov. Mr. Craft asked if the quarterly audits would be conducted by inside or outside parties, and Mr. Goguen responded that he would like to see it done by Town officials. Mr. Whitmore asked how much time and money a quarterly audit would cost. Mr. Goguen was unsure. Mr. Marino noted that the Town currently conducts monthly reconciliations by department, overseen by himself and Finance Director Sarah Johnson.

ARTICLE 24

Article 24, requested by Philip Goguen (4 Kingfisher Road), would poll the Town to see how taxpayers feel about the adoption of inventory control software for the Town's regular use.

ARTICLE 1

Article 1, requested by the Select Board, would, in part, allow reports to be presented by the Government Study Committee at Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Murphy stated that he would be willing to allot time to the Committee to deliver a report if time allowed, with or without the Article. Craig Saline (Government Study Committee, Chair) suggested that the Board designate a specific, generic time for Committees to publicly present reports.

ARTICLE 15

Article 15, requested by the Government Study Committee, would update the Town Charter to more clearly define the role of the Select Board in Ipswich's municipal government. Gary Champion (Government Study Committee) expressed disappointment with an allotment of "if time allows" for the Committee to present. Mr. Murphy responded, "When I want advice on how to run a Town Meeting, I'll ask for it." Mr. Saline requested that the Committee be allotted 3-7 minutes for presentation. Mr. Murphy responded that they will "get what [they] get."

ARTICLE 17

Article 17, requested by the Government Study Committee, would update the Town bylaws by making all references to Board of Selectmen, Selectman, Town Manager, the Town Clerk and other town officers gender-neutral.

ARTICLE 1

Article 1, requested by Select Board, would ask the Town to vote on the Consent Calendar. Ms. Alexson requested discussion about the creation of a revolving fund for beach sticker revenue and the annual Crane Beach payments from the Trustees of Reservations. Mr. Marino stated that he and Ms. Johnson are currently working on language to properly propose the fund.

ARTICLE 2

Article 2, requested by the Select Board, would seek reappoint for a three-year term for eligible Finance Committee members.

ARTICLE 3

Article 3, requested by the Select Board, would vote into effect the FY20 Municipal budget.

ARTICLE 4

Article 4, requested by the School Committee, would vote into effect the FY20 School Department budget.

ARTICLE 5

Article 5, requested by Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Representative, would vote into effect a \$455,189 (greater or lesser) Town share for the operation and debt of Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School.

ARTICLE 6

Article 6, requested by the Select Board, would vote into effect a \$235,707 (greater or lesser) Town share for the operation and debt of Essex County Technical Institute.

ARTICLE 7

Article 7, requested by the School Committee, would transfer available funds from the FY19 school budget to the Education Stabilization Fund.

ARTICLE 8

Article 8, requested by the School Committee, would transfer available funds from the FY19 school budget to the Special Education Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE 9

Article 9, requested by the Select Board and School Committee, would transfer funds from the Capital Stabilization fund, Free Cash, the Overlay Surplus, the Fire Pumper Set-Aside, and the Waterways Fund – Harbor Capital to be appropriated in the sum of \$66,651 for various purposes.

ARTICLE 10

Article 10, requested by the Select Board as Water Commissioners, would appropriate \$5.5M to replace water mains from the area of the Utilities offices on High Street through Kimball Avenue.

ARTICLE 11

Article 11, requested by the Town Moderator, would change voting procedures at Town Meeting to allow for the implementation of keypad voting. Mr. Murphy stated that to buy keypads for the Town would cost \$21,000, and renting keypads would cost \$2,500 per meeting.

ARTICLE 12

Article 12, requested by the Animal Control Officer and Police Chief, would provide strict guidelines on when a dog becomes a nuisance and corrective action that may be taken. Megan Boissenneau (Animal Control Officer) explained that dogs will be considered a nuisance if they are continuously barking between 10:00pm and 7:00am the next morning, and in excess of 45 minutes between 7:01am and 9:59pm. “Continuous barking” in overnight hours will be determined by definition of a “reasonable person.” Ms. Alexson asked if there is a noise ordinance in Ipswich. Mr. Craft and Mr. Marino both responded that there is not.

ARTICLE 13

Article 13, requested by the Select Board, would transfer \$50,000 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund. Phil Goguen (4 Kingfisher Road) asked how much is in free cash. Mr. Marino responded that certified free cash is \$1,443,225.

ARTICLE 14

Article 14, requested by the Select Board, would raise and appropriate \$71,910 and transfer \$110,807 from Free Cash to the OPEB Trust Fund.

ARTICLE 16

Article 16, requested by the Select Board and Town Manager, would change Open Space Committee appointments from one year to three years and the appointing authority from the Moderator to the Town Manager. Ms. Alexson suggested that the Select Board appoint members instead of the Town Manager.

ARTICLE 18

Article 18, requested by the Planning Board, would authorize the Select Board to dispose of a parcel of land identified on Assessor’s Map 49, Lot 002. Hannah Wilbur (Open Space Manager) was present and explained that the property is a 1.6-acre, landlocked parcel that is mainly wetland. The original landowner had planned to donate the parcel to the State to become part of Willowdale State Forest, but it was seized by tax title. The Town now seeks to donate the land to the State.

Vote: Mr. Craft moved to close the Public Hearing, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ipswich Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019 Update

Lt. Jonathan Hubbard appeared before the Board to discuss the Hazard Mitigation plan he has been spearheading. The plan has been reviewed by FEMA and, pending Select Board approval, it will be adopted by FEMA. Lt. Hubbard provided a document for the Select Board to sign.

Keri MacRae (31 Heartbreak Road) noted that a drainage study has not been conducted on County Road and Heartbreak Road, and is needed.

Vote: Mr. Craft moved to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Wine & Malt – Ipswich Ale Brewery, 4th Annual Ipswich Ale Half Marathon at 310 Argilla Road, Crane Beach resident lot on Saturday, 4/27

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

Approval of Minutes

March 18, 2019

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

Town Manager Report

None.

New Business

Ms. Alexson noted that Tobin Bridge construction will begin on April 1, 2019, and the MBTA plans to raise fares by 6% on July 1. She suggested the Board consider restricting the Ipswich commuter lot temporarily to residents only and adopting parking restrictions on surrounding streets. The proposed restrictions would begin July 1, 2019, to allow for a public hearing. Mr. Mootafian stated that he would put it on the agenda.

Ms. Alexson shared that the public safety facility feasibility study is underway and expected to be completed by late July or early August. The architect has toured both departments and is meeting with public safety personnel to conduct a space needs assessment. The committee is discussing possible sites and will meet tomorrow night at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Whitmore shared that the Community Development Plan Steering Committee met with a contracted vendor for plan development last week, and discussions took place regarding the best way to meet with community members and hold public meetings regarding the plan development.

Mr. Marino sought a Select Board vote to refer Articles 20 and 21 for Planning Board review.

Vote: Mr. Craft moved to refer Articles 20 and 21 to the Planning Board for review, and Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Ms. Alexson told the Board that Ethan Parsons (Senior Planner) has looked into a community compact with the State and learned that Ipswich entered into one in 2015 for long-range planning that may now be expiring or up for renewal. Community compacts deal with the State's best practices. The Board had no opposition to Mr. Parsons researching a community compact for a housing production plan.

Greg Saline (Government Study Committee) asked the Board if they were aware of new FCC regulations that may impact ICAM. Mr. Marino stated that the Town has already sent a letter stating its opposition to the proposed regulations and is now waiting to see what will happen at the federal level.

Miscellaneous and Correspondence

None.

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

The Select Board adjourned at 9:17pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
03.26.19*