



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 25, 2022 - 7:00 PM

Minutes

Mr. Samia read the remote meeting script and called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Mr. Bernard Cahill, Director of Planning and Economic Development, 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."

Executive Session

1. **Executive session to consider the purchase, exchange, or lease of value of real property, because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Board (G.L. c. 30A, S 21 (a)(6), Former Beal School, 1-7 Maple Ave)**

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 voted to enter into Executive session to consider the purchase, exchange, or lease of value of real property, because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Board (G.L. c. 30A, S 21 (a)(6), Former Beal School, 1-7 Maple Ave) at 7:02 PM

The Board re-entered open session at 7:31 PM

Preliminaries:

2. **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 2227, 2258, and 2260.

3. Approve Minutes of January 5, 2022 and January 11, 2022

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 January 5, 2022 and January 11, 2022.

4. Announcements/Reports

There were no announcements or reports.

5. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Mizikar noted he would have a financial presentation for the Board on Departmental Budget Requests later on in the agenda.

Special Reports/Actions/Updates:

6. 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, 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 359 cases in the last seven days. The Town continues to ask people to work to minimize the spread. There have been 6,757 positive cases in Town to date, an increase of 948 cases since last reported on January 11, 2022. There have been 78 COVID-19 deaths, an increase of 0 since last reported on January 11, 2022.

35, 322 residents, or 89% of all eligible residents, have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 Vaccine. This is an increase of 446 residents since last reported on January 11, 2022. 30,967 residents, or 78% of all eligible residents, are fully vaccinated. This is an increase of 427 individuals since last reported on January 11, 2022. 16,997 residents, or 43% 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.

Financial Business:

7. Overview of Departmental Budget Requests

Mr. Mizikar gave a presentation on the Departmental Budget Requests as part of the FY23 budget cycle. He noted some of the initial consideration when it came to these request - impact of inflation on the FY23 submissions, preliminary requests exceed framework spending cap, implementation of new departments HR, fleet maintenance, and park maintenance. He summarized the department requests from each functional area. Mr. Mizikar also discussed the current debt service schedule. He noted the status of the enterprise fund as well.

Mr. Samia asked if we purchase fuel through a long term contract or go on a need basis. Mr. Mizikar noted that the Town partners with City of Worcester for the fuel contract and it is a fixed price all year.

Ms. Casavant noted that the police cruisers are converting to hybrid and asked if there are any other places the Town can work to convert to hybrid or electric vehicles. Mr. Mizikar noted that any opportunity the Town has to

move towards an electric or hybrid option is the goal as it is part of the capital improvement plan, and they will explore those opportunities every chance they can.

Meetings/Hearings:

8. **Meeting with Richard Ricker, Esq. regarding a Request for Storage Parking at 420 Boston Turnpike by MAG Retail Holdings BMS, LLC d/b/a BMW of Shrewsbury, 770 Boston Turnpike**
Postponed until the February 8, 2022 Meeting.
9. **Meeting with Richard Ricker, Esq. regarding a Request for Storage Parking at 420 Boston Turnpike by MAG Retail Holdings BMS, LLC d/b/a Audi of Shrewsbury, 780 Boston Turnpike**
Postponed until the February 8, 2022 Meeting.

New Business:

10. **Review and act to reallocate Town Meeting Members based on the 2020 Federal Census Re-precincting and to change Precinct Two polling location**

Mr. Mizikar summarized the agenda item and noted they did this last year with their own cyclical process, however with the 2020 federal census the Town needed to reprecinct and reallocate town meeting members again.

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 reallocate Town Meeting Members based on the 2020 Federal Census Re-precincting.

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 change the polling location of Precinct Two to the Shrewsbury Senior Center.

11. **Review and act to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate a Land Disposition Agreement with Civico/Greenly for 1 through 7 Maple Avenue (the Former Beal School)**

Ms. Las gave a presentation on the Beal Re-use process so far.

Mr. Samia noted the agenda item is just to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate a Land Disposition Agreement and follow the parameters the Board establishes.

Mr. Cahill discussed how this project falls in line with the planning and visioning study for the last 5 to 6 years. Mr. Cahill noted this process started with the 2016 Master Plan that focused on making the Town Center District more pedestrian friendly with mixed-use project and create revitalization of the area.

Mr. Mizikar noted that there was a parking study that was conducted of the Town Center previously and expanded on the concept of shared public parking spaces concept going forward. He added that this one project won't solve the need for parking, but it would be part of the solution. Mr. Cahill noted that patterns in parking are changing with flexible work schedules which changes and reduces the traffic flow. He noted that vibrancy and constant customers are the goal and the mixed use element is what they have been going for the whole time.

Mr. Samia noted they have reviewed and listened to the feedback they received, their goal is always openness and transparency, and he gave a summary of the process so far. He also thanked residents for their feedback and noted they are always there to answer questions.

Mr. DePalo added that he agrees with everything that Mr. Samia said and noted that they do listen and wanted to reinforce that this project did not come out of nowhere and they have been working on it for a while. There have been newspaper articles, it is on the website, and it has been on social media. A lot of effort went into the project and there continues to be a lot of effort put into the project. He noted the Board is trying really hard to do the right thing for the Town.

Ms. Flynn agrees with a lot of what Mr. Samia and Mr. DePalo said, she noted that as being the newest member of the Board her goal was to have a lot of the community informed and engaged and have done a lot to keep information updated and the comments are being heard and the number one goal is to serve the community the best they can and continue to disseminate information in a way for people to be as engaged as possible.

Ms. Casavant noted that they are still in a position of negotiations and could not jump in on Facebook to respond to comments. She noted the way Open Meeting Law works with correspondence and communications and that they can't answer group texts and explained what this agenda item is and that it is not selling the land like the Facebook post had said.

Mr. Lebeaux agrees with everything his colleagues have said and noted what they saw in the presentation tonight and hopes it gives people comfort that it has been a long incremental process with many opportunities for public input which led the committee to work on developing an RFP and have the Town Meeting participate by voting the zoning changes and this happened in open. The Board protected its right and the Town's rights by using executive session to address the value of real property. He is saddened that people feel they did not have a voice in the process however there were a lot of opportunities to participate in public hearings over the years throughout this project.

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 Town Manager to negotiate a Land Disposition Agreement with Civico/Greenly for 1 through 7 Maple Avenue (the Former Beal School) within the parameters discussed and listed on slide 10 column 3 into a Land Disposition Agreement.

12. Review and adopt FY23 Health Insurance rates for active employees

Mr. Mizikar summarized the agenda item, noting the rate changes as Fallon Health Group has left municipal insurance and they moved to a lower cost network with Blue Cross Blue Shield.

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 adopt FY23 Health Insurance rates for active employees as recommended.

13. Review and act on the reappointment of Brian Clark, 45 Grafton Street, to the Shrewsbury Cultural Council for a three year term to expire on February 10, 2025

Mr. Samia summarized the agenda item.

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

14. Review and act on the reappointment of Julie Holstrom, 43 Westview Avenue, to the Shrewsbury Development Corporation for a five year term to expire on January 31, 2027

Mr. Samia summarized the agenda item.

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

Old Business

15. Process update on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force Report

Mr. Samia noted he reached out to recommended firms from other municipalities, he noted that there will be notes and materials about each consultant provided to the Board for their workshop in early February. They are excited to get to work on this project and it is important it is coming alongside our strategic plan. Time has not been lost in this process and they have been working hard.

Ms. Casavant thanked Mr. Samia and Town Staff for the leg work they have done in this process and wanted to emphasize they should be moving as expeditiously as possible and she sees implementing recommendations and forming the committee are two different goals they can work on together going forward. She still believes they can come up with a charge on their own. One other housekeeping item, she noted that when they disband the task force since their work is complete and to make sure they are able to join other public bodies when opportunities come up.

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

16. **Email, dated January 6, 2022, from Kevin Mizikar, Town Manager, re: Conservation Commission – So Noted, recognize Mr. Jaques for his outstanding service to our community.**
17. **Email, dated January 7, 2022, from Ed Sturtevant, Lewis Tree Service - Contractor for National Grid, re: National Grid Vegetation Maintenance Notification- Shrewsbury – So Noted**
18. **Letter, received January 10, 2022, from Mariclaire Rigby, Lead Vegetation Strategy Specialist – National Grid, re: Upcoming Sideline Vegetation Management Activities – So Noted**
19. **Letter, received January 10, 2022, from Andrew Truman, Town Engineer, re: Honeysuckle Lane – Speed Complaint – So Noted**
20. **Email, dated January 11, 2022, from Hannah Kane, State Representative, re: Staffing Update – So Noted**
21. **Email, dated January 12, 2022, from Anna Darrow, Office of State Representative Hannah Kane, re: 7 Boston Turnpike, Shrewsbury, MA – So Noted**
22. **Letter, received January 14, 2022, from The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Local Election Districts Review Commission, re: Approval of re-dividing of Shrewsbury – So Noted**
23. **Email, dated January 14, 2022, from Kerry Bogdan, Risk Analysis Branch Chief – Mitigation Division – FEMA Region I, re: Workmap Meeting invitation to Town of Shrewsbury, MA in Blackstone Watershed – So Noted**
24. **Letter, received January 18, 2022, from Nick Repekta, Highway Division Manager, re: Snow Report 3” snow – So Noted**
25. **Letter, received January 19, 2022, from Bernard Cahill, Director of Planning and Economic Development, and Rowen McAllister, Assistant Town Planner, re: Master Plan Implementation 2021 Update – So Noted**

Beal Reuse Correspondence:

26. **Email, dated January 10, 2022, from Karin Holovnia, 19 Wesleyan Street, re: Beal School Sale Concerns – So Noted**
27. **Letter, received January 10, 2022, from Joan Hare, 6 Blackstone Street, re: Beal Reuse – So Noted**
28. **Letter, received January 21, 2022, from Paul Scheffer, 62 Wildwood Road, re: Beal School Re-Use and Town Center Changes – So Noted**

Respectfully Submitted,



Taylor M. Galusha

Referenced Materials:

- COVID-19 Update Presentation
- Departmental Budget Requests Presentation
- Reprecinting Memo
- Beal Reuse Presentation