



Select Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Time: 7:15PM

Location: Members of the public may access the hybrid meeting via the Select Board Chambers, Zoom, or ACMI

Present: Mr. Helmuth, Chair, Mr. Hurd, Vice Chair, Mrs. Mahon, Mr. DeCoursey, Mr. Diggins

Also Present: Mr. Feeney, Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Maher

1. Legislative Provision for Remote Participation

Mr. Helmuth opened the meeting by stating that tonight's meeting is being conducted via Zoom, is being recorded and is also being simultaneously broadcasted on ACMI. Because all members are present, votes will be taken by voice unless a roll call is required. Persons wishing to join the meeting by Zoom may find information on how to do so on the Town's website. Persons participating by Zoom are reminded that they may be visible to others and then if you wish to participate, you are asked to provide your full name in the interest of developing a record of the meeting. Further, all participants are advised that people may be listening who do not provide comment, and those persons are not required to identify themselves. Finally, both Zoom participants and people watching on ACMI can follow the posted agenda materials, also found on the Town's website using the Novus agenda platform.

A moment of Silence for Corinne Rainville, who tragically lost her life in a house fire in Vermont was taken. Ms. Rainville was the Town Clerk for Arlington for 16 years. On behalf of the Board and the Town Mr. Helmuth expressed his deepest condolences to her family during this difficult time.

2. Approval of Sale of \$200,000 Sewer Bond dated March 4, 2024, to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority for Inflow and Infiltration Local Financial Assistance Program; and Approval of Sale dated March 11, 2024, of \$2,600,000 Water Bond to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority for Local Water System Assistance Program

Alex Magee, Deputy Town Manager / Finance Director

Mr. Magee appeared before the Board and stated that they are seeking approval for the sale of bonds that have been authorized by Town Meeting. The bonds are for \$200,000

for sewer work and \$2.6 million for water work. The water project is to replace the water main along Pleasant Street. Mr. Magee noted that this is an MWRA subsidized loan which notes that this is a 0% interest loan.

Mrs. Mahon moved to approval.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. DeCoursey: yes

Mrs. Mahon: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes

SO

VOTED (4-0)

FOR APPROVAL

3. Celebrating Arlington Stories Banners

Cecily Miller, Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Ms. Miller noted that the Arts Commission has supported a banner project in Arlington Center for the past several years. This year the public school system decided that they were going to take a year off from participating in the event. Ms. Miller noted that before the Board is a new proposal which involves three artists exploring and celebrating diverse Arlington stories. The Arlington Banner Project lays the groundwork for future outreach/community engagement initiatives encouraging ongoing community conversations and story sharing. These banners will be displayed along Mass Ave from April 1 – May 31, 2024.

Mrs. Mahon moved to approval.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. DeCoursey: yes

Mrs. Mahon: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes

SO

VOTED (4-0)

CONSENT AGENDA

4. 2024 Farmers' Market

Johanna Niles & Patsy Kraemer, Market Managers

5. Acceptance of Funds From Various Entities

Colleen Leger, Director of Health and Human Services

6. Request: Special (One Day) Beer & Wine License, 03/09/2024 @ Robbins Library Reading Room for Private Event
Lizzi Weyant

Mr. DeCoursey moved to approval.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. DeCoursey: yes

Mrs. Mahon: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes

SO

VOTED (4-0)

APPOINTMENTS

7. Historic District Commissions (Jason/Gray Historic District)

Kenneth Lubar (term to expire: 01/31/2027)

Mr. Lubar did not appear. The Board was in receipt of Mr. Lubar's resume and stated that they felt comfortable moving forward with his appointment with the request he appear at a future Select Board Meeting.

Mrs. Mahon moved to approval with a condition to appear at a future meeting.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. DeCoursey: yes

Mrs. Mahon: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes

SO

VOTED (4-0)

8. Tree Committee

Marina Popova

(term to expire: 01/31/2026)

Ms. Popova appeared before the Board stating that she is very interested in joining the Tree Committee as she is an avid nature lover and looks forward to being able to serve on this committee.

The Board thanked Ms. Popova for her willingness to serve and looks forward to working with her in the future.

Mr. DeCoursey moved approval.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. DeCoursey: yes

Mrs. Mahon: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes SO
VOTED (4-0)

Olivier Aries
(term to expire: 01/31/2026)

Mr. Aries appeared before the Board and stated that he has been a resident of Arlington for 15 years and notes that the Town is changing rapidly and would like to help maintain the tree canopy. Mr. Aries stated that he is deeply committed to contributing to the fight against climate change and believes trees have a great impact on that.

The Board thanked Mr. Aries for his willingness to serve and looks forward to working with him in the future.

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: yes
Mr. DeCoursey: yes
Mrs. Mahon: yes
Mr. Helmuth: yes SO
VOTED (4-0)

LICENSES & PERMITS

9. For Approval: Common Victualler License

Quilo's Taqueria, 162 Massachusetts Avenue, Jamie A. Herrera

Jamie Herrera appeared before the Board and thanked the Board for the opportunity and look forward to being part of this community.

The Board thanked Quilo's Taqueria for choosing Arlington and look forward to visiting the restaurant soon.

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: yes
Mr. DeCoursey: yes
Mrs. Mahon: yes
Mr. Helmuth: yes SO
VOTED (4-0)

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS / OTHER BUSINESS

10. Vote: Battle Reenactment Plans

Mrs. Bongiorno along with Ms. Lucazi appeared before the Board for a brief presentation stating that the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution is coming up next year. The Select Board has established a committee on which John Hurd and Angela Olszewski are the co-chairs. Arlington is a member of a four-community process in which we have joined Lexington, Concord and Lincoln to coordinate the events happening and have selected Sunday, April 14, 2024, as a dress rehearsal for the communities for next year. Ms. Bongiorno noted that they are before the Board for a conditional approval to move this forward so the Emergency Planning Team which includes a number of inter departments to look at the logistics of the plans that have been proposed. The conditional approval would be to close Massachusetts Avenue from Grove Street to Medford Street from 12:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.

Mr. Hurd moved to conditionally approve the closure of Mass Ave from Grove Street to Medford Street on Sunday, April 14, 2024, from 12:00p.m. -5:00p.m.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. DeCoursey: yes

Mrs. Mahon: yes

Mr. Hurd: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes

SO

VOTED (5-0)

11. Vote: Placement of Historic Marker

Katie Luczai, Economic Development Coordinator

Ms. Luczai appeared before the Board and noted that this is a conditional approval based on a final location for the placement of the marker indicating general Lafayette's visit to Arlington. This is part of a larger organization who is responsible for creating these markers and putting them along different places on the Lafayette Trail. Ms. Luczai noted that the markers are fully paid by the William C. Pomeroy Foundation and although they have final say on the verbiage, the location is up to the Town. Ms. Luczai noted the history of General Lafayette's visit through West Cambridge on September 2, 1824 and this year marks the 200th commemoration of the visit. Ms. Luczai stated that our marker for Arlington would read as follows:

"LAFAYETTE'S TOUR

On Sept. 2, 1824, General

Lafayette was welcomed

In this Town. Local citizens

Greeted him in front

Of the meeting house.

William c. Pomeroy Foundation 2024"

Ms. Luczai noted that the exact location needs to be approved by the Select Board but will ideally be located at the intersection of Mass Ave / Mystic Street. At this time Ms.

Luczai is not asking the board for the exact location but rather a conditional approval that they are in favor of placing a sign in Arlington.

The Board thanked Ms. Luczai for the presentation.

Mrs. Mahon moved approval of the historical marker with authorization to the Town Manager for final placement.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. DeCoursey: yes

Mrs. Mahon: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes

SO

VOTED (4-0)

12. Vote: Special Town Meeting, Date to be Determined
Jim Feeney, Town Manager

13. For Approval: Opening of Special Town Meeting Warrant

Do not need a vote on items 12 and 13 as they were added as a place holder and no longer needed.

WARRANT ARTICLE HEARINGS

14. Articles for Review:

Article 23 Endorsement of CDBG Application

Mary Muszynski, CDBG Administrator appeared before the Board and stated that this program year they received applications that were reviewed by the sub-committee and have been split into the following categories affordable housing, public services, public facilities, and improvements and planning and administration costs.

The Board thanked Ms. Muszynski for her presentation and noted that this article represents the annual vote to endorse the annual applications for CDBG funds.

Mrs. Mahon moved favorable action.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. DeCoursey: yes

Mrs. Mahon: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes

Mr. Feeney: yes

SO VOTED (5-0)

Includes vote of Town Manager for CDBG purposes.

Article 24 Revolving Funds

Mr. Magee explained that this is an annual warrant article to receive reports on expenditures and receipts of the various Town revolving funds and to authorize and reauthorize such funds in accordance with state law. Mr. Magee explained that these funds must be reauthorized annually in order to enable expenditures from them, and as such, must be included in our abbreviated Town Meeting session.

Mr. DeCoursey moved favorable action to reauthorize Revolving Funds.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. DeCoursey: yes

Mrs. Mahon: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes

SO

VOTED (4-0)

Article 36 Endorsement of Parking Benefit District Expenditures

Mr. Magee stated that they are seeking endorsement for the Parking Benefit District Expenditures Budget noting that this is an annual budget that is prepared with a specific focus of the revenues that are generated by the Parking Benefits District which essentially is the bounce along Mass Ave as metered parking. Mr. Magee noted that the Parking Benefit District is broken down into five categories: Seasonal Plantings, Watering of Seasonal Plantings, Seasonal Decorations, Trash Management and other. Mr. Magee noted that this is prepared by the Town Manager and the Parking Advisory Committee for endorsement by the Finance Committee and Capital Planning Committee respectively.

The following member of the public spoke regarding this warrant article:

Paul Schlichtman, 47 Mystic Street

Steve Moore, 64 Piedmont Street

Mrs. Mahon moved favorable action.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. DeCoursey: yes

Mrs. Mahon: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes

SO

VOTED (4-0)

Article 66 Resolution/MBTA Service

Mr. Schlichtman appeared before the Board stating that Town Meeting passed a similar resolution through Town Meeting last year but feels as though things have not improved but worsened and stated that re voting the resolution this year would prove to be helpful. Mr. Schlichtman noted that the resolution before the Board tonight has been refreshed with a few changes to include that on January 29. The Arlington School Department

began running a parallel yellow school bus service in the mornings. Additionally, on October 25, 2023, Town Meeting voted 189 – 39 to approve the transit-oriented housing zoning changes.

The majority of the Select Board supports the resolution, but Mr. Diggins questioned the utility and impact of the resolution. Mr. DeCoursey and Mrs. Mahon viewed the resolution as part of a larger worthwhile discussion regarding the fairness of the MBTA assessment process and its disproportionate impact upon Arlington. Members of the Board support the movement to revisit the historical statutory formula by which assessments are determined so that all current MBTA communities pay their fair share.

The Board quested whether the Select Board is the best forum for voting on such resolutions, with Mr. Diggins and Ms. Mahon noting that the Town Meeting may be better suited to develop its language. Mr. Decourcey and Mrs. Mahon suggested that it should be considered whether resolutions should be sent directly to Town Meeting so that petitioners are not faced with the prospect of having to submit a substitute motion at Town Meeting if their resolution language is amended by the Select Board. Mrs. Mahon noted that such a change may “streamline the process” and Mr. Helmuth suggested that the resolutions are properly the “voice of Town Meeting.”

The following members of the public spoke regarding this warrant article:
Adam Auster, 112 Park Avenue
Rebecca Gruber, 215 Pleasant Street

Mrs. Mahon moved favorable action with final language to be voted later.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: no

Mr. DeCoursey: yes

Mrs. Mahon: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes

SO

VOTED (3-1)

Mr. Diggins voted in the negative.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

15. Broadway Crosswalk Request

John Alessi, Senior Transportation Planner

Mrs. Mahon moved receipt.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. DeCoursey: yes

Mrs. Mahon: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes SO
VOTED (4-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cunningham stated that the Town has hired a Deputy Town Counsel, Jaclyn Munson as Deputy Town Counsel who will be starting in March. Most recently Ms. Munson served as Corporation Counsel for the city of Boston.

Mrs. Mahon noted the MBTA assessment for the Town of Arlington is still unfair and would like to a new assessment be made.

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn at 9:40p.m.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Ms. Maher.

Mr. Diggins: yes
Mr. DeCoursey: yes
Mrs. Mahon: yes
Mr. Helmuth: yes SO
VOTED (4-0)

Next Scheduled Meeting of Select Board Monday, March 4, 2024

A true record attest.

Ashley Maher
Board Administrator

2/21/2024

| Agenda Item | Documents Used |
|-------------|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | Memo from Town Treasurer Financial Assistance Agreement – Sewer Financial Assistance Agreement – Water Vote of the Board |
| 3 | Banner Request Banner Schedule |
| 4 | Farmers' Market Memo |
| 5 | Acceptance of Funds |
| 6 | One Day Reference |

| | |
|----|--|
| 7 | K Lubar Reference |
| 8 | O Aries Reference M Popova Reference |
| 9 | Quilos Taqueria Inspection Reports Quilos Taqueria Application |
| 10 | Memo from Planning Department Presentation |
| 11 | Lafayette Marker Presentation |
| 12 | |
| 13 | |
| 14 | Warrant Article Text Memo from Town Counsel Article 23 Reference Article 24 Reference Article 66 Reference Article 36 Reference |
| 15 | Broadway Crosswalk Request Memo |