



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Board of Selectmen Meeting
HYBRID MEETING

Google Meet Information:

(US) +1 747-248-7354 PIN: 153 991 490#

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room
Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building
100 Maple Avenue
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 - 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Mr. Samia read the hybrid 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. Taylor Galusha, Principal Department Assistant (Board of Selectman and Town Manager)

Good evening. This Open Meeting of the Board of Selectmen is being conducted in a hybrid module 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 and in a hybrid fashion 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 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, the Board unanimously voted to approve bills, payrolls, and warrants 2264, 2262, 2262ME, and 2229.

2. Approve Minutes of January 11, 2022 and January 25, 2022

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. DePalo, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of January 11, 2022 and January 25, 2022.

3. Announcements/Reports

Mr. Samia noted that on Monday, January 31, 2022, Officer Peter Capalbo retired after serving as a Shrewsbury police officer for 31 years. On Wednesday, February 2, 2022, Officer Capalbo was sworn in as a Special Police Officer. Special Police Officers assist in working police details in Town. We would like to thank Officer Capalbo for his continued service and dedication to the Shrewsbury Community and the Shrewsbury Police Department.

Mr. Lebeaux noted that he, Mr. Mizikar, and Mr. James Kane, Town Moderator, attended the reception held for Officer Capalbo while he completed his last call and wanted to thank him for his service to the community.

Mr. Samia wanted to thank our DPW crew for their hard work before, during, and after all of the snow storms the Town has experienced so far this season to keep the roads clear and safe. Additionally, to help out the Shrewsbury Fire Department, please keep snow and ice 5 feet away from fire hydrants. If anyone has any concerns regarding snow clean up, please utilize SeeClickFix on the DPW's website to report them.

He added on Thursday, February 17 from 7:00-8:15 p.m, Attend Keep Massachusetts Beautiful's Talking Trash & Recycling via Zoom to learn what really happens to our trash and recyclables here in Shrewsbury. Registration link and more details available on the Parks & Recreation Page of the town website.

Mr. DePalo wanted to thank Mr. Bernard Cahill, Director of Planning and Economic Development, Ms. Rowen McAllister, Assistant Town Planner, Mr. Andrew Truman, Town Engineer, and Mr. Dan McCullen, GIS Coordinator, for their work on submitting a Trails Grant on very short notice. He noted that the Town is lucky to have those individuals and applauded the great work that they do.

4. **Town Manager's Report**

Mr. Mizikar noted that the National community Survey has been released to the community. The survey will be conducted in two phases, the first being randomly selected individuals and the second being open participation which will begin in March.

He added that the Town is working with the UMass Collins Center on a Strategic Communications analysis of the needs of underserved populations in Town. He noted that there is a primary focus on non-homeowners in this beginning phase. The second phase will look at town wide communications, and then they would move into developing a Strategic Communications Plan.

Mr. Mizikar added that the Town received an ADA grant to partner with CMRPC and the Institute for Human Centered Design and they will be looking for input during the phases of this project.

Mr. Mizikar also wanted to honor the service of Officer Peter Capalbo, noting that he has been a wonderful person to talk to over the years and thanked him for his service and commitment to the community.

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 February 14, 2022, the Town Hall will reopen to the public without the need for an appointment.

He noted that the Board of Health will be meeting on February 18, 2022 to reconsider the mask mandate established in October 2021.

There were 112 cases in the last seven days. The Town continues to ask people to work to minimize the spread. There have been 7,072 positive cases in Town to date, an increase of 315 cases since last reported on January 25, 2022. There have been 78 COVID-19 deaths, an increase of 0 since last reported on January 25, 2022.

35,680 residents, or 90% of all eligible residents, have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 Vaccine. This is an increase of 358 residents since last reported on January 25, 2022. 31,183 residents, or 79% of all eligible residents, are fully vaccinated. This is an increase of 216 individuals since last reported on January 25, 2022.

18,173 residents, or 46% of all eligible residents, have received a COVID-19 Booster shot, an increase of 1,176 individuals since last reported on January 25, 2022.

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. **7:05 PM - Public Hearing with Richard Ricker, Esq. attorney for Matt McGovern of McGovern Auto Group Corp. Services, Inc. d/b/a McGovern Collision, 420 Boston Turnpike for a garage license**
Matt McGovern, of McGovern Auto Group, John Scherkenbach, of McGovern Auto Group, Garrett Horsfall, of Kelly Engineering Group, and Richard Ricker, Esq., attorney for Matt McGovern, were present.

Attorney Ricker summarized the request for a Garage License for a Collision center and fit-up center, along with the two subsequent requests for items seven and eight as well. He noted that this project would bring 50-60 jobs into Shrewsbury with the wages in the jobs ranging from \$50,000 to \$160,000. He added that they would be good quality jobs added to the community and the project will help grow the tax base as well. Attorney Ricker also noted that the proposed site, 420 Boston Turnpike has a long history and is fairly run down. He noted that this proposal will demolish most of the buildings on the site and refurbish one of them.

Attorney Ricker and Mr. Horsfall noted that the site plans have a combination of 333 spaces on the land – for repair and storage of inventory. They added that it would be a fluctuating number of spaces assigned to storage versus repairs as it is hard to anticipate what break down is needed. Attorney Ricker added that the spaces required for zoning as well mixed in.

Attorney Ricker added that the plans still need to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, and the Planning Board. All of this will occur in the near future.

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. DePalo, the Board unanimously voted to open the public hearing.

Mr. DePalo noted that he is glad to see something being done with the site, and asked about visitors to the site and space to unload on the site. Attorney Ricker responded that there would be visitors to the site and that there is a 30 foot wide driveway, which is standard for tracker trailers, and they have worked out the emergency vehicle access as well.

There were no comments from the public.

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. DePalo, the Board unanimously voted to close the public hearing.

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. DePalo, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Garage License for McGovern Auto Group Corp. Services, Inc., d/b/a McGovern Collision located at 420 Boston Turnpike.

7. **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**
Attorney Ricker noted that there are two applications because two dealership and two different addresses. The 333 parking spaces are the total amount between 770 Boston Turnpike and 780 Boston Turnpike.

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. DePalo, the Board unanimously voted to approve 333 parking spaces for purposes of inventory storage at 420 Boston Turnpike by MAG Retail Holdings BMS, LLC d/b/a BMW of Shrewsbury, 770 Boston Turnpike.

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 Audi of Shrewsbury, 780 Boston Turnpike

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. DePalo, the Board unanimously voted to approve 333 parking spaces for purposes of inventory storage at 420 Boston Turnpike by MAG Retail Holdings BMS, LLC d/b/a Audi of Shrewsbury, 780 Boston Turnpike.

Mr. Mizikar noted his appreciation for continuous investment in the Town from Mr. McGovern and his continued support of the Town.

Financial Business:

9. Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary Budget Review

Mr. Mizikar provided a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2023 preliminary budget. He noted that increases in State Aid, Excise Tax revenue has also increased and the utility revenues are evolving. Mr. Mizikar noted the alignment of the budget with the Board of Selectmen Goals. He highlighted part so the budget aligning with goals of the Board related infrastructure, quality of life, economic growth, and effective government. He also reviewed the budget summary of the departments as well.

Ms. Casavant asked about the planned sewer projects in Town. Mr. Mizikar noted the balanced budget and taking advantage of the new sewer rates. There is a focus on the key pump stations and finalizing designs for each. He added the benefit the Town has with our partnership with Blackstone and Westborough Treatment plant.

Ms. Casavant asked about the additional positions being added in the police department and how we are handling the addition of the social worker. Mr. Mizikar noted that they are working through the final phases of working with Advocate to fund a 3 year grant to fund the social worker position. He noted that they will be able to evaluate the demand for social workers in Town based on establishing this first social worker position. He added that there are 3 new officer positions and that one of them would be dedicated to a new Traffic initiative to build capacity to address traffic concerns in the future.

Mr. DePalo asked how the Assistant Town Manager of Finance and Administration is being funded. Mr. Mizikar noted that it is within the Town Manager's budget. Mr. DePalo also asked if the funding for Fleet Maintenance is reallocated from other budgets and is about enhancing services. Mr. Mizikar said yes to both points. Mr. DePalo also asked about the differences in the Fire Department Budget Increases and the Police Department Budget Increases. Mr. Mizikar noted that the Police Department budget is not reflective of the wage increases as they will be negotiating a new contract. He continued that the Fire Department is the opposite as they have multiple individuals moving up steps in wages, that they need to adjust for the wage increases.

Mr. Samia asked if the budget aligns with the override commitments the Board and School Committee have made to the residents. Mr. Mizikar noted that it is a balanced budget for the year and it meets the goals of the override commitment. Additionally the budget and projections extends the commitment by one year out for five years instead of four. Mr. Samia asked if the funding for unidirectional flushing is built in. Mr. Mizikar said yes and it will require less funding than in the past as they will be doing it internally and they can be more opportunistic and make it a routine practice. Mr. Samia also asked about the PFAS and Hexavalent Chromium Piloting. Mr. Mizikar

noted that they intend to bring a recommendation to the Board in March, relating to this. He added that they are poised to take advantage of the federal infrastructure funding to support these projects.

Ms. Casavant asked if there were any challenges while developing the budget. Mr. Mizikar noted that cuts from the budget requests had to be made. A vast majority of the positions being added help to get the Town up to standard, not necessarily for new growth. The municipal budget is only about \$30 Million. He noted that inflation was also a challenge with developing the budget as there was a 17% increase in gasoline and diesel fuel. Mr. Mizikar noted that as their fleet gets greener that will help with these costs increases and they will discuss this more with the capital improvement plan.

Mr. DePalo added that they are never going to get to the point where the Town can fully fund departmental requests, but the requests help to plant the seed for growth in the future. Mr. Mizikar agreed.

New Business:

10. Review and act on the recommendation to fund financial services enhancements with America Rescue Plan Act funding

Mr. Mizikar summarized the agenda item. He noted that this request would improve the customer service and business experience of the Treasurer/Collector's Office and reduce the necessary staff level by at least a 0.5 FTE. It would allow tax payers to create accounts and access historical account information online related to their tax information and this aids in the internal business cashier function of the Treasurer Collector's Office. They are also proposing funding to cover the ACH payment fee online so residents no longer have to pay a fee when they pay taxes online. The ARPA funding would cover the one time funds for cashiering and customer accounts.

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. DePalo, the Board unanimously voted to approve the recommendation to fund financial services enhancements with America Rescue Plan Act funding.

11. Review and act on the Outdoor Dining Rules and Regulations and application form

The Board of Selectmen will review this item at their next meeting on February 22, 2022.

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

12. Letter, received January 24, 2022, from Nick Repekta, Highway Division Manager, re: Snow Report 7" snow – so noted
13. Email, dated January 24, 2022, from Keith Willette, 30 Westmont Road, re: Sidewalk and crosswalk snow removal – so noted, will follow up with resident.
14. Letter, received January 26, 2022, from Timothy Deschamps, Executive Director of the Mosquito Control Project, re: Budget Notification – so noted
15. Letter, received February 2, 2022, from Nick Repekta, Highway Division Manager, re: Snow Report 16" snow – so noted

Beal Correspondence

16. Email, dated January 25, 2022, from Rajay Goyal, 23 Faulkner Road, re: Taxes on our home and the selling of old Beal School land – so noted
17. Email, dated January 25, 2022, from Ganesh Subramanian, 26 Hawthorne Road, re: Beal School Sale – so noted
18. Email, dated January 25, 2022, from Evan Thomas, 12 Beverly Road, re: Former Beal school reuse – so noted
19. Email, dated January 25, 2022, from Sanjay Shah, 46 Hemingway Street, re: Regarding the Old Beal School Land – so noted

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20. **Email, dated January 25, 2022, from Raffaella Umeton, 91 Summer Street, re: Beal school building – so noted**
21. **Email, dated January 25, 2022, from Fern Nissim, 35 Bay View Drive, re: Beal Project – so noted**
22. **Email, dated January 25, 2022, from Charlie Davis, 26 Millwood Drive, re: Selling of Beal School Land – so noted**
23. **Email, dated January 25, 2022, from Kathleen Sior, 28 Kenda Road, re: Do NOT sell Beal! – so noted**
24. **Email, dated January 25, 2022, from Sunil Venkayala, 10 Adams Road, re: Please look for more options for the Beal school – so noted**
25. **Email, dated January 25, 2022, from Karin Holovnia, 19 Wesleyan Street, re: Beal School Project – so noted**
26. **Email, dated January 25, 2022, from Meagan Gormally, 41 Knowlton Avenue, re: Beal School Project – so noted**
27. **Letter, received January 25, 2022, from Christopher Kirk, 40 Westwood Road, re: sale of old Beal School property – so noted**
28. **Email, dated January 27, 2022, from Margaret German, 16 Westmont Rd, re: Fwd: Beal School – so noted**

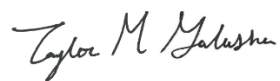
ZBA Decisions

29. **ZBA Decision of January 31, 2022, for George P. Kiritsy, Esq, for a special permit, for property located at 27 Bay View Drive – so noted**
30. **ZBA Decision of January 31, 2022, for Zakirhussain Magdum, for a special permit, for property located at 20E Farmington Drive – so noted**
31. **ZBA Decision of January 31, 2022, for Anthony Germano, for a special permit, for property located at 24 Manor Road – so noted**
32. **ZBA Decision of January 31, 2022, for Kenneth Tyler Gatewood, for a special permit, for property located at 24 Topsfield Circle – so noted**
33. **ZBA Decision of January 31, 2022, for Jeremy and Kristen Ahearn, for a special permit, for property located at 236 Gulf Street – so noted**

Adjourn:

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. DePalo, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Taylor M. Galusha

Referenced Materials:

1. COVID-19 Update Presentation
2. Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary Budget Review