

**PRESENT:** Select Board Members Margaret Scarsdale and Tony Beattie; Town Administrator, Andrew MacLean; Executive Assistant, Tracie Looney

This meeting was remote participation only. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Pledge of Allegiance was said. Ms. Scarsdale announced that the meeting is being cablecast live, and recorded for future cablecast by Peppereil Community Media. Ms. Scarsdale asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Select Board Chair, William Greathead.

**1. AGENDA PACKET (Exhibit 1)**

**2. WILLIAM GREATHEAD REMEMBRANCE**

On February 28, 2021 William Greathead, Select Board Chair, suddenly passed. The Select Board, Town Administrator and audience members took a moment to speak about Bill and his impact to them and the Town.

**3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

No minutes at this time.

**4. BILL AND PAYROLL WARRANTS**

Since the last meeting the Select Board have approved the following payroll and bill warrants:

- On February 24, 2021 payables warrant #34B was signed for \$418,690.75
- On March 3, 2021 payroll warrant #36A was signed for \$280,446.79
- On March 3, 2021 payable warrant #35B was signed for \$280,935.60

**5. SELECT BOARD APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS**

**5.1 Historical Commission Appointment**

There is a vacancy on the Historical Commission and resident Robert Cataldo has submitted an application. Mr. Cataldo was in attendance to answer any questions from the Select Board.

On a motion made by Mr. Beattie and seconded by Ms. Scarsdale, it was unanimously voted to appoint Robert Cataldo to the Historical Commission with the term to expire on June 30, 2024.

**6. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

**Written Submittals:** On March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM there will be a Civic Engagement Night focusing on the Special Town meeting scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>.

- Masy BioServices letter to Select Board showcasing how they can help with COVID-19 vaccination distribution
- Arakelian Real Estate letter to Select Board acknowledging the work of the Town Hall staff
- North Middlesex Regional School District resolution for prioritization for Public School employees for COVID-19 vaccinations

**Audience Comments:** No audience comments

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Town Administrator's Report**

The Town Administrator did not present a TA report.

**7.2 Select Board's Report**

The Select Board did not present a Select Board report.

**7.3 Master Plan Implementation Team (MPIT) Update**

The Board did not present any updates.

**8. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

**8.1 Soil Reclamation Proposal Update**

No update at this time.

**8.2 COVID-19 Updates**

The Town Administrator reviewed the chart with the local COVID-19 numbers and informed the Board the COVID-19 numbers are all heading in the right direction with decreasing at both the state and local levels. The TA contacted Senator Kennedy today to implore the state to find a way to get more vaccines to this region.

**8.3 7:15 PM Public Hearing – 74 Brookline Street**

Ms. Scarsdale opened the public hearing at 7:15 PM and read the hearing notice for record. Under the statute, if there is a proposed sale of land taxed as agricultural land under Chapter 61A of the General Laws the owner is required to serve notice on the Town, starting the 120-day period in which the Town has a right to purchase the property at the amount stated in the purchase and sale agreement between the owner and prospective buyer – the right of first refusal. In particular, the town has “a first refusal option to meet a bona fide offer to purchase the land.” G.L. c. 61A, §14. The Town also has the right, if it does not wish to exercise the option itself, to assign the option to “a nonprofit conservation organization or to the commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions under the terms and conditions that the . . . board of selectmen may consider appropriate.” Id. While notice of the intended sale is to be given to the “board of selectmen, . . . planning board and conservation commission . . . and to the assessors,” the decision on whether to exercise the option rests with the Select Board, and the decision may be made only after a public hearing on the subject.

On a motion made by Mr. Beattie and seconded by Ms. Scarsdale, it was unanimously voted to continue this public hearing on the Town’s right to exercise or assign purchase rights to 74 Brookline Street to the Select Board meeting of April 5, 2021 at 7:30 PM.

**8.4 Modification of Class II Used Car Dealer License for Green Cars LLC, 20 Mill Street, Unit A-1: Change of Description of Business – Buy and Sell Cars for Use in Research and Development Operation**

Green Cars, LLC currently holds a Class II Used Car Dealer License. They are currently trying to obtain MA DOT Dealer Plates to allow them to drive the cars that they purchase at auction and private sales, back to Pepperell. They have submitted the application to MA DOT and MA DOT stated they need to modify the Town Class II license wording and remove "at auction". After consulting with Town Counsel, it was recommended that this change can be approved at a Select Board meeting, and can be treated as an administrative item without a formal hearing procedure.

On a motion made by Mr. Beattie and seconded by Ms. Scarsdale, it was unanimously voted to amend the current Class II license held by Green Cars, LLC from “is hereby licensed to buy and sell second-hand motor vehicles at 20 Mill Street, Unit A1 on premises described as follows: Pepperell Place is a 180,000 square foot building in which the parent company operates an R&D facility. The license allows the company to buy and sell cars at auction to use in the R&D operation . Licensee is required to post a bond in the amount of \$25,000.00.” to “buy and sell cars for use in Research and Development operation.”

A local resident questioned the square footage listed on the license. The Executive Assistant will research that number with the company.

**8.5 Select Board Support for Resolution in Support of Massachusetts Legislation Relative to a Streaming Entertainment Operator's Use of Public Way**

Local access television is primarily funded through cable franchise fees. As more traditional television programming is available via internet 'streaming,' franchise fees are dwindling. The Massachusetts House and Senate are considering establishing fees for streaming that local access providers could receive. The Pepperell Community Media has asked the Select Board to support a resolution which will benefit our local programming organization.

On a motion made by Mr. Beattie and seconded by Ms. Scarsdale, it was unanimously voted to support the resolution which will benefit our local programming organization.

**8.6 Permission to Deficit Spend Snow and Ice Budget**

Snow & Ice is the most unpredictable budget in the General Fund. As such, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts allows the Town to deficit spend this account, with the permission of the Select Board and Finance Committee. The Town may cover the deficit with account transfers, reserve funds, free cash or other stabilization funds.

On a motion made by Ms. Scarsdale and seconded by Mr. Beattie, it was unanimously voted to allow the Town to deficit spend the Snow & Ice account for Fiscal 2021.

The Finance Committee has yet to vote on this.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by Mr. Beattie and seconded by Ms. Scarsdale, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracie Looney, Executive Assistant

**APPROVED:**

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Margaret Scarsdale, Clerk

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Tony Beattie

Remotely Approved: April 12, 2021