

**Board of Selectmen Agenda
Municipal Center Resource Room
Thursday October 6, 2022**

7:00 PM

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

1. Appointment for Local Cultural Council – Possible Votes

7:05 PM

2. Public Hearing for Pole Petition / Chestnut Street – Possible Votes
3. Review & Discuss HCA for Carbon Canopy Corporation – Possible Votes
4. Highway Department On-Call Policy Final Read – Possible Votes
5. Review & Ratify Contract for Finance Director/Town Accountant
Jeanne Lovett – Possible Votes
6. Acknowledgement of Transaction of Privately Owned Property to DCR
(Parcels 229-3 & 230-1) – Possible Votes
7. Review & Close Warrant – Possible Votes
8. Discuss the Act of Payment for National Grid's Easement Release on Town
Owned Property Parcel #15-1443 located in Uxbridge – Possible Votes
9. Authorize TA to Sign for Water/Sewer Department Lead Service Line Inventory
& Replacement Program – Possible Votes
10. IMA with Blackstone for Shared Building Inspection Services – Possible Votes
11. ARPA Discussion – 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. 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
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022
MEETING MINUTES

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

Absent: Tim Bonin

(0:03) Chair Kevin Morse calls meeting to order at 7:02 PM

(0:07) Pledge of Allegiance

(0:27) Chairman Announcements: NONE

(0:30) Citizen's Forum

Mike Zwicker asked if Oak Street poles are being discussed at tonight's meeting. Lisa Freeman responded that the re-designs from National Grid haven't been received back yet. The pole petitions will be on an upcoming agenda and abutter letters will be mailed out for notification of the hearing.

1. (1:00) Appointment for Local Cultural Council – Possible Votes

The Cultural Council is in full support of the appointment of Rakesh Bhaskar. Mr. Bhaskar works for the Department of Veteran's affairs, and he is interested in what the council supports and would like to be able to contribute.

(3:35) Motion to appoint for a term of three years made by Hal Davis, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. All members in favor.

2. (4:10) Public Hearing for Pole Petition / Chestnut Street – Possible Votes

The engineer for National Grid Electric joined remotely.

(4:40) Motion to open the public hearing made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. All members in favor.

Highway Superintendent John Furno just asked that the pole be 3 feet from the edge of the pavement. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that it looks like the guide wire is going past the property line and was wondering if it requires an easement. Les Stevens of 42 Chestnut Street stated that it is in his property and National Grid came out and located a spot to put the pole and an easement in because the tree that the guide wire was in is rotting. Mr. Stevens stated that he has no problem with it and has signed the easement.

(7:35) Motion to close the public hearing made by Hal Davis, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. All members in favor.

(7:45) Motion to approve the pole petition on Chestnut Street made by Hal Davis, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. All members in favor.

3. (8:12) Review and Discuss HCA for Carbon Canopy Corporation – Possible Votes

Attorney Blake Mensing stated that he had a conversation back and forth with Attorney Liz Lydon and Attorney Mensing stated that his clients are good with the text as drafted and they are just seeking the boards' signatures on the agreement and the HCA certification form so they can commence the state licensure process. The board mentioned striking the impact fees from the agreement because of the new law that is taking effect in November that they cannot collect them anymore.

(10:06) Motion to amend the agreement to strike the community impact fee under number 1 in the agreement, a, b, c, d, e and h and relabel f to be a, and relabel g to be b made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. All members in favor.

(11:25) Motion to accept the host community agreement as amended between Carbon Canopy Corporation and the Town of Douglas made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. All members in favor.

The board had all parties sign the agreement and paperwork during the meeting.

4. (14:46) Highway Department On-Call Policy Final Read – Possible Votes

No changes since the last read.

(15:05) Motion to approve the Highway Department on-call policy number HD001 made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. All members if favor.

5. (15:28) Review & Ratify Contract for Finance Director / Town Accountant Jeanne Lovett – Possible Votes

TA Wojcik states that all the provisions are consistent with what has been discussed with the Selectboard in executive session, and there have been no additional changes after the last round of edits. TA Wojcik has signed the contract and is asking that the board ratify the contract.

(16:13) Motion to ratify the contract between the Finance Director / Town Accountant and the Town of Douglas made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. All members in favor.

6. (16:55) Acknowledgement of Transaction of Privately Owned Property to DCR (Parcels 229-3 & 230-1) – Possible Votes

Ryan Fattman asked the board to read the announcement provided before making a vote.

Which reads:

Certificate of announcement pursuant to 301 CMR 51082, I Kevin D. Morse chairman of the board of selectmen of the town of Douglas, Massachusetts do hereby certify that on October 6, 2022, it was announced at a public meeting of the selectmen that the Department of Conservation and Recreation may acquire an interest in two parcels of land located in Douglas as shown on the attached locus map marked as exhibit A for conservation and or recreation purposes. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts acting through DCR and recreation has under consideration the acquisition of the fee or lesser interest in approximately 22.74 acres of forest land that lies contiguous to the Douglas State Forest in the town of Douglas. The current owners use of the property is undeveloped forest land, locus map marked exhibit A shows the property in which we are interested.

(22:10) Motion that the board of selectmen acknowledges the transaction of privately owned property to DCR for parcels 229-3 & 230-1 made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. All members in favor.

(22:50) Motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign any documentation related to the parcels 229-3 & 230-1 made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. All members in favor.

7. (23:20) Review & Close Warrant – Possible Votes

(24:43) Motion to close the warrant made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. All members in favor.

8. (25:05) Discuss the Act of Payment for National Grid's Easement Release on Town Owned Property Parcel #15-1443 located in Uxbridge – Possible Votes

This payment is being donated by CRG to pay National Grid for the easement. The request is that the selectboard consider accepting the gift, that is the sole purpose of paying National Grid for its property interest / easement which they are relinquishing so that development can go forward. Whenever National Grid relinquishes these easements there's a cost associated with that. If the board accepts the gift the town will send the check to National Grid. Bob Minarik stated that CRG will be sending the check directly to National Grid and the board is just voting to accept the gift.

(26:30) Motion to accept the gift of CRG's payment to National Grid for the easement release by National Grid on town owned property parcel #15-1443 located in Uxbridge made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. All members in favor.

9. (29:33) Authorize the Town Administrator to Sign for Water/Sewer Department Lead Service Line Inventory & Replacement Program – Possible Votes

The town is going to participate in a mandatory program to take a survey to determine if there are any lead service lines or other connections that contain lead components in the Douglas water system. If they have been identified a plan has to be in place by 2024 to resolve them. TA Wojcik has to be authorized to sign documents to commit the town to participate. There is also a November town meeting article (#4) that is going to address the same. The town will be asked to vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds \$200k dollars or some such sum for a lead service line inventory and replacement program. If town meeting approves the funds TA Wojcik will have authority to sign right away.

(32:27) Motion to authorize for the Town Administrator to sign any and all documents related to the water/sewer departments lead service line inventory and replacement program made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. All members in favor.

10. (35:18) IMA (Inter Municipal Agreement) with Blackstone for Shared Building Inspection Services – Possible Votes

The town administrator of Blackstone reached out to the all the surrounding towns inquiring about interest in an inter municipal agreement for building commissioner services. The Douglas town administrator has discussed with the building inspector about the possible need for part-time help for Douglas and TA Wojcik thinks this might be an opportunity to share the cost of additional help. They are still looking into this to see if it will be beneficial to the town. The board discussed that Ken Frasier has expressed in the past the need for help. They agree it's not feasible for the town as this point, but maybe down the road it may be something to consider. No vote taken.

11. (51:55) ARPA Discussion – Possible Votes

The town signed a letter of engagement with ARPA Consultants CLA (Clifton Larson Allen). TA Wojcik needs to take all the proposals and send the request to CLA for their review and opinion on whether the projects will be ARPA eligible and they are going to give solid advice to the town. The board would like to wait on making decisions on the ARPA projects until they hear back from CLA.

12. (56:55) Approve Minutes: September 6, 2022 open and executive session, September 20, 2022 executive session– Possible Votes

(58:10) Motion to approve the September 6, 2022, minutes as written made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. All members in favor.

(58:56) Motion to approve and retain the September 6, 2022, executive session minutes made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. All members in favor.

(59:42) Motion to approve and retain the September 20, 2022, executive session minutes made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. All members in favor.

13. (1:00:00) Town Administrator's Report – Possible Votes

On Wednesday, October 12th at 11:30 AM our energy advisor will have a meeting at the adult social center. This will benefit seniors who may be living alone and may not be aware of whether they are participating in the energy aggregation program or not. This information is to inform residents about the lower available energy rate through the town.

The town is in a conversation with the Department of Public Utilities regarding the extension of natural gas into the community. The town should likely hear by mid id November on a decision from the Attorney General on the natural gas extension.

Today the town learned that the retiree health benefit per member per month premium is zero percent increase and the rate cap will be effective through 2025. The town will not see that premium go up any more than \$10 per member per month each year through 2025.

TA Wojcik spoke about the Town of Douglas and how the elected officials and appointed officials always managed to pull together and work to a common goal, this arose because of the chaos going on in Woonsocket where they voted to remove their mayor.

14. (1:14:11) Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

Mr. Fitzpatrick wanted to remind everyone that tomorrow is World Smile Day☺.

15. (1:14:49) Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Hal Davis, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. All members in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephenie Gosselin
Recording Secretary