

Danvers Select Board Minutes

April 6, 2023

A meeting of the Danvers Select Board was held on Tuesday, April 6, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. in the Daniel J. Toomey Hearing Room, Town Hall, 1 Sylvan Street, Danvers, to continue review of the May 15, 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant from the Board's regular meeting of April 4, 2023. Present: Daniel C. Bennett, Chair; Maureen A. Bernard; Matthew E. Duggan; David A. Mills, and Gardner S. Trask III were present. The **Pledge of Allegiance**, led by Select Board member Bernard, was recited by all in attendance.

Agenda Item #6 from 4/4/23: Select Board representation at Finance Committee Hearings was determined as follows: 4/11 Mr. Trask; 4/12 Mr. Mills; 4/13 Ms. Bernard; 4/24 & 4/26 Mr. Bennett and 4/27, if necessary, Mr. Trask. Select Board Chair Bennett noted that, unless a specific article warranted discussion, one single vote would be taken at the end of tonight's meeting with the Select Board's recommendations.

ARTICLE 5: Refuse and Recycling Carts (STM) DPW Director David Lane reported that, after discussions with four trash hauler companies, a five-year contract had been negotiated with Republic (new owners of JRM), to pick up trash weekly, recycling every other week, by means of automated collection, which has become the industry standard. The containers are and remain the property of the Town, and one each will be delivered to single-family homes with the proper number to multi-unit residences. There was discussion as to whether a charge would be levied for additional bins. It was noted that further discussion will be required and whether or not a charge would be levied for additional receptacles.

ARTICLE 7: Wireless Telecommunication Bylaw in Public Rights of Way. DPW Director Lane, joined by Asst. Utility Director Clint Allen described the purpose of the Bylaw as small receiving devices positioned halfway or at the top of poles to enhance cell service ("*mini-cell towers*"), to serve drop-out areas. Since the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) deems a project such as this in the best interest of the public, cities and towns cannot legally prohibit their installation. With that in mind, it seemed prudent for the town to come up with its own rules for installation, guarding against negative effects on DED electric wires or any other carrier's equipment. Any and all repairs, whether they be rewiring or for damage to their equipment, is the sole responsibility of the telecom company in question.

ARTICLE 10: Technology Plan. IT Director Colby Cousens reported on the expected upgrades to hardware and software, in Schools, Library, and General Government, noting that there will be \$130,000 in revenue from the Town's regional IT initiative to offset the \$90,000 appropriation.

ARTICLE 11: Disaster Recovery. This plan is aimed to reduce costs and improve resiliency, given that our current system will be up for datacenter refresh in two years, and we only consume those resources during a "failover" or test of the system and the cloud's cost is lower than the capital cost of refreshing a datacenter every 5 years.

ARTICLE 13: Pavement Management & Sidewalk Improvements. Funds from this article augment Chapter 90 (State) funding for roadway, sidewalk/crosswalk repairs, and accessibility necessities.

ARTICLE 14: Roadway Layout & Acceptance of Public Ways. Town Engineer Stephen King reported on the three streets (Riverview Ave., Cemetery Rd., and Fowler St.) needing Town Meeting approval before formal acceptance). In response to a question, Mr. King reported that there are currently 7 roads always to remain private per the developer; 9 roads with existing bonds held by Town and expected to be finished by developer; and 50 roads eligible for acceptance in coming years. We find this approach to be the most cost-effective method.

ARTICLE 15: Roadway Layout & Acceptance of Public Ways Program. Mr. King noted that this annual appropriation funds prep work in connection with actual acceptance, i.e., title searches, etc.

ARTICLE 16: Landfill Gas Collection System and Flare Station. Mr. King reported that the existing flare station, put on line in 2013 with a 10-year life span, is on target for replacement. The unit runs 24 hours per day, is permitted by MassDEP until 2033, and DEP suggested this method as the best way to rid the site of methane.

ARTICLE 29: Drainage Liability. This annual request is required before any drainage maintenance is undertaken.

ARTICLE 18: Drainage Capital Improvement & Repairs – Adams Street Culvert Replacement. This culvert was determined to be deficient and in need of replacement to prevent collapse and damage to abutting property.

ARTICLE 19: Sewer Main Re placement – Perkins Road. This past winter, it discovered existing sewer main doesn't have proper slope; we need to replace main to prevent back-ups.

ARTICLE 20: Pump Stations. Last 7-10 years; we replace them as necessary.

ARTICLE 21: Summer Pump Station. The pump station (the largest in Town) generator is over 35 years old, and inspections have found that the Town has done everything possible to keep it operational. It needs ~~extraordinary repairs~~ full replacement.

ARTICLE 28: Drainage Maintenance. Annual appropriation to fund storm water improvements and drainage repairs to public ways. Have we monitored activity to ensure no illegal dumping occurring? This is done a couple times throughout the year while monitoring vegetation growth.

ARTICLE 24: Water Facilities Improvements Greenleaf Drive. Mr. King has had many conversations with homeowners impacted and appraisals conducted on square footage of property to be taken so that homeowners obtain fair market value. Some fairly large trees will be removed, but it's not possible to replace unless planting is outside the permanent easement.

ARTICLE 22: Water Main Replacement Program. This article represents Phase 2 of the Town's replacement project to include Green, Locust, and Wenham Streets. Could you oversize liners in anticipation of increasing need in the future? You don't want to oversize the main.

ARTICLE 23: Water Facilities Improvements – Putnam (~~Street~~) Lane Booster Station. Capital improvements recommended for pump stations controls which have reached the end of their service life, and there is no sense to try to maintain what is in place.

ARTICLE 26: Building Improvements. Those items in schools, fire station, library, Endicott Park, and other locations throughout Town which fall outside of the departments' and DPW normal operating budget. Most repairs and/or replacements include cost-efficient or energy saving components. Oftentimes, we seek State bid process or solicit multiple price quotes.

ARTICLE 27: Grounds Improvements. This article includes rail trail resurfacing, renovations in various parks, including drainage improvements, and Endicott Park maintenance.

Select Board member Trask questioned the status of **ARTICLE 4: Essex Tech Assessment.** The Town Manager noted that this article had been voted (2-1 [Select Board member Trask opposed]) at the March 18, 2023 Budget Workshop.

In conclusion, Select Board member Trask motioned to forward the following articles to the Finance Committee with a **FAVORABLE** recommendation, seconded by Select Board member Mills, and voted 5-0.

ARTICLE 21: Amend "extraordinary repairs" to read "replacement."

ARTICLE 23: Amend "Putnam Street" to "Putnam Lane"

ARTICLES 7, 10, 13-16; 18-20; 22; 24; 26-29; and 31

Select Board member Trask repeated his interest in revisiting **ARTICLE 4 [Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District Assessment]** and made a motion to do so, seconded by Select Board member Mills, and voted 4-1 [Select Board member Bernard opposed]. Select Board member Trask noted the disparity in admissions, propelling Danvers from representing 9% of the population to 27%. He further proposed that the Town decrease funding by

\$139,290 and Danvers' admissions from 14 to 8. Select Board Chair Bennett opted not to permit a revote from the one taken on 3/18/23 but noted that Select Board member Trask could make these comments at the Finance Committee hearing on Wednesday, April 26.

Correspondence, Select Board "*New Business*," previous "*New Public Business*" updates, and Select Board closing comments.

Select Board member Bernard

- Emily Beatrice of the Town's Planning Department puts out a newsletter and "*does a great job.*"
- Why has Maple Square project, which reduced units from 147 to 145, eliminated 1 affordable unit (from 30 to 29)? While this is unfortunate, it was noted that the Town is still in compliance with 10% affordable. Apparently, the project was in need of more storage.

Select Board member Bennett

- Recognized the close of Passover.
- Extended wishes for a Happy Easter and, as always, asked everyone to "*Remember the vets.*"

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Prepared by Ann Freitas

Attest: Catherine S. Ellsworth, Town Clerk