



**Board of Selectmen Agenda
Municipal Center Resource Room
Tuesday, June 4, 2024
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reorganization – Possible Votes
4. Chairman Announcements
5. Public Hearing / Pole Petition 273 SE Main Street – Possible Votes
6. Citizen's Forum
7. Road Use Request / Blackstone River Valley Greenway Race – Possible Votes
8. Conservation Commission Full Member Appointment / Josiah Burch – Possible Votes
9. Vote to Hold a Special Election on July 30th for BVT HVAC / Roof Project – Possible Votes
10. EV Charging Rate Policy / 1st Reading
11. Review Annual Reappointments – Possible Votes
12. Authorize TA to Sign Health Equity Flexible Benefits Plan – Possible Votes
13. Authorize TA to Request Refund of Surplus from MSHG – Possible Votes
14. Follow-up Review of Committee Handbook & Code of Conduct for Boards, Committees & Commissions – Possible Votes
15. Meeting Minutes – Possible Votes
16. Town Administrator's Report
17. Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting
18. Executive Session
 - a. *Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(6), To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. **Interest in Real Property – Riedell Road***
19. Adjournment

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024
MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance: Chair Mike Fitzpatrick, Tim Bonin, Ross Smith, Les Stevens, Hal Davis, Matt Wojcik Town Administrator, Lisa Freeman Executive Assistant.

1. Mike Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 7 pm.
2. (0:10 TS) Pledge of Allegiance
3. (0:30 TS) Reorganization – Possible votes
Les Stevens nominated Tim Bonin for chairman, Ross Smith nominated Mike Fitzpatrick for chairman, with no other nominations. TA Wojcik asked for an individual vote from every member: Ross Smith and Mike Fitzpatrick voted for Mike Fitzpatrick, and Tim Bonin, Hal Davis and Les Stevens voted for Tim Bonin. Tim Bonin was voted the chairman of the BOS.
Mr. Bonin took nominations for vice chairman, and Hal Davis nominated Mike Fitzpatrick for vice chairman, and all members voted in favor.
4. Chairman Announcements NONE
5. (3:00 TS) Public Hearing / Pole Petition 273 SE Main Street – Possible votes
(3:10 TS) Motion to open the public hearing made by Ross Smith, seconded by Hal Davis. The vote passed unanimously.
Rebecca Marques from National Grid explained that pole 88 needs to move over about 45 feet and a new pole #88-50 added for service for a new home.
(5:10 TS) Motion to close the public hearing on the pole petition made by Hal Davis, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
(5:30 TS) Motion to approve the pole petition for 273 SE Main St, made by Ross Smith, seconded by Les Stevens. The vote passed unanimously.
6. (6:15 TS) Citizen's Forum
Mr. Bonin gave an update on the movie that was filmed at Soldiers Field 2 years ago and noted it will be showing in theaters nationwide.
7. (10:10 TS) Road Use Request / Blackstone River Valley Greenway Race – Possible votes
Heather Elster, Executive Director of the Whitinsville Community Center in attendance to discuss. Ms. Elster went over the locations and destinations of the race, who can join and how to join. The Police Chief has decided that no details are required this year and the Fire/EMS Department will require an ALS detail with times to be discussed further. The race is scheduled for Saturday, September 28, 2024 and there is no rain date.
(17:20 TS) Motion to approve the Blackstone River Valley Greenway Race as presented contingent upon the EMS detail times and availability made by Hal Davis, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
8. (18:00 TS) Conservation Commission Full Member Appointment / Josiah Burch – Possible votes
Mike Fitzpatrick recused himself from the discussion. Josiah Burch was appointed as an alternate in March. Due to a vacancy he has been recommended by the Commission as a full member for a 3-year term.
(18:55 TS) Motion to approve Josiah Burch as a full member to the ConCom made by Ross Smith, seconded by Hal Davis. The vote passed unanimously.

9. (19:20 TS) Vote to Hold a Special Election on July 30th for BVT HVAC / Roof Project – Possible votes
TA Wojcik explained the process of holding a special election, the details of the BVT project, the effect on the Town of Douglas, and that it needs to go to a ballot vote. The Town of Douglas has only pledged to raise whatever is left over after Massachusetts School Building Authority funding is exhausted. TA Wojcik wanted to make it clear that there is a big difference between a debt exclusion and an override and explained what the difference between the two are for public clarification. TA Wojcik is recommending voting for it to be a debt exclusion.
(25:40 TS) Motion to hold a special election of July 30, 2024, for the BVT HVAC / roof project made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. The vote passed unanimously.
10. (26:00 TS) EV Charging Rate Policy / 1st Reading
TA Wojcik explained the EV charging project, the issues, the reasons why they needed to be replaced, and the cost for the town and what the grant covered. He stated his recommendation for the rate charge for Douglas residents versus non-residents. The Douglas residents would pay the reduced rate that the town pays and non-residents would pay the National Grid rate. The second reading will be on the June 18th agenda.
11. (35:20 TS) Review Annual Reappointments – Possible votes
They discussed the Boards, Committees and Commissions that would need members and will be on the next agenda to finalize.
12. (37:35 TS) Authorize the Town Administrator to Sign Health Equity Flexible Benefits Plan – Possible votes
The town employees can have certain deductions taken out of their paycheck pretax. Counsel reviewed and approved to form and this will be in effect for 5 years.
(38:45 TS) Motion to authorize Matt Wojcik to sign the Health Equity Flexible Benefit Plan as presented made by Ross Smith, seconded by Les Stevens. The vote passed unanimously.
13. (39:10 TS) Authorize Town Administrator to Request Refund of Surplus from MSHG – Possible votes
TA Wojcik explained the health trust, the surplus funds, and his recommendations on what to vote to get the money out. The Board will have to come up with a policy for the allocation of the surplus funds. His recommendations are the \$500k goes to OPEB, \$200k goes back to the employee, \$400k remain in the trust, and the remaining \$300k would be up to the leadership of the town to decide. There was discussion about what interest is on the account and investing.
(53:45 TS) Motion to authorize the Town Administrator to request the sum of \$1 million dollars of accumulated surplus from the Massachusetts Strategic Health Group made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
14. (54:30 TS) Follow-up Review of Committee Handbook & Code of Conduct for Boards, Committees & Commissions – Possible votes
They discussed the changes and the updates, no other edits made since the first meeting.
(56:15 TS) Motion to approve the revised committee handbook presented to the Board made by Hal Davis, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. The vote passed unanimously.
15. (56:35 TS) Meeting Minutes: March 26, 2024, April 2, 2024, April 9, 2024, April 16, 2024, April 23, 2024, & May 6, 2024 – Possible votes
(57:00 TS) Motion to approve the March 26, 2024, open session meeting minutes made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
(57:30 TS) Motion to approve the April 2, 2024, meeting minutes made by Tim Bonin, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. The vote passed unanimously.

(58:00 TS) Motion to approve the April 9, 2024, meeting minutes as written made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.

(58:35 TS) Motion to approve the April 16, 2024, meeting minutes as written made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed; Les Stevens abstained.

(59:15 TS) Motion to approve the April 23, 2024, meeting minutes as written made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.

(59:35 TS) Motion to approve the May 6, 2024, meeting minutes as written made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.

16. (59:50 TS) Town Administrator's Report

- TA Wojcik updated the Board on the removal of the pavement on North Street and Gilboa and that it had been put off due to the weather. This will be happening at the end of this week and the finish coat should be put on sometime next week, again at no cost to the taxpayers.
- A storm water drain has been hooked up for the bridge at the Cubes @ Gilboa that had been forgotten about when it was first built.
- TA Wojcik updated the Board on the current grant applications submitted.
- TA Wojcik recommends that the Board appoint members to a stakeholders committee to discuss storm water bylaws at their earliest convenience.
- TA Wojcik congratulated the graduating class of 2024.

17. (1:09:05 TS) Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting. NONE

18. (1:09:10 TS) Executive Session

Motion to move into executive session for the sole purpose of interest in real property specifically for Riedell Road and to leave executive session for the sole purpose of adjournment made by Ross Smith, seconded by Les Stevens. Roll call vote – Ross Smith, Tim Bonin, Mike Fitzpatrick, Hal Davis, & Les Stevens all in favor.

19. Adjournment

Mr. Smith made a motion at 8:34 pm to leave executive session and return to regular session for the sole purpose of adjournment, Mr. Stevens seconded the motion, all in favor. Roll call vote – Stevens – aye, Smith – aye, Bonin – aye, Davis – aye, Fitzpatrick – aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephenie Gosselin
Recording Secretary