

**JOINT PUBLIC HEARING OF THE SELECT BOARD AND ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024
HYBRID MEETING VIA ZOOM and IN PERSON
SELECT BOARD HEARING ROOM – TOWN HALL, 600 Chief Justice Cushing Highway**

The Scituate Select Board and Advisory Board encourage an environment of respect during meetings and encourage all members to interact in a polite manner even when there is disagreement.

We value the participation of our community and want all participants, including marginalized and minoritized communities, to feel welcomed and respected.

We urge our committee members, and all who participate, to commit to these standards to support and respect our community and to participate in an orderly and peaceable manner.

OPEN SESSION:

6:00 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Roll Call Vote:

Select Board

Ms. Curran yes

Mr. Goodrich yes

Ms. Harrison yes

Ms. Canfield yes

Ms. Connolly yes

Ms. Russo yes

Advisory Board

Mr. McGuiggin yes

Mr. Diosimo yes

Mr. Doherty yes

Ms. Ferguson yes

Mr. Gilmore yes

Mr. Kelly yes

Ms. Metro not in attendance

Ms. Seidel yes

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

PUBLIC HEARING/DISCUSS/VOTE Article 4 Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Operating Budget for Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Boudreau provided a presentation and brief overview of the FY25 general fund budget. He noted the revenue assumptions including 2.5% property tax increase, meals tax and room occupancy increased by \$50,000 and the Governor's state aid budget. He stated the expenses are outpacing revenues with lingering supply chain issues, collective bargaining and employee benefits costs are increasing as well. Mr. Boudreau stated it was a level service budget. One vacant position was not filled in favor of a new position. He also noted that four collective bargaining contracts will be expiring as of June 30, 2024 and are in negotiations. He noted that the roads and seawalls line item is being funded from the wind turbine and solar array reviling funds. He reviewed fixed costs changes between FY24 and FY25. Mr. Boudreau reviewed the requests for new personnel and increased hours with only additional hours being recommended. The inspectors' rate is being increased with an offset in an increase in permit revenue. He also noted that the Financial Forecast Committee had met several times throughout the budget cycle.

Ms. Curran thanked all for their dedication and noted that the FY26 budget will be even more difficult. She

noted that it was extremely difficult to develop the FY25 budget and every effort was made not to seek an operational override from the citizens at this time.

Ms. Russo stated the cap on property taxes at 2.5% in a rising inflation environment was extremely difficult. Mr. Goodrich thanked the School Committee and their assistance with helping us get to where we needed to be and the new assistant director position at the senior center was a great addition. Ms. Connolly asked to clarify that the personnel requests were not funded as the budget was far too tight.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Curran made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. second by Ms. Connolly Unanimous Vote Select Board (5-0) Advisory Board (7-0)

Roll Call Vote:

Select Board

Ms. Curran yes

Mr. Goodrich yes

Ms. Harrison yes

Ms. Canfield yes

Ms. Connolly yes

Ms. Russo yes

Advisory Board

Mr. McGuiggin yes

Mr. Diosimo yes

Mr. Doherty yes

Ms. Ferguson yes

Mr. Gilmore yes

Mr. Kelly yes

Ms. Metro not in attendance

Ms. Seidel yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Devin, Recorder

List of Documents for the March 12, 2024 Select Board & Advisory Board Meeting

Agenda

Town Administrator Presentation Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Operating Budget for Annual Town Meeting

Select Board Meeting Minutes with Advisory Board for March 12, 2024

SELECT BOARD

Maura C. Curran , Chair

Andrew W. Goodrich, Vice Chair

Susan J. Harrison, Clerk

Karen B. Canfield

Karen E. Connolly