

TOWN OF IPSWICH | MASSACHUSETTS
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, September 15, 2022 06:30 PM
Ipswich Town Hall, Meeting Room A, 25 Green Street

Pursuant to Open Meeting Law M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, a written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Select Board was held on Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:30 PM at Town Hall, 25 Green Street.

Board Members present: William Whitmore, Chair, Tammy Jones, Linda Alexson, Kerry Mackin, Sarah Player. Also present: Mary Gallivan, Interim Town Manager

Motion for Executive Session (M.G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a))

Linda Alexson moved to convene in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A, section 21(a), for the following purposes, and to return to open session at 7:00 PM:

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position relating to town manager contract.

Kerry Mackin seconded. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

The Select Board returned to open session at approximately 7:20 PM.

Welcome/Announcements

Dr. Tammy Jones shared that she will be stepping down from the Select Board as of October 26, 2022.

Ms. Alexson extended her deepest sympathy to the family and friends of former Select Board member Bill George.

Citizen Queries

Phil Goguen (4 Kingfisher Road) Many new residents are moving to Ipswich. Suggests a program to invite them to meetings and to encourage involvement. Asks how the town can have meetings and warrants before having an audit report?

Mr. Whitmore stated that audits are done annually.

Town Moderator "Town Meeting 101"

Tom Murphy, the town moderator, was present to discuss "town meeting 101".

Mr. Murphy shared a few points:

- Town Meeting has 3 functions: where money is spent, passing by-laws and forming town committees.

- There are 2 types of town meetings: Annual and Special.
- Every vote requires 2 people in support.
- Amendments should always be in writing and go to the moderator.
- The Scope Analysis or 4 corners rule is: “No action shall be valid unless the subject matter thereof, is contained in the warrant.”
- Quantum of votes procedural matters: Set up by by-laws and sometimes by the moderator.
- Debate is never to be directed to any person, other than the chair and is limited to 3 minutes per person.
- Quorum: the minimum number of members of an assembly that must be present at any meeting to make the proceedings valid. If no quorum: the meeting can only adjourn and would have to come back another night.
- Town meeting has 4 indispensable items. Warrant: written by the Select Board, posted by the constable, and the return of service to the moderator. Clerk: someone to keep the records. Moderator: the presiding officer that provides public declaration.

ARPA Funds Discussion

Ms. Player shared a drafted, working document to help discuss, assess and prioritize applications.

Major uses already approved by ARPA include:

- Public health
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Tourism
- Travel
- Hospitality

Ms. Player stated that it is important to think about what the future financial impact would be when prioritizing project applications. Samples of discussion include, public benefits, community impact, and alignment with town priorities. It is beneficial to prevent the town from spending money on a project if it can be covered by a separate grant.

Discussion on School Project Timeline

A professional facilitator was hired to help lead listening sessions and to guide the discussion.

The second set of listening sessions are scheduled for 09/27/2022 with hopes that a member from the Select Board and Finance Board be present. Currently in the process of scheduling a listening session and creating a survey limited to school employees.

The goal is to submit an SOI to MSBA in the Spring of 2023.

An education campaign will be launched this fall to inform new residents of the project and to clarify misinformation.

There has been great interest in utilizing geothermal heat pumps and solar energy. This will be considered and discussed at the School Boards next meeting.

Discussion of Need for Potential Town Budget Override

Mr. Whitmore states that with support of other boards, believes it would be best to collaborate with the finance committee before moving forward.

Ms. Alexson shared concerns about timing. With the school project, and rising utility costs, is this needed?

Ms. Player stated that it would be beneficial to restart the Strategic Planning Group to move things forward in a reasonable timeframe.

Update on Town Manager Hiring

An offer was made to Mr. Stephen Crane and negotiations are still in process.

Approval of Minutes

- a. August 23, 2022
- b. August 24, 2022
 - Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to approve, and Ms. Player seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None.

Adjourn

Ms. Alexson moved to adjourn at 9:21 pm and Dr. Jones seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted Respectfully by Ashley M. Boudreau 09/26/2022