

**MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022 6:30 p.m.
VIA ZOOM**

In attendance Karen Connolly, Chair, Karen Canfield, Vice Chair, Andrew Goodrich, Clerk, Maura Curran, Anthony Vegnani

Also in attendance Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Ms. Canfield at 6:30 p.m. to accept the agenda for January 4, 2022 second by Ms. Curran Unanimous Vote (5-0)

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Connolly - yes

Ms. Canfield - yes

Mr. Goodrich - yes

Ms. Curran - yes

Mr. Vegnani - yes

WALK INS- None at this meeting

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR -

1. Every Monday we provide an update to the residents of Scituate on the state of COVID in the Town. A resident has raised questions about discrepancies between what he has seen on the state web site and in the Boston Globe and what we are reporting on Monday mornings.
 - a. Each Monday at 8:00 am our public health nurse Eileen Scotti or Health Director Drew Scheele log into the state's Maven system, which is the system for reporting COVID cases for Doctor's offices and testing sites, and get the numbers for the previous week. We then report those numbers out to the community. That number changes constantly as cases are added to an already overwhelmed system. For example, at 8:07 am yesterday, Maven had 13 cases for Scituate for Monday. That was part of our report. By 1:00 pm that number was 24. So, a lot of it will depend on when you are looking at the site and what has been posted. Numbers may lag when from when they are placed in the system, but we will catch them on the next report (if numbers were totally entered from a weekend by Monday morning, we would get them on the next week's total). We are releasing numbers at 9:30 am and the state is releasing numbers generally after 5:00 pm. There will be differences. If you want more comprehensive numbers, you need to wait until later in the date when any lag from the weekend is caught up. We give the best numbers we can for 9:30 Monday morning.
 - b. We have consistently stated that the number to pay attention to is not the case totals, but the percent positive. This is a more indicative number on where the virus is going. 100 positives out of 10,000 tests is a big positive number, but is only 1% of those tested. 10 positives out of 100 is 10% and a bigger indication of the prevalence of the virus. The positivity ratings are taken directly off the state web site before 9:00 am Monday morning.

- c. A question has been asked about masks mandates in Scituate or in Scituate Town buildings. The Select Board can impose a mask requirement for town buildings, just as the school committee has for school buildings. The BOH can mandate masks town wide under the existing public health emergency. The Town has consistently, throughout the pandemic, followed the guidance provided by the state for mandates and we will continue to do. Scituate has a high vaccination rate at this point and the state has not imposed a mask mandate for indoor uses. They have posted a recommendation that people mask up indoors regardless of vaccination status and we have posted that on all town buildings.
- d. We with a positivity rating over the last 14 days at 8.82%, up from the 6.48% of last week. Plymouth County is at 10.59%, more than the 8.81% of last week. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 18.42% more than double from last week at 8.32%. These numbers do not include home tests not reported to the state. Numbers are increasing across the board as colder weather arrives and people spend more time indoors. Numbers are expected to continue rising after the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

Omicron variant is here. Early data is still that Omicron is significantly more transmissible than the Delta Variant, but that vaccinated individuals with the Omicron variant experience mild to no symptoms and are not hospitalized. At this point, being vaccinated is a much better defense than not being vaccinated, so please, if you have not yet gotten vaccinated and can receive the vaccine, we urge you to do so. Vaccinations and booster are widely available. Go to mass.gov for details. Individuals 18 and over are eligible for a Moderna Booster and 16 and over for a Pfizer booster. You are eligible for a booster now 5 months after getting your second Pfizer shot (changed yesterday) and 6 months after your second Moderna shot and 2 months after a J&J shot. The FDA approved boosters for children 11-15 yesterday with CDC approval expected before the end of the week.

- 2. There will be a regional clinic for booster shots next week with Cohasset, Scituate, Hingham and Hull next week, Thursday January 13, 9-1:00 at the South Shore Baptist church in Hingham. There will be 300 moderna boosters available. You need an appointment so go to [Scituatema.gov](https://scituatema.gov) and the link for appointments is on the home page. The town has sent an email blast and posted on Facebook already.
- 3. Next week, also on 1/13, we will be auctioning off a property at 1 Tilden Road in Minot. This was previously discussed at a Board meeting. The house was taken by the Town for tax title. Details at jjmanning.com
- 4. Renovations/expansion to the Widow's Walk clubhouse continue. The \$2.5 million project is expected to be completed shortly. We have received a temporary CO the pro-shop and Ian and his staff have start operating out of that new space. Kitchen equipment is ongoing, we are experiencing a delay with the installation of the walk-in freezer, but that is expected in the not too distant future. We reviewed the draft RFP for operation of the clubhouse and food service and that will go out tomorrow with an opening date of 1/18. The flooring installation in the club house portion of the building has started. That

is the last big item towards completion. Building is really coming along and will be ready for the start of the golf season.

5. “The golf season has ended at Widow’s Walk until the early Spring and after a few days of maintenance this week, it will open for dog walking starting Friday, December 24th. We are once again looking forward to sharing our beautiful course with the local residents of Scituate for walking, sledding and other winter activities. We ask that you please have your dogs on a leash at all times, avoid walking over any greens or sand traps and most importantly, pick up after your dog. Barrels are available for placement of the dog waste. Have a great winter and we hope you and your dogs enjoy “The Walk.”

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

FY 23 Budget Presentations

- Review of non-monetary articles

Mr. Boudreau said non-monetary articles

1. Chapter 91 Approval – *Consent*
2. Intermunicipal Agreement with Towns of Cohasset & Hull relevant to Sewer (can be done without TM)
3. Acceptance of Land Donation – Parcel 37-02-18; Lot near Deer Common Dr
4. Street Acceptance – TBD (none scheduled)
5. Amend General Bylaws Section 32060 Marijuana Establishments Moratoria
6. Amend Zoning Bylaws – Marijuana Establishments (multiple articles; remove ban, recreational, revise medical, excise up to 3%)
7. Amend Zoning Bylaws – Lot Shape Factor
8. Amend Zoning Bylaws – Section 440.5 for VCN
9. Amend Zoning Bylaws – Section 620.3 Setback & Yard Requirements for the R-3 Zoning District (Side yard distance change from 8 to 15 feet)
10. Amend Zoning Bylaws - Non-Conforming Derelict Buildings – Section 810 (ZBA-*Postponed from ATM 06/2020*)
11. Amend General Bylaws – Add new section 30125 Tenting, Camping, Sleeping in Public
12. Charter Review Committee Recommendations (may be multiple articles)

Ms. Curran asked Mr. Boudreau to provide copies of the zoning bylaw changes as soon as possible so the Board can review.

- Finance Director/Town Accountant 135

Nancy Holt, Finance Director/Town Accountant reviewed the budget and said salaries will increase approximately \$10,000, purchase of services will decline \$3,180 due to no actuary study. Ms. Holt reviewed all line items with changes. The department is tracking all reimbursements and grants.

- Information Technology 155

Mike Minchello, Director IT has requested a new position and the remainder of his budget is level funded. The increase in staff is factored in at a ½ year rate. Mr. Vegnani asked why we are not funding for a full year. Mr. Boudreau said the funding is not available in FY23 for a full year. The third IT person is required to support all town

employees and departments. User support calls from all of these users. Ongoing maintenance enhancements and security monitoring is required. We are unable to add additional technology to the Town due to resources. Several hundred changes were made across the network but ongoing maintenance is required. A new public safety building, senior center and library all have additional technology and working with the water and sewer department they also have technology needs. An online permitting system is being implemented. Our phone system is being changed from analog to voice over IP. GIS at Scituate Police will require additional resources to implement over the next couple of years. There are more grant opportunities but we don't have the resources to implement the initiatives. The third IT person primary role will be to sit between the help desk and the Director on the networking side. There is a list of over 200 items that need to be taken care of. Mr. Vegnani is wondering if there are possibilities of getting contract workers that can do some of this rather than hiring an employee. Mr. Minchello said when we deployed Windows 10 we hired a temp contracting company and the hourly wage at a low-level skill set is \$65 an hour and his skill level was not enough. It is less expensive to get an employee at a higher level of experience. Ms. Curran would like to hear what Scituate Police has to say about bringing technology support under their umbrella and does it make sense to add a contractual line to this budget. Ms. Canfield thanked Mr. Minchello for all the backup to support the addition of a person and asked if this person could be brought on sooner. Mr. Boudreau said when we get the final state numbers we will see where we are for local aid. It is possible but we'll have to see. Mr. Goodrich said it is not just about security but technology for the public.

- Police 210

Chief Mark Thompson represented the Scituate Police Department Chief Thompson said there are a lot of challenges with COVID. There are four new full-time patrol officers and a lot of training happening. Lt. O'Shea is spearheading mental health for public safety and making sure everyone is on board. MetroLEC is a huge part of the department and also with our neighbors. \$4,464,068 was requested and \$4,405,843 was proposed. Additional officers were requested and in the next year and subsequent years part time officers may not be available. Ms. Curran asked where this is reflected in the budget. There are currently two open vacancies that will be filled by July 1st. They would like to bring the total to 44 rather than 37. They are looking for 8 additional positions. Chief Thompson said they had the ability to hire intermittent officers and during the summer months there were 10-12 additional officers and they are outside the union contract and this is how things were done. These officers were the recruitment ground. It worked out really well and when they were hired they hit the ground running. Others were not selected as a good fit for the department. With Police Reform it dramatically impacts the way we can staff. In the backup Chief Thompson compared Scituate to other departments. When the part time officers are taken away, we are significantly lower than other communities. Ms. Canfield thanked Chief Thompson for the thorough background. Ms. Canfield asked for this summer it will not be ideal but services will be adequately provided. Some people in the pipeline will be available and we can get through. Ms. Canfield said this is a complex problem and we will need additional time to see how this problem will be addressed. Ms. Connolly asked Ms. Canfield if the legislation could be modified to accommodate summer assistance. Mr. Vegnani said in terms of service and

staffing can we pay for this in overtime dollars. Chief Thompson said no we cannot. It is paying for all kinds of other things and the money is needed to maintain. The eight new people will be a mix of things. We need another resource officer in the school, we need assistance in the summer and to work with businesses, all people are not on the schedule at the same time, some overtime expenses can be saved but these people need to be trained. This is a significant change and we'll have to ease into this and find a way to fund it slowly. Sunday is National Law Enforcement Day. The Board thanked Officer Arthur Wood for his service who retired December 31, 2021. Congratulations and thank you Officer Art!

- Fire 220

Chief John Murphy represented the Scituate Fire Department said the fire fighters and paramedics have done a great job with COVID and they have stayed healthy. Station 4 was completed in December and a recent ribbon cutting was held. The Vocational School is working on completing the handicap ramp. The Fire Chief has a level funded and as more people are hired he anticipates overtime will be reduced. Chief Murphy reviewed the budget request. Mr. Vegnani thanked Chief Murphy and the fire department for their great work this year! Mr. Goodrich said \$800K in grant money was great. Ms. Connolly thanked Chief Murphy and the community for all the donations as well.

- Public Safety Communications 230

Barbara DeWolfe said the budget is mostly the payroll for the dispatchers and office supplies were requested and was approved. Nine full time and one part time dispatcher and one per diem. They answer all 911 and public safety calls for the general public. Mr. Vegnani and the Select Board thanked Ms. DeWolfe for the excellent work that they do. Mr. Goodrich thanked Ms. DeWolfe also on behalf of the community. Ms. Curran asked if they have the technology that they need. Ms. DeWolfe said they have the state-of-the-art technology and were one of the first groups to have the new technology for enhanced 911.

- Veterans 543

Don Knapp said this year with the help of the Veterans Services Advisory Council Scituate was established as the Purple Heart Community and the Chair of Honor at Scituate High School athletic field. Chapter 115 work done through the state moved to a new system called OnBase and it was not that seamless. They are still working through it and training is being done. Scituate is now online and going through recertification. This is in addition to the move to the new location in the Senior Center. The budget is level funded and reimbursement through Chapter 115. Ms. Curran asked if Mr. Knapp has seen an increase in Veteran participation. Mr. Knapp said yes more people are coming in to the new senior center and are stopping into the Veterans office. The backlog at the Federal level is substantial. Cases need to be adjudicated. There is more outreach with the Veterans Services Advisory Council.

- Beautification 650

Sytske Humphrey and Leslie Dienel represented the Beautification Commission. Ms. Dienel reviewed the budget with the Select Board. Beautification added plantings for Town Hall and the Board of Health office. There were more volunteers this year. Maintenance of public space is always a challenge. The Christmas Tree in the gazebo and the common were well received. The voucher program is for merchants to beautify their shops. It is part of the budget. Ms. Humphrey said a new adopt a lot at the Scituate Community Building and there is a proposal in with the library. They are excited with the school's participation and the 4th graders from the Cushing School did a wonderful presentation. They would like to eradicate the knotweed at the library. There are other projects under consideration including painting the town hall. Maintenance at town owned properties/buildings are important to beautification. Ms. Curran said she feels like they are taking some things that belong in the DPW budget. Ms. Curran suggests that a small team with DPW, Facilities, and Beautification be put together to get some Beautification items done. Ms. Humphrey said weeding is incredibly time consuming. Ms. Humphrey would welcome a joint meeting. Ms. Connolly suggested the Beach Commission be included in the discussions also. Mr. Boudreau said Kevin Kelly has money in the budget to paint town hall and they need to find a painter.

- Historical 691

Ms. Connolly suggested that we postpone this to a future meeting since no one was in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. New Septage Disposal License McGonagle Septic Services
Move that the Select Board vote to approve a new 2022 Septage License to McGonagle Septic Services, POBox 44, Humarock, MA 02047 Motion by Ms. Canfield Second by Mr. Vegnani Unanimous Vote (5-0)

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Connolly - yes

Ms. Canfield - yes

Mr. Goodrich - yes

Ms. Curran - yes

Mr. Vegnani - yes

2. **DISCUSS/VOTE** DPW Transfer Station Backhoe, Milton CAT, \$127,000, DPW, Sean McCarthy

This is to replace a 2013 backhoe and is used for snow removal. Funding was received at the Special Town meeting in October. The machine is currently disabled and they are borrowing the highway department loader to get by. It has 16,000 hours on the backhoe now and it runs every day. The vendor is on the State bid list.

Move that the Select Board award the contract to purchase a 2021 Caterpillar 430 backhoe loader from Southworth Milton for \$124,900. Motion by Ms. Curran Second by Mr. Goodrich Unanimous Vote (5-0)

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Connolly - yes
Ms. Canfield - yes
Mr. Goodrich - yes
Ms. Curran - yes
Mr. Vegnani - yes

3. ~~**DISCUSS/VOTE DPW Phase 2 Engineering and Permitting Services for the Dolan Well Field, Weston & Sampson \$80,000**~~ Removed from agenda by DPW.

4. **DISCUSS Water Treatment Plant Financing Options**

The purpose of this is to start a conversation and discussion on how to fund the new water treatment plant. This does not imply the board has made any decisions. Ms. Holt reviewed a presentation she prepared for discussion with the Select Board. There are two main ways to fund the project, one is water rates and one is tax rate (debt exclusion). Ms. Holt provided Pros and Cons of each funding mechanism. Ms. Holt presented the estimated rate impacts using ARPA funds and Clean Water Trust. Current debt exclusions FY15-35 were shown on a graph fully retired in FY41 and another slide with the addition of a new water treatment plant. The Board will need to think about how to pursue funding this project if it is going to go forward. Infrastructure money may be forthcoming from the State that is not included in this presentation. Mr. Boudreau said a preliminary study was done at the water treatment plant and another cold study will be performed. Mr. McCarthy said once the studies are completed a recommendation of findings and options will be presented to the Select Board for a new water treatment plant. Mr. Goodrich said the marketplace rates may be very good and asked Ms. Holt's opinion. If we issue in the marketplace we control our own fate but we may not get the benefit of a low interest rate. Ms. Holt thinks we do need to apply to the Clean Water Trust if this project is approved. Mr. Goodrich is leaning toward the property tax route. If voters don't approve it the State may force us to do it anyway. Mr. Boudreau said the best scenario for the town is we get good rates and the construction costs come down. The State will not tell you have to build a new plant they may say you have to come into compliance. Having an enforcement order will be in our favor to obtain grants and funding through the State for a new water treatment plant. Ms. Connolly asked what town meeting would we be looking at and Ms. Holt said it could be on the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Vegnani said it was a good presentation and a combination of the two options could be done, part water rates, part override. We have time to mull it over and think about this. Ms. Holt is not a fan of the combination of the two because it is confusing to people. Contingent votes are complicated and this will need several meetings worth of discussions. Ms. Holt this is the best time for this to happen with all the mitigating funding sources available.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Liaison Reports
No liaison reports tonight.
2. Correspondence

Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Project Grant Ms. Curran asked if the lighthouse request to CPC could be included in this. Mr. Boudreau will forward to the Historical Society and Historical Commission.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Move to accept the meeting minutes for the Select Board meeting held on December 21, 2021. Motion by Ms. Curran second by Ms. Canfield Unanimous Vote (4-0) Mr. Goodrich abstained from voting as he was not in attendance at the meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Connolly - yes

Ms. Canfield - yes

Mr. Goodrich - abstain

Ms. Curran - yes

Mr. Vegnani - yes

Move to accept and not release the Executive Session Meeting Minutes for the meeting held on December 24, 2021 since matters discussed are still pending at this time. Motion by Ms. Curran second by Mr. Vegnani Unanimous Vote (5-0)

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Connolly - yes

Ms. Canfield - yes

Mr. Goodrich - yes

Ms. Curran - yes

Mr. Vegnani - yes

4. Adjournment and Signing of Documents

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. motion by Mr. Vegnani second by Mr. Goodrich Unanimous Vote (5-0)

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Connolly - yes

Ms. Canfield - yes

Mr. Goodrich - yes

Ms. Curran - yes

Mr. Vegnani - yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Devin, Recorder

List of Documents for the January 04, 2022 Select Board Meeting

- Agenda
- Upcoming Meetings and Events
- Septage Disposal License Application McGonagle Septic Services
- DPW Transfer Station Backhoe, Milton CAT \$127,000
- Water Treatment Plant Financing Options
- Correspondence Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Project Grant
- Meeting Minutes December 21, 2021 and Executive Session December 24, 2021

Select Board Meeting Minutes for January 04, 2022

SELECT BOARD

Karen E. Connolly, Chair

Karen B. Canfield, Vice Chair

Andrew W. Goodrich, Clerk

Maura C. Curran

Anthony V. Vegnani