

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2022 @ 7PM**

In attendance: Chairman Dan Burns, Vice Chair Andrew Deslaurier (Remote), Selectman Mike Rosa, Selectman John Burrows, Selectwoman Kim Conway, Town Manager John Curran, Asst Town Manager Clancy Main

Open Microphone

Christina O'Shea calling to ask for specific details as to where the COVID money went? She wants the details of the money and where it went made public fairly soon. Mr. Curran says that is not in the budget and it will be addressed.

Doreen Healey thanking John Curran about speaking with her. She also had great conversations with Select Board personnel about local playgrounds.

Announcements (see attached)

Chairman Burns asks for a moment of silence for the people of Ukraine.

New Business

One day special license for beer and wine for Kim Conway, March 18, 2022 @ Middlesex Canal Museum 71 Faulkner St N. Billerica, MA from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Selectwoman Conway removed herself from the room while this discussion took place therefore not voting either.

John Morris restating to the board the above information.

Secretary Rosa makes a motion the Select Board grant a license for one day beer and wine for Kim Conway, March 18, 2022 @ Middlesex Canal Museum 71 Faulkner St N. Billerica, MA from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE.

Roll call vote (4-0)

Selectwoman Conway returned to the meeting.

Old Business

Town Managers Report (see attached)

Marijuana Grow/Manufacturing (Parcel ID 48-30-1)

Selectwoman Conway recommends selling this property. She is in favor of a warrant article. This land isn't very appealing to anyone. Not a lot of usage. Mr. Curran says the parcel next to this one is owned by the town with no intentions of selling. Selectwoman Conway is looking to build affordable housing.

Secretary Rosa wants more information of this. He is generally against selling Billerica property. He isn't sure selling is the way to go. This property could be used for wetland replication if needed. He'd like to see more information. Mr. Curran said this parcel is 2.3 acres. That site has been stripped. As a wetland it doesn't have a lot of value.

Vice Chair Deslaurier thinks we should look at this. The sale of this parcel could drive up revenue.

Selectman Burrows says this is a boom to Billerica creating tremendous revenue. Chairman Burns is happy about this and describes the parcel and its location.

Personnel Update

Selectman Rosa says good news on Veterans Director and Planning and Community Development.

Chairman Burns hoping these new hires will be around for a long time. Selectman Burrows asks about the Community Development Director and her strengths. Mr. Curran states that she looks a lot at the census and reaching out to businesses in the community.

PHR

Selectwoman Conway is glad construction company started early. What does this mean? Mr. Curran says cost per sq ft this project came in high. He said this entire project is under which is a miracle. Selectwoman Conway is wondering why snack shack was not included in original bid. Mr. Curran says companies who build fields usually do not build buildings.

Chairman Burns happy this has started early. Mr. Curran says this will be done ahead of schedule.

Vice Chair Deslaurier glad we are getting ahead on this.

Howe School

Chairman Burns would like to tour the Howe.

COVID 19 Update

Selectwoman Conway says these numbers are great.

Selectman Rosa says good news on this. He asks Mr. Curran if he'll do anymore clinics. Mr. Curran said yes. Probably a booster clinic. Selectman Rosa asked if someone came in and wanted a shot or shots because they didn't have any originally could the town comply? Mr. Curran said yes.

Selectman Burrows glad numbers are coming down.

Vice Chair Deslaurier says we still have population that is still unprotected. He comments Mr. Curran has been very impactful on turning the numbers down. Mr. Curran would like to do a youth and booster clinic.

Chairman Burns stated that the numbers are great and moving in the right direction.

Code of Conduct Discussion and Vote (see attached)

Selectwoman Conway hasn't changed anything. She is bringing it back for reconsideration. Selectman Burrows comments that he will support this. Selectman Rosa says he originally voted against this. He has some suggestions to make, under section B it talks about conduct in relation to other elected officials. He thinks town counsel mentioned this could not be imposed on any other elected boards. Selectwoman Conway says this comes directly from town counsel.

They (Selectman Rosa and Selectwoman Conway) discussed multiple issues that Selectman Rosa had issues with. One reason he voted against this last time is that he thinks there are enough safeguards in place. He read off numerous laws that are already on the books in Billerica.

Vice Chair Deslaurier voted for this previously and will vote for it again. He thinks they should vote for this tonight.

Chairman Burns comments to look under section 3, he thinks its negative and would like it more positive. Selectwoman Conway doesn't want to change any wording. This has been talked about for 9 months. Let's vote on it as is. She wants to take a first vote tonight.

Selectman Burrows says this is a friendly reminder that the board needs this. Selectman Rosa has a question about a paragraph talking about conflicting behaviors this is negative.

Selectman Burrows makes a motion the Select Board accept the Code of Conduct as written. Vice Chair Deslaurier seconded. Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-No, Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-NO

Roll call vote (3-2)

Discussion and Vote on Final Budget

Mr. Curran talks about budget and the process.

Selectwoman Conway asks about the increase in solid waste. Tonage has gone up because people are home according to Mr. Curran. It will be interesting next year as people get back to work what the numbers will be. Selectwoman Conway asks about the reduction in Veterans Services. Why is there a reduction? Mr. Curran doesn't know how aware Veterans are about the services available to them. Will have new Veteran's Director get the information out to them.

Vice Chair Deslaurier says we need to keep investing in our infrastructure. There are limited affordable housing for residents, we need to be focused on that and help the residents. He thanks Mr. Curran for his efforts with the budget.

Selectman Rosa thanks everyone for meeting with him and answering his questions. What are the factors that rose the school dept budget? Special Ed and contracts according to Mr. Curran. Selectman Rosa touched on many topics and questioned Mr. Curran. All positive comments. Money for roadwork is a step in the right direction. When marijuana money becomes available Selectman Rosa wants that apportioned money to go into the roads. Mr. Curran stated that they have committed at least \$500,000. We can look at adding more in the future. Selectman Rosa stated that we have accepted a lot of roads and has that been adjusted for our Chapter 90 funding. Mr. Curran replied yes, we need to follow up with the State. Selectman Rosa stated that if that parcel is sold for marijuana use, could a comparison be done on marijuana uses vs. Industrial use. Mr. Curran stated that it would most likely be a contractor's yard, but he can do the comparison.

Selectman Burrows asked if COVID money was in the budget, and it is not. Public Information Officer will make sure depts have their input online. Selectman Burrows asks how the school budget could go up when enrollment and maintenance is down? Why is the school dept still in town hall? Mr. Curran says its positive about having them in the same building. He thanks Mr. Curran for his work on the budget.

Chairman Burns thanks everyone for their efforts on the budget. He hopes Veterans take advantage of what it available to them. He's glad we are getting an HR person. COA definitely needs more help. He'd like to get a project or 2 for housing going every year. He says Mr. Curran can take a lot of pride in excess levy. He'd like to put money aside for Billerica Youth Advisory Committee. Probably \$500. for expenditures.

Mr. Curran thanks Clancy Main and Paul Watson along with department heads for their contributions to the budget process. The budget book tells a story about the Town of Billerica.

Secretary Rosa makes a motion the Select Board approve the FY 2023 Town budget less the Billerica Police Department for a total of \$162,988,735. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE.

Roll call vote (5-0)

Secretary Rosa makes a motion the Select Board approve the FY 2023 Billerica Police Department budget for a total of \$9,253,292. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectwoman Conway-abstain, Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa- AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE.

Roll call vote (4-0-1 abstention)

Secretary Rosa makes a motion the Select Board approve the FY 2023 Water Enterprise Fund for a total \$7,315,982. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE.

Roll call vote (5-0)

Secretary Rosa makes a motion the Select Board approve the FY 2023 Wastewater Fund for a total of \$9,016,825. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Kent Scholarship Award

Chairman Burns puts this on the March 21 agenda to find out the amount of money available. Selectwoman Conway says the scholarship committee needs to know by March 1 how much money is available. There will be a 50/50 split between Shawsheen Valley Tech and Billerica High School.

Secretary Rosa stated that we usually check to see the funds available and then let the two schools know how many scholarships we will be issuing.

Secretary Rosa makes a motion the Select Board do 8 Kent Scholarship Awards for \$1,000 each contingent upon the money being available from the Town Treasurer John Clark with a 50/50 split between Shawsheen Valley Tech and Billerica High School. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa- AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Meeting Schedule

March 7 (work session) and March 21

Secretary Rosa makes a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Vice Chair Deslaurier. Selectwoman Conway-AYE, Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Rosa-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Approved On: June 6, 2022