

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES JUNE 4, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Robert C. Medeiros, Chairman
Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, Vice Chairman
Mr. Michael Beaudette, Clerk

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ALSO PRESENT:

Mrs. Mallory Aronstein, Town Administrator
Ms. Amanda Staton, Administrative Assistant

A Board of Selectmen meeting was held on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at the School Administration Building, One Gardners Neck Road, Swansea, MA. Mr. Medeiros called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Mr. Medeiros led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Medeiros stated the meeting is currently being broadcast live on television, being streamed online, and will be replayed later on Swansea Community Network. He asked if anyone in the audience would be recording the meeting to notify the Board. There were no confirmations from the audience.

Revote List of Surplus Items-Library

Mrs. Aronstein requested a revote of declaring items surplus from the Library as well as those slated for disposal. She said the agenda posting last meeting was unclear. Mrs. Aronstein read the items into the record.

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to declare the items as surplus or disposable as read.
All in Favor- Unanimous

Review Open Meeting Law Complaint Received May 14, 2024 at 8:05pm

Mrs. Aronstein said the Town received a complaint relative to the lack of specificity on the vote to declare surplus property at the May 14, 2024 meeting. She said the Board just rectified the issue. She requested that the Board delegate the response to the complaint to her as Town Administrator and she will respond accordingly.

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to delegate the open meeting law response to the Town Administrator regarding the complaint received on May 14, 2024 at 8:05pm.
All in Favor- Unanimous

Appoint Part-Time/Per Diem Police Dispatcher

Police Chief Mark Foley discussed his recommendation to hire Ms. Amanda Silvia as a part time/per diem dispatcher. There was discussion regarding her impressive resume and background experience.

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint as Part-Time/Per Diem Police Dispatcher, Ms. Amanda Silvia of 41 Alcotts Circle, Taunton, MA effective immediately.
All in Favor- Unanimous

Discussion of License-Bristol County Auto Sales, Mr. Edward Cicciu

Mr. Edward Cicciu (owner of Bristol County Auto Sales), said that he tried to open a second store in Seekonk so he bought more inventory in order to expand. He said that his inventory in Swansea was getting too many cars on the lot so he tried to put them offsite as quickly as he could. He said that he got a partner for the new store but that it didn't work out and he had to liquidate and get rid of the Seekonk store. He said that over the last three months he's gotten through all of the inventory. He said that Seekonk had a 25-car license and Swansea has a 15-car license so at one point he had 35 cars. He said that to prevent him having more cars than allowed on his lot he rents out lot space at his mechanic's shop in Warren, RI.

Mr. Cicciu submitted a letter from Auto MD to the Board stating he is renting out space in his lot. He also submitted a photograph of his lot.

Mr. Cicciu explained that he has a high turnover rate and that it takes 2-3 business days to get cars registered in Massachusetts but it takes 7-14 business days in Rhode Island.

Mrs. Aronstein said that the Board had Mr. Cicciu here to discuss having routinely too many cars on the lot, but he has come up with a variety of solutions. She explained to Mr. Cicciu that he doesn't have to wait until renewal time to increase the number of cars on the lot by submitting an engineered site plan to the Town.

The board thanked Mr. Cicciu for being forthcoming and willing to discuss the matter.

Vote on Appointments

Mrs. Aronstein read the names of the seasonal beach employees that were to be appointed. She said that they have all completed their CORI checks and that once appointed they will move forward into training and orientation.

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Keagan Lecompte of Swansea, MA as the Assistant Beach Manager, effective June 1, 2024.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Adyn Marcos, Somerset, MA, Christian Liberatore of Somerset, MA, Emma Heilborn of Swansea, MA, Ethan Heilborn of Swansea, MA and Mikayla Seymour of East Berkley, MA as Lifeguards, effective June 1, 2024.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Alexandra Holden of Swansea, MA and Emma Plante of Swansea, MA as Gate Attendants, effective June 1, 2024.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Vote on Annual Appointments

The Board received the listing of Annual Appointments.

Mr. Kitchin read aloud each committee, noting any vacancies, and made a motion after each one.

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Eric Hajder and Melissa Heilborn-Coordinator to the Americans with Disabilities Act Committee, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Melissa Afonso to the Board of Health, with a term to expire June 30, 2027.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Jean Bolton to the Board of Registrars, with a term to expire June 30, 2027.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Marc Lapoint as Alternate Building Commissioner, J. Michael Medeiros as Wiring Inspector, Timothy Cabral Sr. as Alternate Electrical Inspector, Alan Audet as Alternate Electrical Inspector, Jason Roia as Alternate Electrical Inspector, Brian Clark as Plumbing & Gas Inspector, Edward Majewski as Alternate Plumbing & Gas Inspector, and Keith Sousa as Alternate Plumbing & Gas Inspector to the Building Department, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Christopher Hajder, James Carvalho, John Hansen Jr., Marc Lapointe, Paul Burke, Ryan Pacheco, and William Anderson to the Capital Building Committee, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Diane Pelland and Celine Brown as Cemetery Records Clerks, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Mallory Aronstein as Chief Procurement Officer, with a term to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Jamie Beane to Citizens for Citizens, with a term to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Eric Hajder as Community Response Coordinator, with a term to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Charles Ashley to the Conservation Commission, with a term to expire June 30, 2027.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Andrew Martelly, James Raposa, and Roland Richard as Constables, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Charles Applegate as the Conservation Representative and Steven Bogle to the Community Preservation Committee, with terms to expire June 30, 2027.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Elizabeth Manton, Dorothea Maynard, Wanda Peloquin, Margaret Riley, and Mary Anne Turtle to the Council on Aging, with terms to expire June 30, 2027.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Ersilia Fanuele, Jo Ann Johnson, and Colleen Mulligan to the Cultural Council, with terms to expire June 30, 2027.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Alexandra Nicolosi as the Drainage Inspector, with a term to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Alan Audet, Norbert Berard, Nancy Cordeiro, Michael Medeiros, Mark Foley, Joseph Boutin, Jeffrey Sawejko, Gary Huntress, Frank McCleod, Eric Hajder, Emmanuel Coroa, Davis Dewey, Carl Sawejko, and Antone Souza III to the Emergency Management Agency, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint John Santos as Fence Viewer, with a term to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Andrew Moniz, Christopher Furtado, Eric Hajder, Jordan Amorin, Mallory Aronstein (non-voting), Richard Mello, and Scott Olobri to the Fire Feasibility Committee, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Charles Applegate, Henry Elliot, Kevin Munro, Michael Rapoza, Nanci Hedgcroft, Sean Moffi, Shane Heneghen, Shawn Cusick, and Michael Flannigan to the Harbor Advisory Board, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Ashley Motta, Andrew Pelletier, Donald DiBiasio, Ethan Bouchard, and Keith Lake as Assistant Harbormasters and Shane Mello as the Harbormaster, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Brandon Tavares to the Historical & Cultural Assets Committee, with a term to expire June 30, 2027.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint William Anderson and Scott Olobri to the Joint Transportation Planning Group, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Mark Foley to Keeper of the Lock-Up, with a term to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint the following as Minutes Clerks: Stephanie Pavao for Advisory & Finance, Katelyn Marchand for Board of Assessors, Amie Griffin for Capital Building Committee, Jamie Beane for Community Preservation Committee, Jennifer Howard for Conservation Committee, Amie Griffin for Park & Recreation Committee, Jennifer Howard for Planning Board, Stephanie Pavao for Zoning Board, Stephanie Pavao for Soil Commission, Jamie Bean for Swansea Redevelopment, and Amie Griffin for Sewer Commission, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Edward Hill, Gilbert Almeida, and Nanci Hedgcorth to the Open Space Committee, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Melissa Heilborn as Parking Clerk, with a term to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Amanda Staton as Assistant Parking Clerk, with a term to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint George Arruda, Robert Furtado, Richard Gibeau, Marc Haslam, Richard Looker, Daniel Lowney, Joseph Martin, and Charlton Windle as Police Department Reserves, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Deborah Kelley, Eric Hajder, and Frances Kelley to the Public Access Oversight Committee, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Raymond White as Sealer of Weights, with a term to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Ashley Motta, Andrew Pelletier, Donald DiBiasio, Ethan Bouchard, and Keith Lake as Deputies and Shane Mello as Warden to the Shellfish Wardens, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

The Board and Mrs. Aronstein said that the Soil Conservation Board are representative from other boards and do not need appointing, but the Selectmen appointments are vacant.

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Eric Hajder, Mallory Aronstein, Nuno Jorge, Tracy Jo Anderson, and William Anderson to the Solid Waste/Hazardous Waste Committee, with terms to expire June 30, 2025.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint John Carvalho III and Michael Moore to the Swansea Redevelopment Authority, with terms to expire June 30, 2027.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to appoint Keith Dicorpo to the Zoning Board of Appeals, with a term to expire June 30, 2027.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Vote on Special Municipal Employee List

Mrs. Aronstein said that the list is on file with the Ethics Commission. She said a special municipal employee is a position, not an employee. She said to be designated a special municipal employee, a person must work less than 860 hours a year, and are not paid.

Mrs. Aronstein clarifies the difference between elected members on and off the list.

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to designate the following positions within municipal government as special municipal employees as defined in Chapter 268A of the general laws: Advisory & Finance Committee Members, Alternate Building Inspector, Alternate Electrical Inspector, Alternate Plumbing & Gas Inspector, Animal Control On-Call Officers, Board of Assessors Members, Conservation Commission Consultant, Constables, Electrical Inspector, Emergency Management Director & Members, Harbormaster & Assistants, Solid Waste/Hazardous Waste Committee Members, Zoning Board of Appeals Members, Inspector of Animals, Plumbing & Gas Inspector, Moderator, Reserve Police Officers, Sealer of Weights & Measures, Shellfish Warden & Assistants, Tree Warden, Trustees of Public Library, Volunteer Firefighters, and Wiring Inspector.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Review and Approve Board of Selectmen Meeting Dates for July-December 2024

The Board agreed to the proposed meeting dates.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to approve the meeting minutes of May 14, 2024.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to approve the meeting minutes of May 15, 2024.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Town Administrator's Report

Mrs. Aronstein asked the Board to vote to award the paper supplies bid to WB Mason, who was the sole bidder. She said the other bid on the docket is DPW Services, which includes a variety of vendors

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to approve the Southeastern Regional Services Group contract award to WB Mason for paper items as listed.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to approve the DPW supply award for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 as stated.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Mrs. Aronstein said there were four bidders for the Pearse Road Drainage Improvements project. She said the apparent low bidder at the time of bid opening ended up not being the actual low bidder after analyzing the numbers. She said Highway Director Bill Anderson and herself are requesting that the Board award this bid to K.R. Rezendes of Assonet, MA, in the amount of \$706,266.

Mr. Anderson discussed the discrepancies found in some of the bids.

Mr. Anderson said the part of the project that is on school property will be completed on or before August 24, 2024 and that the entire project will be completed on or before November 30, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to award the bid to K.R. Rezendes, Inc. of Assonet, MA for an amount not to exceed \$706,266 for the Pearse Road Drainage Improvement Project.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Mrs. Aronstein said that the library construction is making access to the meeting posting board difficult. She said she worked with the Town Clerk and would like the Board to vote to change the official meeting posting location to the Town's website, www.swanseama.gov. She said the Town will continue to utilize the board at Town Hall as well.

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to designate the Swansea website as the official meeting location posting according to Massachusetts General Law.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Mrs. Aronstein highlighted a few parts of her Monthly Report, which included Older American's Day at the Council on Aging, a meeting with Almeida's Vegetable Patch, and the cable video on the sewer in preparation for the Town Meeting.

Mr. Kitchin commended Mrs. Aronstein for all her work within the last couple of months with the Special Town Meeting, Annual Town Meeting, and everything listed in the Monthly Reports.

Mrs. Aronstein said the last item is a license for the Board to approve with the Massachusetts Electric Company. She said at the Town Meeting in the Fall the Town will vote on the easement to replace this license. She said it's to replace the overhead service feeding the Library and Town Hall parcel to an underground service.

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to authorize the Town of Swansea to enter into an agreement with Massachusetts Electric Company regarding access rights to 81 Main Street.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Old Business

Mrs. Aronstein said that a local property owner has not paid their property taxes and they wants to "gift" it to the Town in lieu of paying the owed taxes. She said the Town owns a small lot next to it and that it is wet and unbuildable.

The Board discussed the numerous reasons why the parcel was undesirable and agreed they did not wish to acquire it.

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to decline the owner's offer for the Town to acquire the property located at Parcel 50-65 Pepper Avenue.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Mr. Beaudette said his top priorities are senior tax relief, right of ways and working with the harbormaster on moorings and possibly increasing access to the boat ramp, and to update the bylaws to change Town meetings and elections to Saturdays.

Mrs. Aronstein reiterated what each of the Board members had stated their priorities were at the previous meeting on May 14, 2024.

The Board deliberated on each of their top priorities and agreed upon a set of top priorities.

Mrs. Aronstein stated the Boards' top priorities as agreed upon are housing bylaw review, economic development, infrastructure, and rights of way/boat ramp access.

New Business

The Board had no new business to discuss.

Correspondence

Mr. Medeiros read aloud Mr. Scott Adams letter of resignation as a member of the Planning Board.

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to accept Scott Adams' letter of resignation from the Planning Board, with regret.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Kitchin, seconded by Mr. Beaudette to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm.

All in Favor- Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staton, Administrative Assistant

Document List:

List of Library Surplus Property and Disposal Items

Open Meeting Law Complaint Form

Resume from Amanda Silvia

Email Correspondence from Police Chief Mark Foley

Class 2 License for Bristol County Auto Sales

Letter from Auto MD regarding Bristol County Auto Exchange Renting Space

Photograph of Bristol County Auto Exchange's Lot

Drawing of Bristol County Auto Exchange's Property

Email Correspondence from Jennifer Howard

List of Seasonal Beach Employees

List of 2024 Appointments

List of Special Municipal Employees

List of Board of Selectmen Meeting Dates July-December 2024

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes May 14, 2024

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes May 15, 2024

SERSG DPW Supply Award July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

SERSG Award of Paper Contract July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

Letter for Pearse Road Drainage Improvements Project from William Anderson

Bid Analysis for Pearse Road Drainage Improvements Project

Letter from Town Clerk regarding Official Meeting Posting Location Change

State Regulations Notice Posting Requirements

Sample Letter to be sent to Attorney General

Departmental Monthly Report

License Agreement with Massachusetts Electric Company

Documents relative to 50-65 Pepper Ave and gifting to the Town

Letter of Resignation from Scott Adams