

**IPSWICH SELECT BOARD**  
**Meeting of Monday, September 19, 2022**  
**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, September 19, 2022, at 7:00 PM in Meeting Room A.

Board Members present: Sarah Player, Linda Alexson, Dr. Tammy Jones, and Kerry Mackin.

Also present: Mary Gallivan, Interim Town Manager and Ashley Boudreau, Recording Secretary.

Ms. Player called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Welcome and Announcements**

Reminder: The next round of listening sessions for questions regarding the elementary school buildings will be held on September 27, 2022 from 4:00 pm-5:30 pm and 7:00 pm-8:30 pm at Town Hall.

The Eastern Essex Veterans Board is meeting on September 21, 2022 at 6:30pm at Town Hall in the Veterans office.

The dedication of the High Street Bridge is scheduled for October 15, 2022 at 10:00 am at Town Hall.

The Shellfish Sub Committee is meeting on October 4, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Ipswich Illumination is scheduled for October 15, 2022.

The Department of Health and One Stop collected 11,000 syringes off of the street and gave out 150 covid tests.

Free covid tests are available for citizens in need at the Town Treasurer's office, Town Manager's office, the library, the police department and firehouse.

The Water and Wastewater Subcommittee meets September 29, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

The Public Safety Re-Use Working Group meets September 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

**Citizen Queries**

William Catto (Willowdale Cir) resides at a (8) single home development and would like to see if the town can take over trash and recycling pickup. Inquiring on where to begin the process.

Dr. Jones informed him that he should speak with Rick Clark at the DPW.

Brian Hone (29 Upper River Road) wanted to thank the Select Board for their support of the Water Department sewer emergency.

Mike Dougherty (10 Appleton Park) Looking for an update on the status of the Finance Director job posting.

Ms. Player stated that the job description has been discussed and is still in process.

**PUBLIC HEARING: Application for Transfer of On Premise Liquor License for Ithaki, 25 Hammatt Street**

- **Vote:** Ms. Alexson moved to open the public hearing and Ms. Mackin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jake DiSilva of BirchWood Restaurant Group was in attendance and explained that everything in the license from the previous owner would remain the same.

Ms. Alexson moved to close the public hearing and Dr. Jones seconded.

- **Vote:** Dr. Jones moved to approve the transfer of the on premise liquor license from Ithaki Inc. to Birchwood Restaurant Group LLC., contingent on all taxes, utilities and monies owed to town paid prior to transfer. Ms. Alexson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING: Application for Transfer of Off Premise Liquor License for Richdale Superette, 44 Market Street.**

- **Vote:** Ms. Alexson moved to open the public hearing and Dr. Jones seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Avani Patel of Shivbhav, Inc and Attorney John Mooradian were in attendance and shared that Avani's late husband was Rajesh Patel, the owner of Bhavi Food Mart Inc.

- **Vote:** Dr. Jones moved to approve the transfer of the off premise liquor license from Bhavi Food Mart Inc. to Shivbhav, Inc., Ms. Alexson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING: STM Warrant**

- **Vote:** Ms. Alexson moved to open the public hearing and Dr. Jones seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim Engel (362 Linebrook Road) Feels the process is flawed. He would like to see separate warrant articles from the consent agenda. Stated that the amount of money involved in the consent agenda is too much money to be in one article and that the \$200,000 from the Town Manager account should be placed elsewhere.

Mike Dougherty (10 Appleton Park) Feels that adding the zoning articles and the money related accounts to the Consent Agenda is setting a precedent and that each item should be heard individually as its own article.

Brian Hone (29 Upper River Road) Feels that because of past experience, combining these items into one article may be controversial and that separate articles would be a better option.

Ms. Alexson stated that the consent agenda should be eliminated and the items should be their own warrant article.

- **Vote:** Ms. Alexson moved to take all items out of Article One and be placed into their own articles. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Vote:** Ms. Alexson moved to close the public hearing and Dr. Jones seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Review STM Warrant Articles & Vote Recommendations**

1. To amend the FY2023 Municipal Budget approved under Article 3 of the May 10, 2022, Annual Town Meeting by raising and appropriating the additional sum of \$360,533 to the FY23 Management Transfer account or take any other action relative thereto.

Ms. Alexson feels that this is too much money and suggested that \$50,000 be placed in the Management Transfer Account and the remainder to free cash.

Dr. Jones would like to accept the money and then make an adjustment on the floor at town meeting as to where the money is placed.

- *Vote:* Ms. Alexson moved to amend the article to state FY2023 Municipal Budget approved under Article 3 of the May 10, 2022, Annual Town Meeting by raising and appropriating the additional sum of \$50,000 to the FY23 Management Transfer Account and the remainder of \$310,533 to free cash and Dr. Jones seconded. 4-0 in favor.
2. To see if the Town will vote to amend the FY2023 School Budget approved under Article 4 of the May 10, 2022, Annual Town Meeting by raising and appropriating the additional sum of \$574,945 or take any action relative thereto.

Ms. Alexson shared that this is a lot of money and has concerns on who approves where the money goes.

Dr. Jones stated that the School Committee is who decides on where the money is used. This sum of money is not exorbitant and is in alignment of what surrounding towns are granted.

- *Vote:* Dr. Jones moved to approve and reach out to the school committee with questions and Ms. Player seconded. 3-1 in favor.
3. To amend the action taken under Article 6 of the May 10, 2022 Annual Town Meeting by increasing the budget appropriated for the 2023 annual operating and debt service expenses of the Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District from \$335,000 to \$348,256, or take any action relative thereto.
- *Vote:* Dr. Jones moved to approve and Ms. Alexson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. To amend the action taken under Article 5 of the May 10, 2022 Annual Town Meeting by reducing the budget appropriated for the 2023 annual operating the debt service expenses of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School from \$590,000 to \$476,233, or take any action relative thereto.

- *Vote:* Dr. Jones moved to approve and Ms. Alexson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Amend the bylaw to replace “Board of Selectmen” with “Select Board”.

- *Vote:* Dr. Jones moved to approve and Ms. Alexson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Authorize Select Board to Enter into Wireless Communications Lease

- *Vote:* Ms. Alexson moved to approve and Dr. Jones seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Authorize Revolving Fund for Conservation Off-Site Mitigation Payment

Ms. Alexson shared concerns about the necessity of the fund. If the payment due to the town is for \$17,000 why is \$25,000 being requested?

Ethan Parsons responded by stating that this situation is unique and the account is necessary, as to not bypass any financial rules. The \$25,000 will act as a buffer if needed.

- *Vote:* Dr. Jones moved to recommend and Ms. Mackin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Amend Zoning Bylaws – Amendments to Use-Related Regulations

- *Vote:* Dr. Jones moved to support and Ms. Alexson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Amend Zoning Bylaws – Amendments to Density and Dimensional-Related Regulations

- *Vote:* Dr. Jones moved to support and Ms. Alexson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Annual Town Meeting Date - Amend General Bylaws –Chapter 25 Town Meeting – 25-2 Annual Town Meeting

- *Vote:* Ms. Alexson moved to recommend approval and Dr. Jones seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Select Board Review of Personnel Contracts - Section 11. Town Manager

- *Vote:* Ms. Alexson moved to recommend approval and Dr. Jones seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

12. An Act to Amend the Town Charter Related to Town Manager Supervision of Ipswich Electric Light Department

Dr. Jones stated that this change will make the Electric Light Department parallel to every other department in town, provide checks and balances and create structure.

Ms. Alexson had concerns about the language of the article. Suggested to add such employment contracts shall be subject to the policy of and with approval by the Select Board.

Dr. Jones stated that it must be written this way, as to not violate Municipal Light Department laws.

Jim Engel (362 Linebrook Road) Stated that this is the first time that the Select Board has moved to reduce their powers and finds it very unusual.

Dr. Jones responded by stating that this change will provide formalized structure, supervision and oversight to the ELD.

- *Vote:* Dr. Jones moved to support and Ms. Player seconded. 3-1 in favor.
- *Vote:* Dr. Jones moved to close the public hearing and Ms. Alexson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**County Street Bridge Update – R. Clarke**

Bob Parsons (Tetra tech) and Rick Clarke were in attendance and shared some updates on the County Street Bridge project.

MA DOT issued a notice to the town indicating the County Street Bridge has structural deficiencies and recommended that the town repost the bridge with a load rating of 15 tons. The entirety will include repair of the bridge, water main and sidewalks.

MA DOT suggested either shutting the bridge down entirely, or deferring traffic. Posted signs and jersey barriers to help with traffic will be provided by the state.

Beginning October 1, 2022, this will be a one way bridge. There will be a 6 ft space for pedestrians only and a new crosswalk.

### **Electric Light Department Power Cost Forecast**

Jon Blair (Electric Light Department) was in attendance to share some insight regarding power costs.

The \$12 million budget for this year will not suffice as power costs are continuing to rise. An increase of 40% is expected this Winter and should drop Summer 2023.

Mr. Blair encourages customers to look at other ways to help conserve by reducing peak demand, checking for drafts in your home or scheduling a free resource audit.

For customers facing financial hardship, reasonable payment plans will be available.

### **Discussion of Town Election**

Discussion of Town Election will be delayed until dates are set.

### **Consent Agenda**

a. One Day Wine and Malt License Application(s)-

i. Bea Tiberii for Monarch and Rose Foods for Private Event on October 1, 2022 and Ipswich Illumination on October 14, 2022 at 1 N. Main Street.

b. One Day All Alcohol License Application(s) –

i. Andrew Skillman for Ipswich Masonic Temple, 70 Topsfield R. for a Party on September 24, 2022.

- Vote: Dr. Jones moved to approve the consent agenda, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

a. August 29, 2022

Ms. Alexson stated that she would like to defer minutes approval to a future meeting.

### **Select Board Member Sub Committee Update**

Affordable Housing Trust met on 9/15/22 to discuss how to support the needs of citizens, and review all of the programs that they support.

The ELD Subcommittee met on 09/14/2022 to discuss rising power costs.

The Public Safety Facility Committee is currently working with OPM and architects. The next meeting is to be determined.

### **New Business**

Currently working on finalizing the new Town Manager Contract.

Dr. Jones shared that she is stepping down from the Select Board. Her last day will be October 26, 2022.

### **Old Business**

None.

**Miscellaneous and Correspondence**

- *Vote:* Dr. Jones moved to adjourn and Ms. Alexson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

*Submitted Respectfully by Ashley M. Boudreau 09/05/2022*