

**Board of Selectmen Agenda
Municipal Center Resource Room
Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

7:00 PM

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

1. Public Hearing / Pole Petition 159 Wallum Lake Rd. – Possible Votes
2. Ratify Contract for Police Lt. Travis Gould – Possible Votes
3. Highway Department / Grading & Back Blading – Possible Votes
4. Financial Policy / Final Reading – Possible Votes
5. Grant Acceptance – Possible Votes
 - FD – FY2024 SAFE Grant
 - FD – FY2024 SR SAFE Grant
 - FD – Homeland Security Grant Program /ALERTT AAIR Curriculum
6. Meeting Minutes – Possible Votes
7. Follow-up on Oak Street Solar
8. Town Administrator's Report
 - Distribution of Administration Goals for Calendar Year 2024
9. Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting
10. 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**
 - b. Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(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. – **Litigation Shore Road**
11. Adjournment

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

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

Kevin Morse called the meeting to order at 7pm.

(0:08 TS) Pledge of Allegiance

(0:25 TS) Chairman's Announcements: The Town Administrator forwarded an email to the Board of Selectmen from Patrice Rousseau from Adult Social Center that reads:

"I received a call from a 66-year-old woman who was driven to Webster on December 18th from North Carolina by her abusive boyfriend and left there with nothing. The Webster Senior Center was closed due to the holiday, which is why she reached out to Patrice. Patrice advised her to go to the police department as they have a program in place, and they could have assisted her and referred her to Tri-Valley Elder Services as well. When Ms. Rousseau reached back out to her on Thursday morning to follow up, she was appalled to hear that this woman was still sitting in the McDonalds in Webster during the day and wandering the streets at night. Webster PD had told her that there was nothing they could do until their clinician came back to work on January 2nd. Tri-Valley never got back to her, and the Webster Senior Center told her that they could not help her. After calling 16 shelters in and around the area and exhausting every resource, Patrice reached out to Douglas Police Officer Brimmer. Officer Brimmer was very quick to respond to the center with Danielle Machado who is the clinician that works with the department. Within a half hour they were able to secure this woman a place to stay, food and many additional resources that she needed. Job well done by Officer Brimmer and Danielle Machado, if they hadn't assisted this woman, she would still be living on the streets."

Ms. Rousseau thanked the Douglas Police Department for their dedication and quick response to assist someone in crisis within another community.

Chairman Morse thanked the Douglas Police Department for their hard work and willingness to help the community and surrounding communities in need.

(2:40 TS) Citizen's Forum: NONE

1. (2:50 TS) Public Hearing: Pole Petition 159 Wallum Lake Road – Possible votes

(2:57 TS) Motion to open the public hearing made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Tim Bonin. The vote passed unanimously.

The petition is to install one JO pole on Wallum Lake Road, installing a new midspan JO Pole, 40-50 between existing poles 40 and 41 for service to a new house located 159 Wallum Lake Road. The pole will also assist with raising low hanging wires crossing the driveway of 164 Wallum Lake Road. Mike Frasier with National Grid joined remotely. The Acting Superintendent Adam Furno walked the property and noted the road water run off will flow behind the pole location.

(5:10 TS) Motion to close the public hearing made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Tim Bonin. The vote passed unanimously.

(5:25 TS) Motion to approve the pole petition for 159 Wallum Lake Road, made by Max Postma, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. The vote passed unanimously.

2. (5:55 TS) Ratify Contract for Police Lt. Travis Gould – Possible votes
TA Wojcik stated that the sole purpose of placing the executive session item with respect to this contract was to give the BOS an option to retire to executive session if they chose to discuss matters of performance related to a contract. Otherwise, in open session the Board can make their general comments in support of the terms and conditions of employment extended through the employment agreement. Chief Miglionico's evaluations of Lieutenant Gould were provided to the BOS in executive session. The BOS agrees and is satisfied with what was discussed and has no need to go into executive session.
(8:44 TS) Motion to ratify the contract for Police Lt. Travis Gould made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Max Postma. The vote passed unanimously.
Lt. Travis Gould attended the meeting and would like to thank Chief Miglionico and TA Wojcik for putting the contract together, he also thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.
3. (9:30 TS) Highway Department, Grading & Back Blading – Possible votes
(10:35 TS) Motion to authorize Acting Highway Superintendent Adam Furno to grade roads as he sees fit for the remainder of the year, made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Max Postma. The vote passed unanimously.
4. (11:20 TS) Financial Policy, Final Reading – Possible votes
There have been no changes since the previous reading.
(12:05 TS) Motion to approve the town of Douglas general funds and long-term funds investment policy dated 12/5/2023, made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Max Postma. The vote passed unanimously.
5. (12:30 TS) Grant Acceptance – Possible votes
 - FD – FY2024 SAFE Grant
 - FD – FY2024 SR SAFE Grant
 - FD – Homeland Security Grant Program / ALERRT AAIR CurriculumThis is a flat rate of \$40 per hour per person for the reimbursable program. AAIR is the active attack integrated response program performance level course designed to improve integration between law enforcement, fire, telecommunicators, dispatchers, and EMS in an active attack or shooter event.
(17:30 TS) Motion to accept the SAFE Grants and Homeland Security Grant Program for reimbursement made by Max Postma, seconded by Tim Bonin. The vote passed unanimously.
6. (18:00 TS) Meeting Minutes – Possible votes
Passing over.
7. (18:10 TS) Follow up on Oak Street Solar
TA Wojcik asked that this item be added to the agenda to maintain a running dialogue on with the public on what is going on. The BOS had a quorum for a site walk on Saturday 12/23 but the Conservation Commission did not have a quorum at the site walk or at town hall later. When everyone came back to town hall the public was available to address the BOS and review the aspects of the situation. Brandon Faneuf the Conservation Agent has corresponded with the BOS Chairman with an update of what is going on. The update reads as follows:
"Conducted the site visit on Saturday, 12/23/23 with public meeting right after. A restoration plan has been created and reviewed me as well as abutters and those directly impacted by damage. For example, the Moczynski's and the Manchaug Pond Foundation, et al. I have not given it my final approval, but we are very close, some revisions to the soil and water sampling regimens are going to be made so that pfas is tested for all soils, especially the soil being imported onto the site right now. I am working with the Moczynski Trust to facilitate their permission to allow environmental testing and cleanup crews onto their land in Sutton. Once we have the results of the soil sampling, we will take it from there."

TA Wojcik stated that he is glad this is all happening, but all seems to be happening from the Sutton Conservation Commission, we share the Conservation Agent with the town of Sutton. TA Wojcik has complete confidence in the Conservation Agents ability to use authority appropriately and to enforce state law. As well as the towns bylaws on behalf of our citizens and that Mr. Wojcik's expectation is that he will act quickly and transparently when conditions warrant. He is more interested in written enforcement orders that state a violation of the law and what actions must be taken to rectify the issue from the Douglas Conservation Commission. TA Wojcik wants Mr. Faneuf to know that he will have all the support he can get from him so that he can do his job. Mr. Fitzpatrick gave his opinion on the matter and is in agreement with TA Wojcik of supporting Mr. Faneuf. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that he attended the Sutton Conservation meeting and they voted to impose a \$300 a day fine immediately for a period of 90 days a total of \$27,000. They would use the fines for any costs incurred by the Town of Sutton for engineering, or anything they would have to put in place and the town of Douglas did nothing. The BOS is in full agreement with TA Wojcik in this matter as the appointing authority for the Conservation Commission. Lisa Mosczynski of 60 Oak Street would like to thank the board members that came out to the site on Saturday. Her family is working with Mr. Faneuf to make progress on restoration and she would also like to point out that the Planning Board is involved in this project as well and they also need to be held accountable for their part. Lori Hout of 41 Oak Street stated that she would like to understand better the Conservation Agents role and is he the one telling the commission what to enforce, or is the commission supposed to be figuring it out themselves. She also feels that there is a huge disconnect between the Planning Board and Conservation Commission and their authority. She had also attended the Sutton Conservation meeting and stated that they were horrified that Douglas Conservation Commission did not take any action on this issue. Mr. Bonin asked about the Conservation Commission and who and how many members are currently on it. TA Wojcik stated that there are currently 5 members on serving with Tracy Sharkey the Chairperson recently stepping down. The Board and TA Wojcik discussed what the number of the commission should be and there is no number that is needed, they can stay at 5 if they want to. The Board would like to get written clarity on this. There was also a question raised where the authority of the Planning Board ends, and Zoning Board begins. TA Wojcik stated that in his opinion the solar bylaw must give the Zoning official more authority to issue violations and fines.

8. (48:15 TS) Town Administrator's Report

- Distribution of Administration Goals for Calendar Year 2024

TA Wojcik gave the Board the goals memo to review. He has in mind that at this time next calendar year as the budget is being prepared there will be evaluations of department heads in place based upon the goals. It is the BOS's decision and authority to vote on the goals they would like to see implemented. Mr. Morse likes the merit increase option in the goals. TA Wojcik wants to educate the public on the roles of positions and what actually goes on at town hall and the importance of these positions. Mr. Bonin asked about the ARPA projects and TA Wojcik stated that is listed in the goals memo, but thinks that at the next meeting they should have an ARPA update. The goals document will be posted on the town's website for the public to view. Mr. Fitzpatrick requested to see the list of goals on a regular basis so the Board can be reminded of what is current. TA Wojcik is asking that the BOS in the near future have a vote on the goals he has written out and distributed. TA Wojcik spoke about when the budget will be released to the Finance Committee and the BOS, which will be earlier this year. He discussed with the Board what the assessment process will be on the new warehouse and where else the town is getting their revenue like the warehouse shared with Sutton and Uxbridge and Douglas. The value of the Cubes at Gilboa warehouse came in much higher than what the Assessor originally estimated. He built a budget for FY25 around a new growth figure of \$1.15 million and the new growth value came in closer to \$1.89 million. TA Wojcik stated that doesn't mean the

number we should use for the budget. His recommendation is to hold close to half a million aside for overlay if the owner of the warehouse challenges the value the town needs to be able to survive the abatement process without going back to taxpayers. The last topic for discussion employee recognition for a couple of dispatchers that went above and beyond on a recent emergency call so the Employee Recognition Committee will be making another round of employee recognition awards.

9. (1:08:55 TS) Open Session for Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting NONE
10. (1:09:10 TS) Executive Session: Motion to move into executive session for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares and to leave executive session for the sole purpose of adjournment made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Max Postma. Roll call vote – Max Postma, Mike Fitzpatrick, Kevin Morse, and Ross Smith all in favor.
11. Adjournment: Mr. Bonin made a motion at 8:55pm to leave executive session and return to regular session for the sole purpose of adjournment, Mr. Fitzpatrick seconded the motion, all in favor. Roll call vote: Fitzpatrick – aye, Bonin – aye, Smith – aye, Postma – aye, Morse - aye.

Respectively submitted,



Stephenie Gosselin
Recording Secretary