

**Board of Selectmen Agenda
Municipal Center Resource Room
Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

7:00 PM

- Call to Order
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Chairman Announcements ~ Raymond Begin Retirement from the Highway Dept. after 22 years as a Driver/Operator.
 - Citizen's Forum
1. Public Hearing / Pole Petition 159 Wallum Lake Rd. – Possible Votes
 2. Capital Cannabis Drive-up Re-Vote from 12/5 Meeting – Vote
 3. Highway Department / Ridge Trail Grading – Possible Votes
 4. Financial Policy / 2nd Reading
 5. Chapter 61 Policy / Final Reading – Possible Votes
 6. Grant Acceptance for COA Formula Grant – Possible Votes
 7. License Renewals – Possible Votes
 - Douglas Auto & Truck Sales – Class II
 - Douglas Equipment Corp. – Class II
 - K2 Automotive – Class II
 - Goodness Store – Common Vic.
 - Harry's Pizza – Common Vic.
 - Gregory's Pizza – Alcohol & Common Vic.
 - Blackstone Valley Beagle Club – Alcohol & Yearly Entertainment
 - Whitinsville Fish & Game – Alcohol
 - Picket Fence – Alcohol & Common Vic.
 - Breezy Picnic Grounds – Automatic Amusement & Common Vic.
 - BZ Nutrition – Common Vic.
 - Grille on Main – Alcohol & Common Vic.
 - Douglas House of Pizza – Common Vic.
 - Little Coffee Bean – Common Vic.
 8. Meeting Minutes – Possible Votes
 9. TA Evaluation Results – Possible Votes
 10. Town Administrator's Report
 11. Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting
 12. Executive Session
 - a. Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. **Collective Bargaining – Police Lt. Gould & Fire Asst. Chief Manning**
 13. Adjournment

Douglas Cable is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

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Meeting ID: 818 3374 3500

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<https://douglas-ma.gov/530/Remote-Meetings>

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023
MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Chair Kevin Morse, Vice Chair Mike Fitzpatrick, Ross Smith, Max Postma, Matt Wojcik Town Administrator, Lisa Freeman Executive Assistant

Absent: Tim Bonin

Kevin Morse called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

(0:07 TS) Pledge of Allegiance

(0:25 TS) Chairman Announcements: Congratulations and best wishes to Raymond Begin who is retiring from the highway department after 22 years of service as a driver and operator.

(0:50 TS) Citizen's Forum: Lisa Moczynski, 60 Oak Street stated that she has sent memos out about this and has been monitoring the Blue Wave Solar development in the last week at 45 Oak Street. There have been two complete failures of their erosion control into Lake Manchaug and has traveled under the dam into Stevens Pond. She and her family attended the Conservation meeting last night and urged the BOS to watch that meeting and was very unhappy with it. She had asked several times at the meeting who was in charge of this project at the town level, and nobody could answer that question. There is a site walk scheduled for Saturday, December 23rd and requested that the BOS attend the site walk at 45 Oak Street. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that he was at the Conservation meeting and that Brandon Fanauf the Conservation Agent consultant acknowledged that he would be the contact person for this project and asked that TA Wojcik would confirm this. TA Wojcik stated that the building inspector is the enforcement official for any aspect of this because he is the zoning official. Ken Frasier has been engaged in a very difficult exchange with this developer for several months now. TA Wojcik and Mr. Frasier went out to the site yesterday and he stated that there are serious issues with the erosion control and there needs to be something done and TA Wojcik feels that the town bylaws for solar need to be changed and stated that the Blue Wave developers are irresponsible. They are still trying to figure out what the best course of action is going forward. TA Wojcik stated that the Conservation Commission should have made them fix the erosion controls immediately instead of scheduling a site walk 6 days after the rain event. Mr. Morse asked Lisa Freeman to add this item to the next agenda.

1. (19:15 TS) Public Hearing – Pole Petition in 159 Wallum Lake Road – Possible votes
They will cancel the public hearing as there is no representation from National Grid due to the 12/18/2023 storm and workload and rescheduled to Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 7 PM.

2. (20:05 TS) Capital Cannabis drive-up re-vote from 12/5/2023 meeting – Possible votes
Theresa the owner is present for any questions. The BOS is to decide whether there is any opposition and then send it to the Planning Board for their decision and then the CCC will review it when they know that the town has approved it. The BOS agrees that they have no opposition to a drive-thru for medical marijuana and Lisa Freeman will draft that in a memo and send it to the Planning Board.

3. (25:10 TS) Highway Department / Ridge Trail Grading – Possible votes
(26:00 TS) Motion to allow the highway department to grade and back blade Ridge Trail as they deem necessary per year, made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Max Postma. The vote passed unanimously.

4. (27:50 TS) Open session Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting. TA Wojcik stated that Ridge Trail is a state road and for all intents and purposes they have abandoned and left to the town to take care of. TA Wojcik stated that in the past they have requested permission from DCR to stabilize the road and they never responded to the town in regard to their request. There is also Reed Road and Shore Road that are in terrible condition and need to be attended to and Adam Furno is trying to decide how to approach the issues with these roads that have been washed out. The BOS fully supports grading and back blading those roads for public safety.

(35:25 TS) Motion grant permission for the highway department to grade and back blade Reed Road and Shore Road as often as they deem necessary for the year, made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Max Postma. The vote passed unanimously.

5. (35:55 TS) Financial Policy 2nd Reading

There have been no changes since the first reading and no currently recommended changes.

6. (36:15 TS) Chapter 61 Policy Final Reading – Possible votes

There have been changes since the last reading which is – A master list of chapter properties obtained from the Assessor's office an updated as needed shall be maintained by all departments. Any property that is subject to change in status shall be reported to the Town Administrator's office.

(37:50 TS) Motion to approve the Chapter 61 Policy made by Max Postma, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. The vote passed unanimously.

7. (38:15 TS) Grant Acceptance for COA Formula Grant – Possible votes

The COA has been issued a \$13,706. grant for fitness classes and programs, newsletter mailings, postage, supplies for programs, office supplies and other operational expenses for the center. The expenses will be approved by the COA board members. Ms. Freeman stated that Patrice mentioned that this amount was only half what they usually receive, and they will be receiving more in the next few months before the end of the fiscal year.

(39:00 TS) Motion to accept the COA Formula Grant in the amount of \$13,706. made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Max Postma. The vote passed unanimously.

8. (39:25 TS) License Renewals – Possible votes

- Douglas Auto & Truck Sales – Class II
- Douglas Equipment Corp. – Class II
- K2 Automotive – Class II
- Goodness Store – Common Vic.
- Harry's Pizza – Common Vic.
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- Little Coffee Bean – Common Vic.

Three of these establishments have pending inspections with the fire department just due to scheduling which are Harry's Pizza, Douglas Auto and Truck Sales, and Douglas Equipment Corp. and a business certificate renewal pending for the Little Coffee Bean.

(41:00 TS) Motion to approve license renewals for all the above listed establishments made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Max Postma. The vote passed unanimously.

9. (41:55 TS) Meeting Minutes: Passing over.

10. (42:00 TS) Town Administrator's Evaluation Results – Possible votes

The overall grading score was an 86.4, and Mr. Morse read some of the comments, and he stated overall that he believes that TA Wojcik meets all the objectives that are put in front of him, and all the current members of the BOS feel that he is doing an excellent job. They thank him for all his hard work and dedication. TA Wojcik stated that he will look through all the individual comments as they become part of his file for tips and stated that he is appreciative of the score given to him. TA Wojcik stated that now that his evaluation is finished, he can start the department head evaluations and finalize the goals list he has been working on and hoping to present it to the BOS on the next agenda.

11. (46:00 TS) Town Administrator's Report

TA Wojcik wanted to acknowledge Ray Begin and how much he has been appreciated for his many hours of snow plowing. Also, this week the BOS and the town received the resignation of Tracy Sharkey from her roll on the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission where she was chair on both entities and had served the town for many years and appreciated her knowledge and work ethic and wishes her well. The Governor put legislation through a program called the Fair Share Amendment to Chapter 90, which was additional funds that would be allocated to communities based on road mileage, half being allocated on road mileage the other half on the same rules as Chapter 90, and the town of Douglas is getting \$217,554. on top of the regular Chapter 90 allocation that comes to the town. TA Wojcik asks that the BOS add to their executive session a topic that was not anticipated 48 hours in advance of this meeting of the outcome of litigation because he received news of it just this afternoon and would like to brief the Board on that.

12. (51:30 TS) Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting.

Mr. Fitzpatrick wanted to mention his thoughts on the bookstore sandwich board sign issue and stated that the owner was instructed not to put the sign up and to go apply for the building permit if he chose that he wants the sign. Mr. Fitzpatrick's question is did the applicant apply for the permit and was it approved and if not, the sign is up and wants to know why. The BOS asked Ms. Freeman to reach out to the building department to see he received a permit for the sandwich board sign to be up.

(53:45 TS) Motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining for Police Lieutenant Gould and Assistant Fire Chief Manning contract as well as litigation and to leave executive session for the sole purpose of adjournment made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Ross Smith. Roll call vote – Max Postma, Mike Fitzpatrick, Kevin Morse, and Ross Smith all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephenie Gosselin
Recording Secretary