

SELECT BOARD MEETING

October 30, 2023

Chair Gary B. DePalma called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room 9 of the Town Hall. Present were Select Board members Gregory B. Bendel, Kevin A. Caira and Lilia Maselli. Select Board Member Frank J. West participated remotely. Also present was Town Manager Jeffrey M. Hull.

Chair DePalma asked those present to rise and he led the pledge of allegiance.

COMMUNICATIONS

Town Manager Hull reviewed his memorandum regarding Michael McCoy's application for the Façade / Sign Improvement Grant. At the Board's October 23, 2023 meeting, under the Public Comments portion of the agenda, Mr. McCoy questioned why his application for a sign / façade grant was denied and the language on the grant application was later changed. Town Manager Hull wrote that, based upon the advice of Town Counsel, he did not respond that evening. The Select Board directed him to explain the basis for the denial. Town Manager Hull advised that the purpose of the grant program was to provide financial assistance to businesses that operated during the COVID pandemic and continue to operate and to improve the streetscape in commercial areas. Town Manager Hull stated that reimbursing a property owner for improvements to their building, that does not have an active functioning business, was not the intention of this program in round 1 and is not the intention in round 2. He stated that using federal funds to pay for a new sign or façade on a vacant building is not consistent with the purpose of this grant program.

Town Manager Hull explained that the fact a building owner applied for this grant in round 1 without an active business in place indicated that the application needed to be modified to clarify the intention of the program. When the press release about round 2 grants was issued on October 2, 2023, eligibility requirements in the written grant program material were modified to clearly state that applicants must be seeking funds for improvements to a building that meets the criteria as stated above. He advised the Board that the tenant that operated a restaurant in Michael's Place did not respond to the notice issued in October of 2020 with information to renew their alcohol license which expired on December 31, 2020. Additionally, the common victualer license was not renewed and expired on December 31, 2020. The restaurant is also required to maintain a food establishment permit from the Health Department. Records for this permit indicate that an inspection was conducted on May 3, 2020. No inspections after that date are on file with the Health Department. Town Manager Hull also reported that a social media post dated July 21, 2020 questioned whether Michael's Place would reopen. He acknowledged social media accounts are not always accurate.

Chair DePalma asked if there were any questions or comments from members of the Board. Select Board Member Bendel asked whether there were other businesses that did not meet eligibility requirements.

Select Board Member Bendel emphasized that the Select Board did not choose the recipients. He advised that applications were reviewed by a subcommittee of the Economic Development Committee and the Director of Planning & Conservation and the

Assistant Planner. Recommendations to the Town Manager were made by the Director of Planning & Conservation and the Assistant Planner.

Select Board Member Caira asked whether there were applicants, aside from Mr. McCoy, who did not receive funding. Town Manager Hull stated that he did not have that information with him.

Select Board Member Caira questioned why the subcommittee did not report their recommendations to the full Economic Development Committee and whether it would be a problem. Town Manager Hull stated that he does not believe it to be an issue, it was how it was set up. He stated that it was agreed that the subcommittee would review the applications and make a recommendation to him.

Select Board Member Caira asked Town Manager Hull to state who received awards. Town Manager Hull read the names of the recipients into the record, and they were Cooke's Skate, 446 Main Street (\$25,000.00); Designs by Don, 380 Main Street (\$22,500.00); Forrest Auto, 600 Main Street (\$25,000.00); Heav'nly Donuts, 579 Main Street (\$25,000.00); West Real Estate, 386 Main Street (\$19,364.00); and Wilson Wolfe RE, 402 Main Street (\$25,000.00).

BOARD TO CONSIDER EXECUTING EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WILMINGTON AND LOUIS CIMAGLIA, IV AS TEMPORARY TOWN MANAGER EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2023

A motion was made by Select Board Member Bendel that the Board execute the employment agreement between the Town of Wilmington and Louis Cimaglia, IV as Temporary Town Manager effective November 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Select Board Member Caira. Select Board Member West asked for discussion. He stated that, in his opinion, the process has been flawed and he will vote no.

Kevin MacDonald interrupted by calling point of order. He began to cite sections of the Town Charter and challenged the qualifications of Mr. Cimaglia.

Chair DePalma called for a vote and by the affirmative roll call vote of four with Select Board member West opposed, it was

VOTED: That the Select Board execute the employment agreement between the Town of Wilmington and Louis Cimaglia, IV as Temporary Town Manager effective November 1, 2023.

Select Board members offered their congratulations to Mr. Cimaglia.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael McCoy, Treasure Hill Road, owner of Michael's Place, commented regarding the Sign / Façade Improvement Grant. He stated that there was no requirement for the establishment to be actively open. He stated that ARPA was created by Congress and reviewed his financial loss due to the COVID pandemic and his tenant went out of business. Mr. McCoy expressed his displeasure that a letter meant for him (SIC) was made

publicly available before he was aware of it. He opined that it was unprofessional on the part of the Town Manager.

Kevin MacDonald, Andover Street, asked Chair DePalma to explain to children who may be watching what the pledge of allegiance means to him. Mr. MacDonald explained what it means to him. He commented regarding the Town Charter. He cited different sections regarding the qualifications of the Temporary Town Manager.

Mr. MacDonald opined that the Select Board is in conflict of interest. He noted that Select Board Member Caira appointed his brother to the Town Manager Screening Committee, he believes that Select Board Member Bendel is, in essence, a Town employee and does not believe that his appointing someone who will be appointing his boss is absent conflict. Mr. MacDonald continued citing Select Board Member Maselli's appointment of Mr. Champoux to the screening committee. He stated that Mr. Champoux had to recuse himself from the vote of the TIF agreement with Analog. He opined that Chair DePalma has not demonstrated to the community the suitability of the appointment and demonstrated poor leadership.

Select Board Member Caira stated that he spoke with the Ethics Commission and was advised there is not a conflict of interest.

Lou Cimaglia, Allen Park Drive, thanked members of the Select Board for putting their trust in him. He expressed his appreciation to Town Manager Hull who has spent time "getting him up to speed" on the many issues in Town.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members of the Select Board offered congratulations to Town Manager Jeffrey Hull on his retirement. His last day is Tuesday, October 31, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

IMPORTANT DATES

Town Manager Hull reviewed important dates including:

- October 30- – Curbside Collection of Yardwaste
- November 3
- November 1 – Brush Drop Off – Old Main Street – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- November 1 – Environmental Protection Agency Public Information Forum
Olin Superfund Site – Middle School Cafeteria – 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- November 2 – Town Manager Screening Committee – Town Hall – Room 9 – 7:00 p.m.
- November 4 – Brush Drop-Off – Old Main Street – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- November 4 – Shredding Day – Municipal Parking Lot – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- November 5 – Turn Clocks Back – Change Detector Batteries
- November 8 – Brush Drop Off – Old Main Street – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- November 8 – Senior Center Building Committee – Town Hall – Room 9 – 6:00 p.m.
- November 8 – MSBA Wildwood School Building Forum – Virtual – 6:00 p.m.
- November 8 – MSBA Wildwood School Building Committee – Virtual – 7:00 p.m.
- November 10 – *Town Offices Closed*
- November 11 – Brush Drop-Off – Old Main Street – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- November 11 – Veterans' Day Ceremony – Town Common – 11:00 a.m.
- November 13 – Select Board – Town Hall – Room 9 – 7:00 p.m.
- November 13 – Curbside Collection of Yardwaste
- November 17
- November 15 – Brush Drop Off – Old Main Street – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- November 18 – Brush Drop-Off – Old Main Street – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- November 22 – Brush Drop Off – Old Main Street – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- November 25 – Brush Drop-Off – Old Main Street – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- November 27 – Select Board – Town Hall – Room 9 – 7:00 p.m.
- November 27 – Discussion of Local Property Tax Policy with Reference to
Classification for FY-2024 Select Board Meeting – Town Hall – Room 9
7:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Select Board Member Maselli, seconded by Select Board Member Bendel and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Select Board adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary