

Town of Arlington
Select Board
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2019
7:15 PM

Select Board Chambers, 2nd Floor, Town Hall

Present: Mr. Dunn, Chair, Mrs. Mahon, Vice Chair, Mr. Hurd and Ms. Rowe
Also Present: Mr. Chapdelaine, Mr. Heim, and Ms. Maher
Absent: Mr. Curro

1. Arlington Jazz Festival Banners
Dan Fox

Mr. Fox did not appear at the meeting. This has been rescheduled for the meeting on Monday, January 28, 2019.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Minutes of Meetings: December 10, 2018; December 17, 2018

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (3-0-1)

Ms. Rowe abstained from voting.

3. Request: Special (One Day) All Alcohol License, 1/26/19 @ Arlington Town Hall for 'Thompson School Parent Dance'
Ann Moore/Don May, Thompson School PTO

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

APPOINTMENTS

4. Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (terms to expire January 31, 2022)
Muris Kobaslija
Doug Mayo-Wells

Mr. Kobaslija appeared before the Board and stated that he has been an Arlington resident for 7 years. He has attended the ABAC meetings for over a year and wants to give back to the community.

Mr. Mayo-Wells also appeared before the Board and stated that he considers himself an expert cyclist. He has been an Arlington resident for 10 years where he has attended the ABAC meetings for the last 2 years.

Ms. Rowe moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

Except in unusual circumstances, any matter presented for consideration of the Board shall neither be acted upon, nor a decision made the night of the presentation in accordance with the policy under which the Open Forum was established. It should be noted that there is a three minute time limit to present a concern or request.

Kathleen Meloon, 7 Webster Street, wanted to bring to the attention of the Board the exorbitant property tax increase in the last two years in the Town. Ms. Meloon is asking for a solution, whether it's generating other revenue or finding ways to cut costs or writing to the Governor. Mr. Chapdelaine explained to the Board that values are based on fair market value that's in the statute and has been backed up by case law over time in the state since the enactment of proposition two and a half. This year's tax assessments are based on 2017 sales data. This data helps set what the fair market value is in the Town. Mr. Chapdelaine told the Board that he is going to have Sandy Pooler, Deputy Town Manager, work with Paul Tierney, Town Assessor, to further talk in depth about this matter. Mr. Dunn suggested that Ms. Meloon speak with her Town Meeting members in her precinct as well as the Finance Committee as a next step.

Amy Cohen, 101 Dow Avenue, appeared before the Board to also express her concerns about the property taxes and stated that the idea of having an override for the high school is going to be a huge barrier for the Town. She stated that she did not think that we needed to have the most expensive high school in the state and is concerned about the cost. Ms. Cohen also asked the Board if she was allowed to remove the X's on the utility poles in front of her home. Mr. Heim and Mr. Chapdelaine both explained that the X's were used to confirm that the Verizon inspections on those poles were done, and the company was told to stop marking these poles.

Carl Wagner, 30 Edgehill Road, wanted to thank the Select Board for everything that they do during the year. Mr. Wagner wanted to bring to the attention of the Board his concern about the Arlington High School rebuild project. He believes that this project should be put off until a later date due to the override and debt exclusion. Mr. Wagner stated that Arlington is the second densest town in Massachusetts. He stated that he is shocked that the residents want to increase the density in this town because he does not. Mr. Wagner is hoping that the Town will consider a better project for the high school.

Paul Parise, 106 Hemlock Street, appeared before the Board to offer some comments in regards to the multi-family, higher density initiatives in the Town. He stated he went to his first CHAPA meeting where there was a strong emphasis on increasing affordable housing in the Town which he supports and thinks is needed in the area. Mr. Parise thinks that CHAPA should not run our Town. He believes that the Town should run their own meetings. He stated that CHAPA went through a detailed list of recommended zoning changes where he asked the question if we implement these zoning changes town wide in the long term how many affordable houses would be built. Mr. Parise thinks that the Town needs to create more transparency and to develop stronger leadership within the Town. He expressed his concern in regards to the zoning changes and hopes that something can be done. Mr. Chapdelaine explained that he attended the CHAPA meeting along with the Planning Department and to say it was run by one CHAPA member is really an unfair description. Mr. Chapdelaine also stated that the meetings were a joint effort between the Town and CHAPA. There was no lack of transparency when the Town kicked off these meetings with a public hearing. The ARB meetings will further lead to more ARB hearings and ultimately a hearing process in front of the ARB to decide if the recommendations would be heard in front of Town Meeting. This process is the definition of transparency.

Ted Peluso, Precinct 6, appeared before the Board to express his concern about the Arlington High School rebuild and wants the Board to know that the high school needs to be rebuilt and it needs to happen sooner rather than later. Mr. Peluso stated that the Town should vote for the debt exclusion as well as ways to deal with the increase in property taxes that come along with that.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS / OTHER BUSINESS

- 5. For Approval: Transportation Advisory Committee Recommendations to Establish a Speed Safety Zone on Herbert Road @ Entrance to Magnolia Park
Howard Muise, Chair, TAC

Mr. Muise appeared before the Board and described the recommendation from TAC in regards to Magnolia Park. He stated that this recommendation for a lower speed limit comes out of some work that was done awhile back when the Recreation Department was planning the rebuild of Magnolia Park. The TAC uses state mandated traffic counts and regulations to determine their outcomes. They evaluated the possibility of a raised intersection and determined that the cost of this would be extreme so this idea was turned down. Mr. Muise explained that at this time the State was in the process of changing law regulations regarding speed limits. The Town had changed the default speed limit to 25mph. another default of that law was that the Town could designate speed safety zones where the speed limit would be 20mph. This law would be for special areas where a lower speed limit would be appropriate such as the entrance to Magnolia Park. Mr. Muise stated that this would be the first location where they would enforce a speed safety zone in the Town. He mentioned that this same speed limit might be used at the Menotomy Rocks Park as well. Mr. Dunn expressed his like for this proposal due to the very specific criteria and feels comfortable making a motion because of this.

Ms. Rowe moved approval. SO VOTED (4-0)

- 6. Acceptance of Private Grant/Donation: PhRMA Donation for Opioid Abuse Prevention
Douglas W. Heim, Town Counsel
- Mr. Hurd moved to accept the grant. SO VOTED (4-0)

- 7. Discussion & Update: Police Chief Recruitment Strategy/Interim Strategy
Adam W. Chapdelaine, Town Manager

Mr. Chapdelaine discussed the process for the provisional promotion to put someone in place to serve as Chief after Chief Ryan retires. They are interviewing all current internal Captains and Lieutenants who have expressed an interest in serving as Police Chief. Mr. Chapdelaine stated that they have interviewed about half of the candidates and will have an appointment in place before Chief Ryan retires. The provisional promotion appointment would be in this position for approximately a year. Mr. Chapdelaine expressed his interest in exploring removing the role from Civil Service which would require a Warrant Article at Annual Town Meeting. After Town Meeting approved to remove the Chief’s position from Civil Service, it would then have to go to the legislature for approval. Once home rule legislation was filed by the Town, if Town Meeting were to approve this process, it would take approximately a year. Mr. Chapdelaine is recommending that the Town consider moving the police chief position out of Civil Service. He believes that it would open up and provide more flexibility in the hiring process. This would allow the Town to look at both internal candidates below the Lieutenant rank as well as external candidates. Mr. Chapdelaine also explains the benefits for him as Town Manager removing the Civil Service protection that a Chief has in their employment. Civil Service protections are strong

and would make for a difficult disciplinary action if we were to have a rogue Police Chief. Mrs. Mahon expressed her disagreement and mentioned some of her concerns in regards to removing the Police Chief position from Civil Service. She stated that the Civil Service protection gives the Chief position job security and allows the Chief to manage their department the way they feel best. Mrs. Mahon also feels strongly that there is a suitable candidate within the department; many of the police officers have worked their way through the ranks in the Town. Mrs. Mahon recommended to the Board the process of open Civil Service would allow any qualified Civil Service member to apply for the job. Ms. Rowe respectively disagreed with Mrs. Mahon and believes that having an open pool to receive the best candidates is very important she stated that there are qualified people within the department that would also be able to apply. Mr. Hurd stated that he likes the idea of hiring within the department and there are very capable candidates. He also stated that he feels like taking it out of Civil Service removes that layer of protection to the Chief. He believes that the Chief should be able to run his/her department and make decisions based on what's best for the Town without having to worry about any political pressures Mr. Dunn supports the Town Manager's move to take it out of Civil Service. He stated that there are a couple of examples of when they opened up the process to outside the Town, one being when they hired the Town Manager and another being the Treasurer's Office. Both of these hires were open to the public where they interviewed dozens of applicants and received the best candidate for the position. Mr. Dunn also believes that the Civil Service of Massachusetts needs to be reformed. He also stated that he respects what the Civil Service law is meant to do but he believes that it is doing a disservice to the Town, the employees, and everyone across the state with its current form.

Mrs. Mahon withdrew her first motion and made a new motion to move no action on taking this position out of Civil Service. SO VOTED (2-2)

8. Discussion: Town Manager Evaluation Process

Adam W. Chapdelaine, Town Manager

Mr. Chapdelaine explained the process as well as the timeline for the Town Manager Evaluation Process. He stated that this process is similar to years past, which takes two months to go through the evaluation and have it completed in April. Mr. Dunn stated that the individual documents that are filled out by the Board be passed to the Director of Personnel, Caryn Malloy. She will then compiled all five into one document making the individual documents confidential. Ms. Rowe moved approval. SO VOTED (4-0)

9. For Discussion and Vote: 2019 Debt Exclusion and Operating Override

Daniel J. Dunn, Chair

(tabled from 12.10.18 meeting)

Mr. Dunn expressed his thought on having a single vote on the same day for the operating override and debt exclusion for the high school in June. Mr. Dunn stated that he hopes to have a formal vote on a future Select Board Meeting. He gave a tentative timeline of future dates regarding when the election would take place in June. Mr. Dunn stated why he thinks that there should be both votes on the same day. He thinks that it is the way to have the most honest conversation with the voters about the Town's financial picture. The second reason is because he wants the questions to pass and this would require a good campaign and volunteers. The third reason being that if the operating override should fail, it would cause the Town to make specific choices about the budget and where they would have to make cuts.

Ms. Rowe agrees with Chairman Dunn. She stated that she thinks the Board needs to explain the reason for the tax increases and what help will be available for seniors on a fixed income. Ms. Rowe also thinks that we need to have a forum in regards to the high school rebuild and what the 308 million is going to be used for besides the educational programs. Mrs. Mahon stated that the 308 million dollars is not fixed and the goal is to try and get that number under 308 million but it would not be determined until after they go through the process. Mr. Chapdelaine explained to the Board that the number cannot go over 308 million. The MSBA will not allow a higher figure. He also told the Board that they have decided to move the IT and Comptroller's Departments out of the High School Building which will reduce the budget. He stated that they have not announced budget reductions because they are still going out to cost estimation and will have cost estimates in a few weeks. Mr. Chapdelaine stated that our base reimbursement rate as it stands today is 45.11%. Once we move forward with the process and we officially take on a construction manager at risk, we get more percentage points for that. When we commit to building a LEED building we get some points for that. It is estimated that we will like get up north of 47% reimbursement points, there is a second figuring. Not everything we build is reimbursable by the state. He projects that we will be at about a 35% effective reimbursement rate. Mrs. Mahon stated that if the Town were to slow the process down or stop it we would have to start the process over. Mr. Dunn discussed his thoughts on the timeline for the high school rebuild. Mr. Hurd stated that he thinks both in the same day is the way to go because it allows the voters to know what they are voting on and what their increases will look like. He states that having both the override and the debt exclusion on the same ballot allows the voters to understand the difference between the two. Mr. Dunn stated that he was not looking for a vote tonight but more of discussion to see where the Board stood. The vote will take place on a future Select Board agenda.

10. Discussion: Future Select Board Meetings
(tabled from 12.10.18 meeting)

Select Board Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Monday, January 28, 2019

Monday, February 11, 2019

Monday, February 25, 2019

Monday, March 11, 2019

Monday, March 25, 2019

Monday, April 8, 2019

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

11. Concerns Regarding Pond Lane
Rebecca Girash via Request/Answer Center

Mrs. Mahon referred Ms. Girash's request to the Planning Department for review and recommendation. SO VOTED (4-0)

12. Call for Project Concepts
Marc D. Draisen MAPC Executive Director
Mrs. Mahon moved approval. SO VOTED (4-0)

13. Breakfast Kick-Off Invitation
Marc D. Draisen MAPC Executive Director
Mrs. Mahon moved approval. SO VOTED (4-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Heim stated the legislature has approved the amendments to the Town Manager Act and wanted to thank Representative Sean Garballey, Senator Cindy Friedman, and Derek Keenan from Representative Garballey's staff that helped with our amendments. The Governor's Office has yet to sign the amendments. They would like to go over a few things but they have seven days to approve it. Mr. Heim stated that this will cover everything from gender neutral language to changes in the Finance Director position.

Mr. Chapdelaine stated that Chief Ryan's retirement reception will be held this Thursday from 4-6 pm. in the O'Neill room in the Community Safety Building which is an open invite to Town Employees as well as the public to wish Fred farewell and well wishes. Mr. Chapdelaine also stated that the Town Manager's budget submission is due January 15th and he will provide a budget overview at the meeting on the 23rd. The last piece of new business for Mr. Chapdelaine was to the increase of homelessness near the Alewife area. There is a large homeless encampment within the Mugar property. The Town created a team of a police officer and one of the Town's public health agents to start and work with the people that were living there. He stated that they started to build a relationship with Cambridge and Somerville who have a very well-resourced homelessness team within their Police Departments. They worked together and the hypodermic needles were removed. After this work a lot of the homeless people living there dispersed to the underpass under Route 2. The Town continued to work with these teams as well as MassDOT who has jurisdiction over the underpass to clean up that area from the debris and waste as well as long term solutions. Unfortunately, the long term solution that MassDOT implemented was the placement of metal spikes at the top of the underpass to prevent people from sleeping there. Mr. Chapdelaine stated that there was no one sleeping there at the time the spikes were placed. When the Town was made aware of this treatment, they had asked MassDOT to remove the spikes immediately and they were removed. Going forward, the Town is going to work with Cambridge and Somerville to reach out to the people living down there.

During her new business, Ms. Rowe stated that she took her ethics training last night and it's a shame that people in other cities and states do not have to take this training because people would benefit from it.

During her new business, Mrs. Mahon wanted the Board to be mindful of a possible June debt exclusion override in regards to the high school rebuild.

During his new business, Mr. Hurd wanted to thank everyone that helped put the ice skating rink at Poets Field today. They are watching the weather for an opening date!

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn at 9:15p.m.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Next Scheduled Meeting of Select Board January 23, 2019

A true record attest

Ashley Maher
Administrative Assistant

1/7/2019

Agenda Item	Description
1	Arlington Jazz Festival Reference
2	Draft Minutes 12.10.18 and 12.17.18
3	Thompson School PTO Special Alcohol License Application
4	ABAC Request to appoint Kobaslija Reference Mayo-Wells Reference
5	Magnolia Park TAC Recommendations
6	PhRMA Reference
7	Police Chief Reference
8	Town Manager Performance Evaluation 2019 Performance Review Form
9	Long Range Financial Projection, FY20 Override Options
10	Future Select Board Meeting Calendar
11	R. Girash; Request Picture #1-15
12	MAPC Reference
13	MAPC Breakfast Kick-Off Invitation Reference