



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Board of Selectmen Meeting

REMOTE MEETING:

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Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building

100 Maple Avenue

Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 - 7:00 PM

Minutes

Mr. Samia read the remote meeting script and called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM, "As a preliminary matter, this is John Samia, Chair. Please permit me to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me.

Present: Mr. John Samia, Chair, Mr. John Lebeaux, Vice-Chair, Mr. Maurice DePalo, Clerk, Ms. Beth Casavant, Selectmen, Ms. Theresa Flynn, Selectmen

Also Present: Mr. Kevin Mizikar, Town Manager, Ms. Kristen Las, Assistant Town Manager, Ms. Taylor Galusha, Principal Department Assistant (Board of Selectman and Town Manager)

Good evening. This Open Meeting of the Board of Selectmen is being conducted remotely consistent with Senate Bill 2475 signed into law by Governor Baker on June 16, 2021 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. The Order allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. For this meeting, the Board of Selectmen is convening by Google Meet as posted on the Town's Website identifying how the public may join. Please be sure to press *6 to mute your device. The meeting will/will not feature public comment. Please wait until I open the item for public comment, and press *6 to unmute your device."

Preliminaries:

1. **Approve bills, payrolls and warrants**

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. DePalo, on a roll call vote, Ms. Casavant—Yes, Ms. Flynn—Yes, Mr. DePalo, —Yes, Mr. Lebeaux, --Yes, Mr. Samia—Yes, the Board unanimously voted to approve bills, payrolls, and warrants 2223, 2225, 2254, 2252ME, 2252, and 2256

2. **Approve Minutes of December 7, 2021, December 14, 2021, and December 21, 2021**

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. DePalo, on a roll call vote, Ms. Casavant—Yes, Ms. Flynn—Yes, Mr. DePalo, —Yes, Mr. Lebeaux, --Yes, Mr. Samia—Yes, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of December 7, 2021, December 14, 2021, and December 21, 2021 as written.

3. **Announcements/Reports**

Mr. Samia noted that the dog licensing period is now open for 2022. As of this year, residents can now license their dog online. The 2022 licensing period will close on February 28, 2022. Visit Shrewsburyma.gov/doglicense for more information.

Mr. Samia also gave an update on the Beal reuse project and noted the Town has reviewed the feedback from the December Public Hearing and subsequent correspondence.

Mr. DePalo noted that construction of the Police Station is on time and they have completed 20% of the contract thus far. They logged 1,800 worker hours in December and the second floor concrete will be poured in the next few weeks and they will begin to close the building in. The project is on budget and on time.

Mr. Lebeaux informed the voters that he is not planning on seeking re-election in May. Mr. Samia recognized him for his public service, intelligence, and hard work for the Town. Mr. DePalo thanked him for all of his work and being able to work with him all of these years.

4. **Town Manager's Report**

Mr. Mizikar recognized staff members for their completion of various trainings: Kevin Esposito – Tree Warden Training, Alexandria Martinez – Certificate Program for Municipal Finance, and many other staff members for completing a Leadership Development Program. All of these efforts for furthering education benefits the whole organization.

Mr. Mizikar noted they are in the process of reviewing the American Rescue Plan Act Final Rule from the US Treasury, additional flexibility has been provided with the final rule and they are in the process of reviewing in order to provide guidance to the Board.

Mr. Mizikar noted that the Town received notification of the invasive species, the Spotted Lanternfly, being present in Town.

Special Reports/Actions/Updates:

5. **COVID-19 Updates on Positive Case Counts, Vaccination Data and Town Operating Status**

Mr. Mizikar shared a COVID-19 update presentation. He noted that effective Monday January 10, 2022 through at least January 28, 2022, the Town Hall will be open to the public by appointment only. Appointments can be made between the hours of 9:00am - 12:00pm and 1:00pm - 3:00pm on Monday through Friday. If you require an in-person appointment, please call the office in which you are seeking an appointment for.

There were 804 cases in the last seven days. The Town continues to ask people to work to minimize the spread. There have been 5,809 positive cases in Town to date, an increase of 1,503 cases since last reported on December 21, 2021. There have been 78 COVID-19 deaths, an increase of 0 since last reported on December 21, 2021.

34,876 residents, or 88% of all eligible residents, have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 Vaccine. This is an increase of 945 residents since last reported on December 21, 2021. 30,540 residents, or 77% of all eligible residents, are fully vaccinated. This is an increase of 984 individuals since last reported on December 21, 2021. 14,503 residents, or 37% of all eligible residents, have received a COVID-19 Booster shot.

All residents 5 and older who live, work, or study in Massachusetts are now eligible. Ages 5 to 17 can only get the Pfizer vaccine. Pfizer and Moderna booster COVID-19 vaccinations are available for all individuals 18+ who received a 2nd dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least six months ago. Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 booster shots are available to all individuals 18+ who received a single dose of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine at least 2 months ago.

Meetings/Hearings:

6. **Meeting with Hollie Lucht, Council on Aging Director, Council on Aging Departmental Update**

Ms. Hollie Lucht, Council on Aging Director, presented a Departmental update on the Council on Aging to the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Lucht stated the mission of the Council on Aging, “to advocate for and to develop programs and services that enhance the well-being and quality of life, and to create a welcoming, secure and inclusive community for seniors.” Ms. Lucht then summarized the staffing of the department and their Council on Aging Board members. She noted the challenges and work the department has done during COVID in order to continue to serve the senior population in Shrewsbury and different programming they were able to offer as well. She also discussed how the department was able to assist in COVID-19 vaccinations both by distributing information and also assisting individuals get to appointments. They also hosted a vaccination clinic in July of 2021 at the senior center open to all Shrewsbury and alliance community residents and employees. Ms. Lucht also summarized the current class and club offerings the COA has. Ms. Lucht discussed the transportation services offered through the Council on Aging and the different marketing efforts they have been working on to increase engagement with and outreach to the community. She noted the different grants the COA received in 2021 through various programs. Ms. Lucht also discussed the services the Council on Aging offers through outreach like referrals for Meals on Wheels as well as their Grab and Go programs. She also noted special outreach events and programs organized by the Council on Aging like their Valentines for Seniors program, ST. Patrick’s Day Meals, Mother’s Day Giveaway, and the raised garden beds installed by a local Eagle Scout, Anthony Biscotti. These special events occur throughout the year. Ms. Lucht then discussed personal goals for the COA and goals for the Senior Center in general for FY23. She emphasized training and development as one of the goals and also expansion in certain programming.

The Board thanked Ms. Lucht for her presentation.

Ms. Casavant noted that she missed going to the Council on Aging to visit and engage with the seniors and staff there.

Mr. DePalo applauded how the staff were able to keep things open and going throughout the pandemic. He also inquired about the 5 year staffing plan and which positions would be new positions. Ms. Lucht noted the assistant position would be new and the office assistant/transportation coordinator position would be a new full time position.

Mr. Samia asked how the Council on Aging is addressing mental health and health issues. Ms. Lucht noted the outreach and engagement throughout COVID-19 and staying in contact with the senior population.

New Business:

7. Review the request for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting from Ruth Anderson, Principal Assessor, for an article to create a Shrewsbury Tax Relief Fund

Ms. Ruth Anderson, Principal Assessor, summarized the purpose of the memo on the Tax Relief Fund and the outline of the Tax Relief Fund proposal. She summarized the process to bring something like this forward and implement it in the Town. Mr. DePalo has also been working on this effort.

Ms. Casavant thanked Ms. Anderson and Mr. DePalo for their work on this and thanked Ms. Anderson for also continuing to look for ways to provide tax relief for the residents of Shrewsbury. Ms. Anderson also explained how assessed values work and the way residents receive their tax bills.

Mr. Samia asked if there is a way to provide tax relief through federal funding or the ARPA funding. Ms. Anderson said there is a potential possibility to do this, Mr. Mizikar would need to look into it more.

Ms. Anderson also noted that there are various ways a tax relief fund could be funded (donations, payment in lieu of taxes, etc.) In conclusion, she wanted to bring this to the Board’s attention as the Town approaches preparations for the Annual Town Meeting and warrant creation.

8. Review and act on the 409 South Street Local Initiative Program Application and letter of support from Greystar Development

Mr. Samia and Ms. Las summarized the process thus far and what the next steps of this process may be for the Board. Greystar's counsel, Ms. Karen Kepler noted concerns with the incorporation of the development agreement condition in the application and support letter to the DHCD. Mr. Samia asked why they wanted the section removed and noted they had shared this with Town Counsel and he did not see an issue with including the Development Agreement condition in the application. Greystar withdrew their request.

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. DePalo, on a roll call vote, Ms. Casavant—Yes, Ms. Flynn—Yes, Mr. DePalo, —Yes, Mr. Lebeaux, --Yes, Mr. Samia—Yes, the Board unanimously voted to file the Local Initiative Program application with the Department of Housing and Community Development and to authorize the chair to sign the letter of support for the 409 South Street Greystar Development.

9. Review and act to authorize the chairman to sign the Estoppel Certificate and Consent to Refinancing of 900 Madison Place, Shrewsbury

Mr. Samia summarized the agenda item and the estoppel certificate for 900 Madison Place refinancing.

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. DePalo, on a roll call vote, Ms. Casavant—Yes, Ms. Flynn—Yes, Mr. DePalo, —Yes, Mr. Lebeaux, --Yes, Mr. Samia—Yes, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the chairman to sign the Estoppel Certificate and Consent to Refinancing of 900 Madison Place, Shrewsbury.

10. Review and act on proposed dates for actions relative to the May 14, 2022 Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Samia and Mr. Mizikar summarized the agenda item. They will set the date and time for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting on February 15, 2022. No action taken.

11. Review and act on the request from Deepak Sharma, 19 Flintlock Dr, on the issuance of a proclamation for the Health for Humanity Yogathon Organized by Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA, January 15, 2022 to January 30, 2022

Mr. Samia summarized the agenda item and noted they approved a similar one in 2019.

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Ms. Casavant, on a roll call vote, Ms. Casavant—Yes, Ms. Flynn—Yes, Mr. DePalo, —Yes, Mr. Lebeaux, --Yes, Mr. Samia—Yes, the Board unanimously voted to approve the request from Deepak Sharma, 19 Flintlock Dr, on the issuance of a proclamation for the Health for Humanity Yogathon Organized by Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA, January 15, 2022 to January 30, 2022 pursuant to Board of Selectmen Policy 30.

Correspondence: The Board of Selectmen will review and possibly act on the following:

12. **Email, dated December 17, 2021, from Marc Serra, Executive Director, Shrewsbury Media Connection, re: SMC Financial Statements and 2021 operational update – So Noted**
13. **Email, dated December 20, 2021, from Deepak Sharma, 19 Flintlock Dr, re: Proclamation Request for Yoga awareness from the city of Shrewsbury. – So Noted**
14. **Email, dated December 22, 2021, from Valerie Clemmey, Assistant Town Clerk, re: Online/Credit Card Payments @ Clerk's Office – So Noted**
15. **Email, dated December 22, 2021, from Samantha Shattuck, Auto Sport Inc, re: Auto Sport Inc Car Dealers License – So Noted**
16. **Email, dated December 27, 2021, from Stan Trzoniec, 562 South Street, re: Home values.... – So Noted**
17. **Letter, received December 28, 2021, from Andrew Truman, Town Engineer /Engineering & Conservation Division Manager, re: Trailer Trucks – So Noted**

18. Letter, received January 5, 2022, from Douglas Larson, Geosyntec Consultants, re: Submittal of Immediate Response Action Plan 115 Northeast Cutoff, Worcester, MA MassDEP Release Tracking Number (RTN) 2-1121682 – So Noted
19. Email, dated January 5, 2022, from Gretchen Schultz-Ellison and Members of Climate Resilient Central MA, 24 Spring Street, re: Climate Action Plan Request – So Noted
20. Email, dated January 5, 2022, from Keith Elmes, Animal Control Officer and Animal Health Inspector, re: ACO Quarterly Report – So Noted

Beal Reuse

21. Letter, received December 29, 2021, from Alison Gray Ricker, 32 Westwood Road, re: Beal Reuse – So Noted
22. Email, dated December 30, 2021, from Elizabeth Duncan, 41 Westwood Rd, re: Reuse of Beal school land – So Noted
23. Letter, received December 30, 2021, from Jay Montgomery, 49 Surrey Lane, re: Beal Reuse – So Noted
24. Letter, received December 30, 2021, from Robin Loughlin, 44 Surrey Lane, re: Beal Reuse – So Noted
25. Email, dated December 31, 2021, from Brad Green, 30 Francis Ave, re: Beal School Development proposal
26. Letter, received January 4, 2022, from Andy Doyle, 45 Surrey Lane, re: Beal Reuse– So Noted
27. Letter, received January 5, 2021, from Joe Mathieu, 37 Westwood Road, re: Beal Reuse – So Noted

Street Acceptance Requests

28. Letter, received December 28, 2021, from Attorney Patricia Gates, Mountain, Dearborn, & Whiting LLP, re: Russell Industrial Park Commerce Road Application for Street Acceptance – So Noted
29. Letter, received December 29, 2021, from Attorney Roderick St. Pierre, Law Office of St. Pierre & St. Pierre, re: Street Acceptance Oak Meadow Circle. Shrewsbury, Massachusetts – So Noted
30. Letter, received December 30, 2021, from Steve Turnblom, re: Acceptance of Glendale Ave as a public way at the Annual town Meeting – So Noted

ZBA Decisions

31. ZBA Decision of December 20, 2021, for Matthew Rich, for a special permit, for a property located at 36 Francis Avenue – So Noted
32. ZBA Decision of December 20, 2021, for Colleen Duran, for a special permit, for a property located at 18 Norcross Point – So Noted
33. ZBA Decision of December 20, 2021, for Andrew Woods, for a special permit, for a property located at 117 Old Mill Road – So Noted
34. ZBA Decision of December 20, 2021, for Kevin and Lori Bastien, for a special permit, for a property located at 21 Sycamore Road – So Noted

Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Ms. Casavant, on a roll call vote, Ms. Casavant—Yes, Ms. Flynn—Yes, Mr. DePalo, —Yes, Mr. Lebeaux, --Yes, Mr. Samia—Yes, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Taylor M. Galusha

Referenced Materials:

- COVID-19 Update Presentation

Minutes

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- Council on Aging Presentation
- Health for Humanity Yogathon Proclamation