

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Chairman Lilia Maselli called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. This meeting was held in Room 9 of the Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Gregory B. Bendel, Kevin A. Caira and Judith L. O'Connell. Selectman Gary B. DePalma participated remotely.

A motion was made and duly seconded and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen enter Executive Session for the purpose of conducting strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel – Town Manager in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)2 as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town as so determined by the Chairman, to return to open session.

Chairman Maselli reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Present were Selectmen Gregory B. Bendel, Kevin A. Caira and Judith L. O'Connell. Selectman Gary B. DePalma participated remotely. Also present was Town Manager Jeffrey M. Hull.

Chairman Maselli noted members of the Board were wearing an article of pink clothing in recognition of October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Chairman Maselli asked meeting participants to rise and she led the pledge of allegiance.

TREASURY WARRANTS

Chairman Maselli asked for a motion to accept the Treasury Warrants. A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman O'Connell and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen accept Treasury Warrants 14, 14A, 15 & 15A.

PAUL ALUNNI, TOWN ENGINEER; JOSEPH DESMOND, POLICE CHIEF, AND DANIEL FURBUSH, TRAFFIC OFFICER, RE: INTERSECTION OF MIDDLESEX AVENUE/CLARK STREET

Chairman Maselli recognized that Jamie Magaldi, Director of Operations, was also present this evening. Mr. Alunni advised that the gentlemen were present to discuss their recommendations for the Board to consider an all-way stop at the intersection of Middlesex Avenue and Clark Street. He reviewed the existing traffic control at that location noting that Clark Street has a stop sign at each direction and Middlesex Avenue is free-flowing. Mr. Alunni stated that the data for the past four years was reviewed and noted there were 16 angled type crashes which is above the average for unsignalized intersections. The Town engaged the services of TEC, Inc., the Town's traffic consultant, to do an operation and safety analysis. TEC identified a safety concern of limited sight distance. The sight distance of a vehicle on Clark Street is less than the distance required for a vehicle traveling on Middlesex Avenue to react to that car. It is TEC's recommendation, and the DPW and Police Department's concur, an all-way stop at this intersection will remedy the situation. Mr. Alunni advised that if the Board moves forward with the all way stop, the DPW will also replace the bulb in the flashing beacon from yellow to red. In addition, they will stripe a stop bar and restripe the crosswalk.

Mr. Alunni advised that an additional request for Clark Street was to evaluate whether a truck exclusion was warranted. He advised that, in reviewing the traffic data, the volume of truck traffic was below the requirements prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The daily heavy commercial vehicle traffic volume counted at each section of Clark Street is approximately 3.6% of the total daily traffic volume, under the 5% minimum.

Chairman Maselli asked if there were any questions or comments. Selectman Caira stated that he was advised by a resident that there had been a truck exclusion on the portion of Middlesex Avenue from Church Street to Main Street. Signs were removed at the time construction of Wilmington High School was taking place and were not replaced. Town Manager Hull stated that he is not sure if that was the case but noted there have been instances of truck exclusion signs have been installed in various locations but are not enforceable. Mr. Magaldi agreed that he does not believe there was an established, enforceable truck exclusion. Chief Desmond stated that there were signs that were installed over the years that were not legal to enforce.

Selectman O'Connell noted the reference that "stop ahead" signs will be placed on Middlesex Avenue. She stated that she wanted to publicly endorse that action and asked if they will remain there indefinitely. Mr. Alunni confirmed. The Board was advised that there will be an interim period where electronic message boards will be placed informing motorists of the change. Selectman O'Connell asked what the timeline for implementation would be if there is a favorable vote to move forward. Mr. Magaldi advised that the DPW intends to install the sign post and leave them without the signs for about a week while the message boards alert that there has been a change, then in one afternoon they will install the signs, stripe the road and replace the bulb. Chief Desmond advised that the Police Department will conduct educational enforcement.

Selectman O'Connell asked whether the installation of the stop signs will impact the response times of emergency vehicles. Chief Desmond indicated that the stop signs will not impact response times.

Selectman DePalma asked if social media will be used to get notice about the change to residents. Chief Desmond confirmed and noted the department's priority is safety.

Chairman Maselli asked if there were any additional questions, comments or a motion. A motion was made by Selectman DePalma, seconded by Selectman O'Connell and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen authorize the implementation of an all-way stop intersection by installing stop signs on Middlesex Avenue, both easterly and westerly.

COMMUNICATIONS

Town Manager Hull reviewed his memorandum regarding the Fiscal Year 2023 budget schedule. He advised that Department Heads were provided with instructions to update the existing Capital Improvement Plan which will reflect major investments in buildings, ballfields/parks, vehicles, IT and infrastructure for fiscal years 2023 through 2027. He advised that instructions were also sent to the School Department. Instructions for development of the FY2023 operating budget will be provided to Department Heads on November 3rd and the submission deadline will be December 3. The Town's annual operating budget and 5-year Capital Improvement Plan will be presented to selectmen at their January 24, 2022 meeting. Meetings with the Finance Committee are expected to begin on January 25, 2022 and continue through the month of February. The Annual Town Meeting is set for April 30, 2022. Town Manager Hull advised the Board that the Town appears to be in a stronger financial position going into fiscal year 2023. The expected appropriation to construct a Senior Center and Town/School Administration Building and the expectation of a new elementary school and fire substation within the next few years will significantly increase the Town's debt service even with the use of financial reserves.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a letter from Governor Charles D. Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn E. Polito to Police Chief Joseph Desmond advising that the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research has awarded the Wilmington Police Department \$34,999

for FFY22 Municipal Road Safety grant program. Town Manager Hull advised that uses include impaired driving and distracted driving enforcement programs for the Winter and Spring.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a letter to Brian Kane, Executive Director, MBTA Advisory Board, advising that Judith O'Connell will serve as the Board of Selectmen designee.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a letter from James Cashwell, Director, Environmental Remediation, Olin, regarding the Cook Avenue water line extension. Mr. Cashwell wrote that the letter was to confirm completion of the project of the water line along Cook Avenue and Burnham Avenue in accordance with the Agreement between the Town of Wilmington and Olin. He confirmed that Town of Wilmington Engineers and representatives of the Water Department inspected the project throughout construction and performed a final walkthrough of the restored area on September 28, 2021. Release of Lien Agreements and documentation of payment of vendors were attached.

Selectman Bendel provided an update regarding the Senior Center Building Project. He advised that the committee met on October 6th at 6:00 p.m. to reassess the "test fits" for a senior center at the Swain/Buzzell Senior Center, the site next to St. Dorothy's and the Glen Road site. Committee members and the audience offered comment and posed question about each site and their strengths and weaknesses. Committee members discussed plans to provide regular updates about the project to the public using social media and conventional media. The committee will meet again on October 21st and November 4th. The meeting was recorded by WCTV.

BOARD TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND POLICE DEPARTMENT, RE: CLARK / MIDDLESEX INTERSECTION

This agenda item was taken up under appointments.

BOARD TO CONSIDER APPLICATION OF JARED RANKIN AS CONSTABLE

Town Manager Hull reminded the Board that this item was on a previous agenda for consideration. At that time, Mr. Rankin had submitted a letter from an individual that the Town could not confirm their residence, noting that they must be in the community they wish to serve (*sic*). Mr. Hull advised that Mr. Rankin has subsequently submitted an additional letter of reference. He suggested that if the Board is inclined to approve this appointment that it be contingent upon the submittal of a renewed surety bond.

Chairman Maselli asked if there were any questions, comments or a motion. A motion was made by Selectman DePalma, seconded by Selectman O'Connell and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen appoint Jared Rankin as a Constable for a term to expire April 30, 2022 contingent upon receipt of a renewed surety bond.

BOARD TO CONSIDER REQUEST OF RYAN FEENEY FOR RESIDENTS OF BLUEBERRY LANE / ASHWOOD AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD TO HAVE A HALLOWEEN PARTY BLOCK PARTY ON OCTOBER 23, 2021, 2 P.M. TO 6 P.M.

Town Manager Hull advised that favorable recommendations were received from Police Chief Joseph Desmond, Fire Chief William Cavanaugh and Director of Public Works Michael Woods. Mr. Woods advised that if Mr. Feeney requires saw horses for blocking the street, he may contact the DPW and arrange for them to be dropped off.

Chairman Maselli asked if there were any questions, comments or a motion. A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman O'Connell and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the request of Ryan Feeney for residents of Blueberry Lane / Ashwood Avenue neighborhood to have a Halloween Party Block Party on Saturday, October 23, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

BOARD TO CONSIDER REQUEST OF JOMARIE O'MAHONY ON BEHALF OF WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS OF VOLLEYBALL TO USE THE SWAIN GREEN ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021 FROM 7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF A TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT FOR PLAYERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Chairman Maselli asked if there were any questions, comments or a motion. A motion was made by Selectman DePalma, seconded by Selectman Bendel and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the request of Jomarie O'Mahony on behalf of Wilmington High School Friends of Volleyball to use the Swain Green on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of Trunk or Treat event for players and their families.

BOARD TO CONSIDER REQUESTS OF COMMUNITY GROUPS TO CONDUCT EVENTS WHICH REQUIRE ROAD CLOSURES

Town Manager Hull advised that several years ago there were many requests for special events resulting in road closures. These events required police details and other resources. In an effort to plan in advance for budgeting purposes, the Town began requiring advance notice. For various reasons there are not as many events being held. This year requests were received from the Fourth of July Committee, Sole Sisters Running Club and Wilmington Little League.

He advised that favorable recommendations have been received from applicable department heads. A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman Caira and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the following events for Fiscal Year 2023, each group will be required to adhere to the public health guidelines that may be in effect at the time of the event:

Wilmington Fourth of July

Firecracker 5K Road Race

Thursday, June 30, 2022

Sole Sisters Running Club

5K Road Race

Saturday, December 10, 2022

Wilmington Little League

Opening Day Parade

Saturday, April 22, 2023

BOARD TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM BETH ROONEY, WHS FOOTBALL TOUCHDOWN CLUB OF WILMINGTON, TO USE THE PARKING LOT AT THE FOURTH OF JULY BUILDING FOR THE ANNUAL WHS FOOTBALL CAR WASH ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022, 9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. (RAINDATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022)

Chairman Maselli asked if there were any questions, comments or a motion. A motion was made by Selectman DePalma, seconded by Selectman O'Connell and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the request of WHS Football Touchdown Club of Wilmington to conduct a fundraising car wash on Sunday, September 18, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (raindate of Sunday, September 25, 2022).

BOARD TO CONSIDER MEETING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2021

Town Manager Hull advised that the Board of Selectmen historically have met once during the month of December. Traditionally, the Board meets the second and fourth Monday of the month and noted that the second Monday would be December 13.

A motion was made by Selectman O'Connell, seconded by Selectman Bendel and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen establish its December meeting schedule as Monday, December 13.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Selectman Caira referenced the October edition of the Elderly Services' newsletter The Buzzell Buzz. He commented that reference was made that the Senior Center would be closed on Monday, October 11, 2021 in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day. Selectman Caira noted that Indigenous Peoples' Day is not a federal holiday and it should have been referenced as Columbus Day. He stated that he had a conversation with the Town Manager relative to this reference and was advised a correction would be made.

Town Manager Hull confirmed that he spoke to the Director of Elderly Services and the electronic version on the website has been corrected and a correction will be placed in the next issue of the newsletter. He confirmed that some communities have opted to change the reference, Wilmington has not done so. If the community chooses to, it would have to be authorized by the Board of Selectmen. Town Manager Hull opined that there was no ill will.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

IMPORTANT DATES

Town Manager Hull reviewed important dates including:

- October 13 – Brush Drop Off – Old Main Street – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- October 16 – Brush Drop-Off – Old Main Street – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- October 18 – Wildwood School Building Committee – Virtual – 6:30 p.m.
- October 20 – Brush Drop Off – Old Main Street – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- October 20 – Economic Development Committee – Town Hall – Auditorium – 6:00 p.m.
- October 21 – Senior Center Building Committee – Town Hall – Room 9 – 6:00 p.m.
- October 23 – Brush Drop-Off – Old Main Street – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- October 24 – Horribles Parade – Rotary Park – 4:30 p.m.
- October 25 – Board of Selectmen – Town Hall – Room 9 – 7:00 p.m.
- October 25-
October 29 – Curbside Collection of Yardwaste
- October 27 – Brush Drop Off – Old Main Street – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- October 30 – Brush Drop-Off – Old Main Street – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SALUTE TO SERVICE



Selectman Bendel stated that it is his pleasure, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, to recognize Christian Jensen who is 95 years young. Mr. Jensen served our country from January 1944 through October 1947 as Aviation Electronics Technician's Mate First Class in the United States Navy. Mr. Jensen has lived in Wilmington for 60 years, was married to Phyllis until her passing in 2019 and is active with his church and the Masons.

The Board of Selectmen and citizens of Wilmington salute Christian Jensen and thank him for his service to our country and our community.

A motion was made by Selectman O'Connell, seconded by Selectman Bendel and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary