

**Board of Selectmen Agenda
Municipal Center Resource Room
Tuesday, February 4, 2025
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Chairman Announcements
4. Citizen's Forum
5. Joint Meeting with the MS4 Stakeholder Committee to Dissolve Committee & Review Draft Stormwater Bylaw – Possible Votes
6. Local Cultural Council Appointment – Possible Votes
7. Open Space Committee Appointment – Possible Votes
8. NE Main at North St. Intersection Discussion Follow-up – Possible Votes
9. Grant Acceptances – Possible Votes
 - Fire Department – FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant
 - Police Department – FY25 911 Training Grant
10. Open Warrants for ATM & STM (May 5, 2025) – Possible Votes
11. Meeting Minutes – Possible Votes
12. Municipal Light Plant Discussion
13. BOS 2025 Goals / Town Goals / TA Goals Document Discussion
14. Town Administrator's Report
15. Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting
16. 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.*
Potential Litigation – MSHG
17. Adjournment

Douglas Cable is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

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Meeting ID: 895 4338 6830

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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>

APPROVED
March 4, 2025

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Tim Bonin called the meeting to order at 7 pm.
2. (0:10 TS) Pledge of Allegiance
3. (0:35 TS) Chairman Announcements – The Board welcomed Lisa Freeman back, and Tim Bonin thanked Mike Fitzpatrick for filling in at the last meeting.
4. (1:05 TS) Joint Meeting with the MS4 Stakeholder Committee to Dissolve Committee & Review Draft Stormwater Bylaw – Possible votes
They meet in two weeks and take no action tonight and Les Stevens briefly discussed the work they did on the stakeholder committee.
5. (2:20 TS) Local Cultural Council Appointment – Possible votes
(5:45 TS) Motion to appoint Jean Dwinnell to the Local Cultural Council for a three-year term made by Ross Smith, seconded by Hal Davis. The vote passed unanimously.
6. (7:00 TS) Open Space Committee Appointment – Possible votes
This is for an alternate position and the Board tables the discussion for the next meeting as Mr. Skinner is not available tonight.
7. (7:30 TS) NE Main at North St Intersection Discussion Follow-up – Possible votes
Adam Furno checked and there are no requirements on the signs and the recommendations are in the Board members packet for approval.
(9:15 TS) Motion to approve the suggested recommended signs by the Highway Superintendent for both the no right turn for trucks coming from Northeast Main Street and a no left turn for trucks coming off North Street, made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
8. (9:45 TS) Grant Acceptances – Possible votes
 - Fire Department – FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant for \$15,500
 - Police Department – FY25 911 Training Grant for \$9,571.32TA Wojcik explained the grants briefly and how they are acquired.
(10:40 TS) Motion to approve both the Fire Department and Police Department grants made by Tim Bonin, seconded Hal Davis. The vote passed unanimously.
9. (11:00 TS) Open Warrants for ATM & STM (May 5, 2025) – Possible votes
(11:25 TS) Motion to open the May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting Warrants, made by Les Stevens, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
10. (11:40 TS) Meeting Minutes – Possible votes
(13:20 TS) Motion to approve the January 7, 2025, meeting minutes as written, made by Les Stevens, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.

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(15:05 TS) Motion to approve the January 21, 2025, meeting minutes as amended, made by Les Stevens, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. Hal Davis abstained and all other members in favor.

11. (15:30 TS) Municipal Light Plant Discussion

TA Wojcik had a meeting with an energy sector developer that the town has worked in the past on different proposals. The business case the town would do for a data center would include the co-location of a substation with the computer center with a battery array close by and a sufficient-sized power plant. TA Wojcik discussed the taxation and the value proposition for each facility. The second business case is logistics development and TA Wojcik asked the Assessor to put together his best information, so at the next meeting he will have a rough outline of the revenue potential. There was a brief discussion about the Chinese AI in regard to the data center.

12. (26:35 TS) BOS 2025 Goals / Town Goals / TA Goals Document Discussion

Under the goals Les Stevens brought up the Heroes Act around tax exemptions for seniors who are homeowners as well as veterans and possibly put this on a future agenda to discuss. Also, for goals would be taking care of some of the buildings in town that can be sold or need to be torn down. The board discussed a request from a citizen about holding celebration in 2026 for the 250th anniversary of America.

(30:50 TS) Motion to appoint Ross Smith to spearhead that 250th anniversary of America celebration made by Mike Fitzpatrick, seconded by Hal Davis. The vote passed unanimously.

TA Wojcik added to the Town Administrator goals document, a senior work off program policy, a successful transition of the town's health benefit program and to shop for a property and casualty insurance carrier and went over the bid process. They had a lengthy discussion about the property and casualty insurance and are going to put it on the next agenda to discuss further. They also discussed the highway barn briefly and Mike Fitzpatrick gave a summary update on the property proposed for the project.

13. (54:20 TS) Town Administrator's Report

There was 2 water main breaks last week and acknowledged the dedication of the water department and highway department for the work they put in to fix the problem. TA Wojcik discussed the drought, the security camera project coming to conclusion, a highway truck breaking down, and the replacement scheduled for the end of the calendar year, and working on the budget process for this year.

14. (1:01:10 TS) Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting.

TA Wojcik received a notice after this meeting was posted that the Highway department is running out of snow and ice money and recommends resupplying the funds. TA Wojcik authorized the department to exceed the budget by \$75k beyond the amount approved by Spring Town Meeting.

15. (1:02:40 TS) Executive Session

(1:02:50 TS) Motion to move to executive session for potential litigation with MSHG and to reconvene to open session for the sole purpose of adjournment made by Ross Smith, seconded by Mike Fitzpatrick. Roll call vote – Ross Smith, Hal Davis, Tim Bonin, Mike Fitzpatrick, Les Stevens all in favor.

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16. Adjournment

Mr. Fitzpatrick made a motion at 8:51pm 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 Smith – aye, Stevens – aye, Davis – aye, Fitzpatrick – aye, Bonin – aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephenie Gosselin
Recording Secretary