



# TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Select Board Meeting  
Main Conference Room  
Mirick O'Connell, 100 Front St,  
Worcester, MA 01608, USA

Thursday, June 15, 2023 - 9:00 AM

## Minutes

**Present:** Ms. Beth N. Casavant - Chair, Ms. Theresa H. Flynn - Vice Chair, Mr. John R. Samia - Clerk, Ms. Michelle K. Conlin - Member, Mr. Carlos A. Garcia - Member

**Also Present:** Mr. Kevin J. Mizikar - Town Manager, Taylor M. Galusha - Assistant to Town Manager - Communications Coordinator, Mr. Jon Wortmann, Facilitator, Attorney Stephen Madaus - Town Counsel, Attorney Brian Faulk

### 1. Call to Order

Ms. Casavant called the meeting to order at 9:09 AM

She introduced Jon Wortmann to the group.

### 2. Discuss Communications and Operating Model for the Select Board and Town Manager

Mr. Wortmann had members and staff introduce themselves and note why they think Shrewsbury is a great place. Members noted that the Town is well run and efficient, focused on continuous improvement (all aspects), working to build trust, innovative and creative, mutual respect amongst all of Town leadership, good schools and public education that uplifts students, high performing team/Town, community members are invested in the community/success of the Town, professionalism of staff, and economic growth and development.

Mr. Wortmann then discussed the various types of communication tendencies - introvert v extrovert, internal thinker v external thinker, personalities, deductive speaker v inductive speaker, debater v pleaser, and conflict adverse v conflict enthusiastic.

The Board and Staff discussed their expectations around communications including weekly updates from the Manager, phone calls when there are emergencies in Town or urgent and timely matters and keeping the whole Board in the loop.

They then discussed communications between Board members noting the parameters set by Open Meeting Law and always being mindful of the constraints set by that when responding to emails or wanting to communicate.

The Board noted a need for more clarification on the roles of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Clerk on the Board.

Mr. Mizikar noted that the Town Manager's Office is working on a communication tool for the Board to receive monthly/bi-monthly updates on the strategic plan and general goal work of Town Departments.

The Board discussed potential goal and focus areas to discuss further at a later date including, budget/finance, policy, economic development, communications and engagement, and schools. Board members were asked to think about these focus areas more for their upcoming workshop to discuss and develop further.

Attorney Stephen Madaus and Attorney Brian Faulk provided the Board with an overview of open meeting law relating to communication methods like social media and text messaging. They noted that Board members can interact as an individual online, but they can't deliberate and this has a lot to do with who the target audience of a post is. They noted that it would be a good idea to create social media policies for elected officials.

**3. Discuss Goals and Action Items of the Select Board and Town Manager for Fiscal Year 2024**

This item was not discussed

Mr. Samia departed the meeting at 12:15 PM.

**Executive Session:**

**4. Executive session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body (G.L. c. 30A, §§21(a)(3), (6), (8) (All Pending Litigation Matters Update from Town Counsel)**

Ms. Casavant noted that the Board would be entering into Executive session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body (G.L. c. 30A, §§21(a)(3), (6), (8) (All Pending Litigation Matters Update from Town Counsel) and they would not be entering back into open session.

On a motion by Ms. Flynn, seconded by Ms. Conlin, on a roll call vote; Ms. Casavant - Yes, Ms. Conlin - Yes, Ms. Flynn - Yes, Mr. Garcia - Yes, the Board voted 4-0 to enter into Executive session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body (G.L. c. 30A, §§21(a)(3), (6), (8) (All Pending Litigation Matters Update from Town Counsel) at 12:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor M. Galusha