

**Board of Selectmen Agenda
Municipal Center Resource Room
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
7:00 PM**



1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Chairman Announcements
4. Citizen's Forum
5. Request by Town Administrator: To open the thirty day public review period for the revised Good Energy electricity aggregation program and documents (votes possible)
6. Annual license renewals – (votes possible)

Various classes of businesses including alcohol, wine & malt, victualling, used car sales

7. Grant / donation acceptance requests from various department heads (votes possible)
 - a. Economic Development / Water Department, acceptance of donation per development agreement with CRG (Cubes at Gilboa) \$300,000 for water system maintenance equipment as specified in the agreement (valve exerciser, mini-excavator, trailer to pull mini-excavator)
 - b. Douglas Fire Department, FY 2025 EMPG grant, \$2,900 for self-contained breathing apparatus face pieces
 - c. Adult Social Center: FY 2025 Health Aging grant, \$250 for fitness classes
 - d. Adult Social Center: FY 2025 Exec. Office of Elder Affairs formula grant, \$14,685 for fitness classes and various operational expenses of the Center
 - e. Community Development
 - f. Community Development
8. Request by Town Administrator regarding health insurance program (votes possible)
 - a. Update on Massachusetts Strategic Health Group (MSHG) financial condition, operating policies and current open bid processes
 - b. Discussion and possible vote to authorize the Town Administrator to establish a "for the benefit of" account with third party administrator Health Plans, Inc. (HPI) for the purpose of payment of claims and expenses incurred
 - c. Review correspondence related to possible departure from Group, authorization for Town Administrator to sign and forward such correspondence
9. Discussion – opportunities presented by current economic and policy initiatives at the federal and state levels for municipal revenue generation and diversification, municipal light & power (no votes)
10. Town Administrator evaluation process: review and edit evaluation instrument and goals as needed; timeline for process – (votes possible)

11. Town Administrator's Report

12. Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

13. Executive Session

*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. **Potential Litigation – MSHG, Arthur J. Gallagher & Company (votes possible)***

14. Adjournment

Douglas Cable is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

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Meeting ID: 893 6997 4721

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For information about the Zoom platform, including how-to videos and forms for requesting a Zoom meeting:

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Chair Tim Bonin, Vice Chair Mike Fitzpatrick, Ross Smith, Les Stevens, and Matt Wojcik Town Administrator

Absent: Hal Davis

1. Tim Bonin called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.
2. (0:10 TS) Pledge of Allegiance
3. (0:40 TS) Chairman Announcements: NONE
4. (0:45 TS) Citizen's Forum: NONE
5. (0:50 TS) Request by Town Administrator: To open the thirty-day public review period for the revised Good Energy electricity aggregation program and documents (vote possible)
Matt Wojcik read the press the release from Good Energy and asked that the Board declare the review period open with a vote for the record.
(4:10 TS) Motion to open the 30-day public review period for the revised Good Energy electricity aggregation program and documents made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
6. (4:45 TS) Annual License renewals – (votes possible)
Various classes of business including alcohol, wine & malt, victualling, used car sales
(5:55 TS) Motion to approve the annual licenses for Douglas Equipment Corp. for Class II, the Goodness Store for common vic license, K2 Automotive for Class II, the Sokal Hall for liquor license, common vic, pool table and yearly entertainment, Whitinsville Fish and Game for liquor license, Beagle Club for liquor license and yearly entertainment, Breezy Acres for common vic and automatic amusement with a contingency on the installation and inspection of the fire suppression system within their hood before opening for the season, Douglas Orchards for yearly entertainment, Dunkin Donuts for common vic, Extreme Nutrition for common vic, Picket Fence for liquor license and common vic, made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Les Stevens. The vote passed unanimously.
7. (7:20 TS) Grant/donation acceptance requests from various department heads (vote possible)
 - a. Economic Development/Water Department, acceptance of donation per development agreement with CRG (Cubes at Gilboa) \$300,000 for water system maintenance equipment as specified in the agreement (valve exerciser, mini-excavator, trailer to pull mini-excavator)
 - b. Douglas Fire Department, FY2025 EMPG grant, \$2,900 for self-contained breathing apparatus face pieces
 - c. Adult Social Center: FY2025 Health Aging grant, \$250 for fitness classes.
 - d. Adult Social Center: FY2025 Exec. Office of Elder Affairs formula grant, \$14,685 for fitness classes and various operational expenses of the Center.
 - e. Community Development, Incentive grant from National Grid \$32,230
 - f. Community Development, \$8,270

(14:40 TS) Motion to accept the grants as outlined by the Town Administrator, made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.

8. (15:00 TS) Request by Town Administrator regarding health insurance program (vote possible)
- a. Update on Massachusetts Strategic Health Group (MSHG) financial condition, operating policies and current open bid processes.
 - b. Discussion and possible vote to authorize the Town Administrator to establish a "for the benefit of" account with third party administrator Health Plans, Inc. (HPI) for the purpose of payment of claims and expenses incurred.
 - c. Review correspondence related to possible departure from Group, authorization for Town Administrator to sign and forward such correspondence.

The towns broker of record from Alliant, Chris Nunley joined the table for the discussion, and Matt Wojcik explained the health insurance group they joined/created to be self-insured and what the ultimate purpose and hopes of it was. Mr. Wojcik stated that the town of Douglas has consistently run a positive balance at MSHG and there are other towns in the group that have not and are not willing to fund their deficits and the group is not adjusting rates for towns that need to be adjusted to fix their deficits. Mr. Nunley went through the options that the town has at this point, Mr. Wojcik stated that the town is currently out to bid for two major relationships, a 3rd party administrator (HPI is the incumbent) and the consultant relationship. Mr. Wojcik feels the town needs to start the process of leaving MSHG and he went through the steps to the Board of how get out of the agreement. Mr. Wojcik is requesting authorization to send the first of two letters providing the group notice of intention to depart before January 1, 2025, and authorization in consultation with Town Counsel to establish for the benefit of account with health plans incorporated for the purpose of payment of the town claims and expenses incurred.

(1:35:25) Motion to authorize the Town Administrator to establish for the benefit of an account with third party administrator HPI for the purpose of payment of claims and expenses incurred for the next 7 months after consultation with Attorney Rich Bowen, made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Les Stevens. The voter passed unanimously.

(1:36:45 TS) Motion to authorize the Town Administrator to send the first notice to MSHG regarding the town's departure from the group with amendments, made by Les Stevens, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. The vote passed unanimously.

9. (1:37:35 TS) Discussion – opportunities presented by current economic and policy initiatives at the federal and state levels for municipal revenue generation and diversification, municipal light & power (no votes)
Matt Wojcik provided information that the Metropolitan area planning council put together outlining what a municipal light & power corporation is and its powers and summarized the pamphlet. He talked about the process to building one of these facilities and what other towns have done.
10. (2:06:00 TS) Town Administrator evaluation process: review and edit evaluation instrument and goals as needed; timeline for process – (votes possible)
The Board discussed needing to make edits and they will submit them.

11. Town Administrators Report None
12. Open session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting
None
13. (2:09:15 TS) Executive Session
Motion to enter executive session for potential litigation of Arthur J. Gallagher & Company and to reconvene into open session for the sole purpose of adjournment made by Ross Smith, seconded by Les Stevens. The vote passed unanimously.
14. Adjournment
Mr. Fitzpatrick made a motion at 10:08pm 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, Davis – aye, Smith – aye, Fitzpatrick – aye, Bonin – aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephenie Gosselin
Recording Secretary