

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Monday, October 3, 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, October 3, 2022, at 7:00 PM in Meeting Room A.

Board Members present: William Whitmore, Chair, Sarah Player, Vice Chair, Linda Alexson, and Dr. Tammy Jones.

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

Not present: Kerry Mackin

Mr. Whitmore called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Welcome/Announcements

Mr. Whitmore shared that Linda Grimes had donated \$500 for the Ipswich Police Department in memory of her father, William George.

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

Shred Day at Town Hall is October 19, 2022 from 10 am-2 pm.

The Town Manager contract has been finalized. The start date for Mr. Stephen Crane will be November 1, 2022.

Reminder: Ipswich Elementary School Building listening sessions are from 4:00 pm-5:30 pm and 7:00 pm-8:30 pm.

The dedication of the High Street Bridge to the Global War on Terror will be October 15, 2022 at 10:00 am in the town hall gym.

Shellfish Subcommittee meets October 4, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Congratulations to Gordon's Greenhouse and Florist for celebrating 100 years in business.

Kudos to the St. Lawrence Society for the Polish picnic last week.

Ipswich Illumination is scheduled for October 14, 2022 - October 16, 2022.

Town Hall is closed October 10, 2022 for Indigenous Persons Day.

Citizen Queries

Christine Hezzey (18 Green Street #7) Understands why the County Street bridge is closed. Doesn't understand the direction of traffic and anticipates this going 2+ years. Feels the traffic pattern should be reversed as she has witnessed having to go over 2 or 3 lanes of traffic. Reached out to DPW with no response.

Mr. Whitmore stated to please email the select board and he will reach out to DPW on her behalf.

Boards and Committees

a. John D. Greene, Confirmation Historical Commission Alternate

- *Vote:* Dr. Jones moved to confirm the town manager's appointment of Mr. Greene as alternate and Ms. Player seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Ken Savoie, Reappointment Design Review Board

Mr. Whitmore stated he would like to collect more information. The Select Board agreed to defer.

Ms. Alexson announced that the Public Safety Property Reuse Working Group has an opening for a citizen-at-large member, and the Shellfish Subcommittee has an opening for a commercial permit holder.

Ms. Player announced that the Electric Light Subcommittee has an opening for a member.

Minutes Approval

a. September 6, 2022

- *Vote:* Ms. Alexson moved to accept the minutes pending edits and Mr. Whitmore seconded. Motion passed 3-0 with Ms. Player abstaining.

b. September 15, 2022

Deferred pending edits.

c. September 22, 2022

- *Vote:* Ms. Alexson moved to approve open session minutes and Ms. Player seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: Winter Water Rate Hearing

Mr. Whitmore read the legal notice.

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

Vicki Halmen, Water and Wastewater Director was present to share an update on winter water rates.

Residential customer rates are adjusted 2 x each year in May and October. The summer rate is set at 1.5 x base rate ($\$13.62/100 \text{ cu. ft.} * 1.5 = \$20.43/100 \text{ cu. ft.}$) and the Winter rate is adjusted based on revenue collected in summer to meet revenue targets.

2022 recommendation is to extend Summer rate through November 1, due to severe drought conditions.

Demand variability factors are assessed each winter to ensure revenue targets are met.

The Water and Wastewater Subcommittee reviewed this data at the 9/29/22 meeting.

The subcommittee unanimously recommended the winter rate of \$5.59 (6% variability factor) for residential customers and a rate of \$13.76 for commercial and municipal customers from 11/1 - 4/30.

Mr. Whitmore stated that the usages are estimates based on prior years fixed numbers and are helpful to meet the budget at the end of the year.

Dr. Jones stated that this 6% creates fairness and equality for both residential and commercial customers.

Ms. Alexson shared that if the 6% goes into effect, the customer may not realize the money saving benefits.

Ms. Player stated that these are only averages to capture a variability factor. This allows more transparency to show residents that we are neutral.

The next hearing is scheduled for 10/24/22.

Mr. Whitmore would like to provide a potential rate change notice to customers until a final decision is made.

Downtown Parking Discussion

Ethan Parsons, Planning Director presented to discuss downtown parking.

Observations downtown in 2018/2019 showed a lack of parking at the commuter rail lot with parking spilling over to the surrounding neighborhoods. Observations in 2022 show the parking issue has lessened due to COVID.

Mr. Whitmore asked if people parking overnight are due to working or for additional parking for neighborhood residents. Mr. Parsons responded that he believes it is a mix of both.

August 2022 Chief Nikas suggested a consistent and fair time limit for parking with a 2-3 hour limit until 8 pm during the week and no limit on weekends.

Mr. Whitmore shared that he has concerns on people taking advantage and abusing the parking situation. Believes overnight parking should have designated spots.

Ms. Alexson shared Mr. Whitmore's concerns and stated that she would like to see consistency of parking limits throughout the town.

Dr. Jones believes universal signage for downtown and updating EBSCO signage to reflect changes is important.

Mr. Parsons shared that because the Hammatt St. lot is dimly lit, it can turn people away in the evenings.

Ms. Player was curious about the lighting costs for the Hammatt St. lot and asked Mr. Parsons to look into it.

Consent Agenda

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

- i. Trudi Perry for Alfalfa Farm Winery for Marini Farm Wine Your Way out of the Maze on October 9, 2022.
- ii. Jake Rogers for True North Ale Co. for Illumination at Take Out Terrace, Union Street parking lot on October 15, 2022.
- iii. James Dorau for Ipswich Ale Brewery for Illumination at 25 Green Street on October 15, 2022.

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

- i. Andrew Skillman for Ipswich Masonic Temple for a Comedy Show at 70 Topsfield Road on October 15, 2022.

c. Auction License Application(s) –

- i. Kaminiski Auctions for Two Day Auction License at 55 Waldingfield Road, October 8 & 9, 2022.

d. Street and Sidewalk Blocking Application(s) -

- i. Partial Sidewalk Blocking application from ANFM Realty LLC at 11-15 Market Street from October 4, 2022 until September 2023 weather permitting to add new storefront opening and add front on second floor.

ii. Total Sidewalk Blocking application from Shawn Curran to paint at 1 North Main Street from October 4 to October 7, 2022.

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

Select Board Member Sub Committee Update

Property Re-Use Working Group met on 09/27/22. The statement of interest form for interested parties who might be interested in a project for either of the buildings has gone out. There was discussion on how town departments may express interest to utilize the space and it would be a good discussion to have with the new town manager.

The Ipswich Partnership and Harvard School of Design study has begun. There are many components to this program, including reuse of the police and fire stations. Gordon Harris and Ms. Alexson and several others from the town met with the course professor to share what is important to the town. This will be a 1 semester course and expect the presentation to be held early 2023.

The Select Board would like to have representatives from Ipswich Partnership to attend a future meeting.

The Eastern Essex Veterans board met 9/21/22. Rich Barbato joined for an update on the High Street Bridge Dedication. Learned that there are approximately 30k veterans in Essex County. West Newbury is beginning the process to petition the state to increase disabled veterans tax exemption.

Water and Wastewater met last week to discuss water rates and block rates.

Public Safety Facility Committee - Architects and OPM are continuing work and discussion on how to stay within budget.

New Business

None.

Old Business

Linda Grimes (Daughter of William George) donated \$500 to the Police Department. The donation will be placed into a gift account to be used for PPE safety equipment or to enhance operations of the community outreach program.

Mr. Whitmore had a phone call with the town moderator. There was discussion about the ability to adjust and amend articles at town meeting. He shared concerns with Warrant Article 1

regarding State Aid. There was a previous motion to approve \$50k to the management transfer account and the remainder to free cash. Due to state review, the Select Board cannot put the money into free cash and instead may be locked into a reserve account for when the Finance Committee decides to use it. At the end of the fiscal year, if funds are not used, they will automatically flow into free cash.

Ms. Alexson stated she had previously raised concerns because she would like to see funds for specific departments or projects go through the normal budgeting process.

Mr. Whitmore shared concerns regarding the town meeting date article - which stated that the meeting must occur before May 15. Mr. Whitmore explained that the board is able to amend the dates and suggested that it read from May 1 to May 15.

Miscellaneous and Correspondence

None.

Adjourn

- Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to adjourn at 8:23 PM and Ms. Player seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted respectfully by Ashley M. Boudreau on 10/03/2022.