

**Board of Selectmen
Agenda
Municipal Center Resource Room
Tuesday July 5, 2022**

7:00 PM

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Chairman Announcements
- Citizen's Forum

1. Board of Selectmen Reorganization – Possible Votes

7:10 PM

2. Pole Petition 184 West Street – Possible Votes
3. ARPA Discussion – Possible Votes
4. Discuss Transfer Station Fees – Possible Votes
5. Discuss Cable Renewal Subcommittee – Possible Votes
6. 2nd Review of Development Agreement with CRG – Possible Votes
7. Review & Ratify Eversource filing for Natural Gas Franchise with DPU – Possible Votes
8. 2nd Review & Discussion of Goals for the Town – Possible Votes
9. Discuss Open Meeting Law/Remote Participation – Possible Votes
10. Review & Approve Revised Code of Conduct for Boards, Commissions, & Committees – Possible Votes
11. Review Annual Appointments – Possible Votes
12. Approve Minutes – Possible Votes
13. Town Administrator's Report
14. Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting
15. Executive Session
 - a. Collective Bargaining
 - b. Litigation
16. Adjournment

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Note: Times are estimates unless denoted as a Hearing.

The Town of Douglas is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022
MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Chair Kevin Morse, Tim Bonin, Mike Fitzpatrick, Matt Wojcik Town Administrator, Lisa Freeman Executive Assistant

Absent: Hal Davis

Chair Kevin Morse calls meeting to order at 7:00 PM

(0:10) Pledge of Allegiance

(0:30) Chairman Announcements: NONE

(0:35) Citizen's Forum

1. (0:45) Board of Selectmen Reorganization – Possible Votes

Board will pass over because there are only three board members present tonight.

2. (1:50) Discuss Transfer Station Fees – Possible Votes

Cory Howard and Dick Skinner joined the table to update the Board on the transfer station's financial situation. The transfer station retained earnings have been depleted and the Board of Health voted unanimously to increase sticker prices for the transfer station in order to sustain and pay for operational costs. The cost increase proposed is going from \$200 to \$350 and for seniors \$100 to \$240. Even at this increased rate residents are still saving money rather than having curbside trash pickup. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked how they monitor the people coming in to dump commercial trash, because he knows of some commercial companies that take their trash to the transfer station. Mr. Howard responded that commercial trash is not allowed, and they monitor the best they can. Mr. Fitzpatrick also would like to who is supposed to set the fees on this. TA Wojcik stated that all rates are set by the Select Board. The Board asked if they are able to use ARPA funds to offset the deficit this year so that they can slowly increase the sticker price. TA Wojcik is not sure, but doesn't think ongoing operating costs are an acceptable use of ARPA. There is a revenue replacement component to it but the revenue loss had to be driven by the pandemic and the impact of the pandemic. TA Wojcik asked about dealing with one hauler for the town and being able to negotiate the cost. Resident Fred Fontaine (25 Charles Street) asked about the increase of the sticker price and will be deciding to do curbside pick up instead. The concern of the Board is the increase for the seniors and how that will affect them. Mr. Howard suggested maybe giving the seniors the option to pay with a payment plan or bi-annually. The Board talked about getting quotes on town wide curbside pickup as another option.

(53:24) Motion to accept the rate the Board of Health has proposed with the understanding that the option of town wide curbside pickup will be researched to see if this is a better option financially made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Tim Bonin. All members in favor.

Mr. Skinner mentioned that they have a potential cost reduction that will pay for itself in two years with an upfront cost of about \$40k and would like to have that discussion with the Select Board at some point. Chair Kevin Morse said to add it to the next agenda and Mr. Fitzpatrick would like Mr. Skinner to share that information with TA Wojcik prior to the meeting.

3. (55:37) Pole Petition 184 West Street – Possible Votes

Install a new mid-span pole 6450 for service to new house located at 184 West Street. Michael Frasier with Nation Grid is attendance to answer any questions. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if there was easement required with 7 Conservation Drive for the guide wire. Mr. Frasier stated that it was a sidewalk guide so it's only a five-foot lead, it is not on their property. Highway Superintendent John Furno asks that the pole be a least three feet back from the road.

(57:00) Motion to open the public hearing made by Kevin Morse, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. All members in favor.

(58:00) Motion to close the public hearing made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. All members in favor.

(58:24) Motion to approve the pole petition as presented made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. All members in favor.

4. (59:00) ARPA Discussion – Possible Votes

TA Wojcik continues to do research on what is eligible, what is not, and what the parameters are. TA Wojcik has asked state officials if the town can pay hazard pay for services rendered before March 30, 2021, with a direct answer from the state official in charge of the program that no, the town cannot use the ARPA funds for that purpose. Then two months later, on channel 10 news a story on the city of Fall River paying everybody hazard pay. TA Wojcik asked Thomas Zidelis (ARPA Consultant) to explain what he saw in the story because not only is the City of Fall River doing it many other cities and towns are as well. Mr. Zidelis's response was that whoever you were talking to at the state didn't understand what you were asking because it is allowed, the state is calling it premium pay. That item is now back on the table for the Board to consider.

TA Wojcik asked the Board what they would like to do with the ARPA funds, would they like to pick one big project and use the money for that, or would they like to pick a bunch of small projects and spread out 2.7 million. Resident Shirley Mosczynski (60 Oak Street) asked when there will be a full Board at a meeting, and the response was hopefully soon. TA Wojcik is going to put together the information for the Board to look over for the premium pay for the ARPA funds and they will vote on it at a later date.

5. (1:30:14) Discuss Cable Renewal Subcommittee – Possible Votes

Pat Aldrich/ Cable Department head stated that the cable license expires next year in 2023 and he has been working with an attorney to renew the contract. The attorney suggested that a subcommittee form for the purposes of overseeing the license negotiations. This subcommittee can consist of anyone and it is highly recommended that a resident or two sit on said subcommittee to give perspective from the residence side. Chair Kevin Morse stated that he would willing to sit on the subcommittee.

(1:34:35) Motion to create the cable renewal subcommittee and appoint Kevin Morse as first resident member made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. All members in favor.
Fred Fontaine (25 Charles Street) volunteered to join the subcommittee as well.

6. (1:36:45) 2nd Review of Development Agreement with CRG – Possible Votes

TA Wojcik state that they received a red line copy of the agreement. Robert Sullivan stated that Eversource did a new study for the cost of the gas line coming into Douglas for the 9,000 feet and the new cost is \$3 million; the old cost was \$3.7 million. The town still has an active \$700k MassWorks grant to be applied and Eversource is contributing \$1.9 million over their 25-year payback schedule. That now leaves a shortage of \$430,526 which is what CRG is picking up. Those numbers are now in the development agreement down to the dollar, and the rest of the agreement has not changed. A traffic Study will be triggered when there is a threshold of 25% increase in truck traffic defined as class 7 or higher. CRG's entire exposure for this is \$500k if there is a need for traffic improvements downtown due to the warehouse traffic. TA Wojcik

suggest the Board signs the agreement tonight, or at the least verbal agreement. CRG will not sign a closing with the Board until the the development agreement signed by the Select Board. **(1:44:15) Motion to have the town administrator finalize the document and for the Select Board to sign it on July 19, 2022, made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Tim Bonin. All members in favor.**

7. (1:45:35) Review and Ratify Eversource filing for Natural Gas Franchise with DPU – Possible Votes

Eversource needs an application from the town in order to provide us with natural gas. Once the application is received they take it to DPU to prove that it can be funded. They have applications for service from people who are going to contribute amounts to the project. TA Wojcik signed the application and is looking for the Board to be on record as supporting the application.

(1:47:50) Motion to support the Town Administrator's decision to sign the application dated June 22, 2022, made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Tim Bonin. All members in favor.

8. (1:48:12) 2nd Review and Discussion of Goals for the Town – Possible Votes

Board will pass over until more members are present.

9. (1:48:40) Discuss Open Meeting Law/Remote Participation – Possible Votes

Mr. Fitzpatrick would like some input from TA Wojcik if there is any need to continue with remote participation, since it expires July 15, 2022. TA Wojcik stated that other boards and committees would like to keep it going. TA Wojcik's only concern about it is having members that are not full-time residents staying on because they can join a meeting remotely. The Board suggested addressing it with a policy. Dawn Fontaine (25 Charles Street) wanted to let the Board know that at least with the Library Trustees they were able to have a quorum more often because of the option for remote participation.

(1:54:20) Motion to allow the remote participants policy for an additional 90 days pending developmental policy to address any excessive remote use made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Tim Bonin. All members in favor.

10. (1:55:56) Review & Approve Revised Code of Conduct for Boards, Commissions, & Committees – Possible Votes

Attorney Rich Bowen has reviewed this.

(1:56:38) Motion to approve the revised code of conduct made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Kevin Morse. All members in favor.

11. (1:58:57) Review Annual Appointments – Possible Votes

(1:59:58) Motion to approve the appointments as presented made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Tim Bonin. All members in favor.

12. (2:00:55) Approve Minutes – Possible Votes

(2:01:20) Motion to approve the May 17, 2022, executive session minutes retain all made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. All members in favor.

(2:01:55) Motion to approve the June 7, 2022, meeting minutes made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. All members in favor.

(2:02:20) Motion to approve the June 7, 2022, executive session minutes retain all made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. All members in favor.

13. (2:02:42) Town Administrator's Report

TA Wojcik stated that on Sunday July 10th there will hopefully be one night of night work at North and Main Street in connection with the water infrastructure project. The road will be closed overnight instead of doing it during the daytime and stretching out over a few days. There is a purchase and sales agreement on town land that was sold through the proper process over a year ago. There is a small remaining National Grid easement because there used to be a substation in that neighborhood and has long since been gone. The easements are still in the deeds and to extinguish those easements the town needs National Grids cooperation.

The town released a bid today on the day tank and associated mechanical systems in the basement of the Municipal Center for the heating system. There is a pre-bid conference on July

12, 2022, at 10:00 AM for interested plumbing contractors to come and look at the job and submit a bid, estimating the job to be around \$55k. This is part of the final recovery of the spill in the basement.

TA Wojcik would like to give a quick update on the health insurance buying group, that as of July 1, 2022 there are 8 members now compared to the previous three members. Prior to accepting the new towns and making them members, the existing three towns reviewed the equity in the trust fund and voted as a board to lock in the values of the trust fund. The new members will not have any claim to the accrued trust fund that we have as of June 30, 2022. Over the past three years the town of Douglas has accrued trust fund equity in the health insurance buying group of over \$1 million. The town will recommend leaving about 12% of the towns annual cost in the trust fund. Funds in excess of that need to be put to use, according to the towns bylaws the town must withdraw that equity. The recommendation from TA Wojcik and Ms. Lovett for the Board would be to put it into rate stabilization, and the rest would go into OPEB.

14. (2:15:00) Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting. NONE

15. Executive Session

- a. Collective Bargaining
- b. Litigation

(2:16:16) Motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of collective bargaining and litigation and then to leave executive session for the sole purpose of adjournment made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. All members in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephenie Gosselin
Recording secretary