



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

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

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 - 7:00 PM

Amended Agenda: Originally Posted 12:01PM on August 18, 2023

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, Mr. Keith Baldinger - Assistant Town Manager - Operations, Justin Dobson - Assistant to Town Manager.

Ms. Casavant called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

All Board Members and Staff introduced themselves to the public for those watching at home.

Preliminaries:

1. Approve bills, payrolls, and warrants

On a motion by Ms. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Samia, the Board voted unanimously to approve the bills, payrolls, and warrants.

2. Approve the minutes of August 8, 2023 (meeting) and August 8, 2023 (workshop)

On a motion by Ms. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Samia, the Board voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes of the August 8, 2023 meeting and August 8, 2023 workshop as written.

3. Announcements/Reports

Ms. Conlin shared two announcements regarding the new Police Station. Members of the public are invited to a building dedication ceremony on September 12, 2023 at 9:00am. Also, members of the public are invited to a Police Station Open House and Community Event on September 21, 2023 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. The community event will include a variety of activities, informational vendors, first responder equipment, inflatable obstacle courses, police K-9s, comfort dogs, and a tour of the station.

4. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Mizikar reported that:

The Town's first quarterly newsletter called "The Shrewsbury Connection" was mailed out late last week to every household in the community. It is our goal to provide information to residents on an ongoing basis whether daily, weekly, monthly or quarterly. Mr. Mizikar noted that this newsletter will be a regular part of our communications strategy which arose out of the Town's Strategic Plan and Strategic Communications Plan. This work is funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated by the Select Board. Ms. Taylor Galusha, Communications Coordinator, was thanked for her work on this initiative.

There was an issue with a particular manufacturing run of blue bags for the Pay as You Throw (PAY-T) Program. The vendor will be replacing any bags from this particular manufacturing run. There has been discussion of bags being recalled. The bags have not been recalled, but there may be instances of retailers being out of large bags.

A major initiative of the Town has undertaken this year is the development of the MBTA Zoning Requirements. The Town received information from the state earlier this week offering greater flexibility with respect to zones with mixed-use requirements. However, the state also broadened the pool of grants that MBTA compliance is affected by. Compliance is required by the end of the calendar year 2024. Town staff led by the Department of Planning and Economic Development will continue to engage with the Select Board and members of the public on this process going forward.

5. Public Comment - Pursuant to Select Board Policy 31, To offer citizens the opportunity to provide public comments during Select Board Meetings on matters within the Board's authority.

No individuals submitted a request for public comments.

Meetings/Hearings:

6. Meeting with Dr. Andre Bennett, Executive Director of Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services, and Christine Mowry, former Executive Director of Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services, regarding a staff introduction

Christine Mowry, the former Executive Director of Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services (SYFS), shared that the Select Board has been incredibly supportive of SYFS' work during her tenure and that she knows that they will continue to be supportive. Ms. Mowry gave a brief introduction of Dr. Andre Bennett, the new Executive Director of SYFS.

Dr. Bennett commended Ms. Mowry's astute leadership of SYFS and that he looks forward to continuing SYFS' great relationship with the Town. Dr. Bennett shared some of his priorities, including ensuring that there are financial resources in place to expand staffing in order to meet the growing need for mental health services. Dr. Bennett noted that at this time, there is a six to nine month waiting list for youth and young adults, and a two to three month waiting list for adults seeking services.

Ms. Casavant noted that much of SYFS' funding comes from generous, private donors in the community along with allocated funds from the Town. She also noted that the Select Board awarded \$606,000.00 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in order to try and reduce this wait list for services. However, while additional funding is available, there is a shortage of clinicians and it is hard to find staff. Dr. Bennett noted that retaining clinicians is challenging due to burn out, and that clinicians are generally underpaid across the industry.

Ms. Mowry discussed the success of SYFS' internship program and how all three of the clinicians assigned to Shrewsbury were former interns who decided to return as clinicians. She also shared that while Massachusetts has one of the best behavioral healthcare systems in the country, but it is still broken and clinicians are underpaid. Also, while a six to nine month wait list sounds long, it has been steadily shortened over time and is a shorter duration than most organizations.

Board members thanked Ms. Mowry for her impactful work on the front line of the mental health crisis, transforming SYFS as an organization, destigmatizing the need for mental health services, and her involvement in selecting Dr. Bennett as the new Executive Director of SYFS. All Board Members expressed their optimism in working with Dr. Bennett going forward.

Ms. Casavant asked about how people access services at SYFS and Dr. Bennett gave an overview of the intake process which includes an assessment of the urgency of the need. Ms. Mowry noted that people tend to reach out

for services when they are in crisis and urged people who may be interested in services to begin the process now. Ms. Mowry also gave an overview of the services provided while people are on the waiting list. Ms. Casavant thanked Ms. Mowry and Dr. Bennett for this introductory meeting.

7. 7:10 PM Public Hearing with Yamini Patel, Manager, of BNK Food, Inc., d/b/a Eggholic, 378 Maple Avenue #3106, regarding an application for an All Alcohol Beverages Pouring license and a Common Victualler license.

The applicants and their representative, Attorney Matthew Porter, introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their proposed operations for the business. The business is an Eggholic franchise, a fast-casual Indian food restaurant with 15 locations across the United States and Canada. This location will be the first in Massachusetts. Attorney Porter shared that both of the applicants have prior retail alcohol experience. He also noted that the restaurant will have no bar and no outdoor consumption of alcohol. Board members shared their excitement over this new restaurant in Town.

On a motion by Ms. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Samia, the Board unanimously approved the application submitted by BNK Food, Inc., d/b/a Eggholic, 378 Maple Avenue #3106, for an All Alcohol Beverages Pouring license and a Common Victualler license conditional upon the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

New Business:

8. Review and act on the One Day Beer and Wine License Application of George Demake, St. Nicholas Romanian Orthodox Church, 34 Gold Street, for the Grapevine Picnic on September 10, 2023 from 12:00pm to 5:00pm.

The applicant introduced himself and provided an overview of the Grapevine Picnic event. Mr. Demake explained that he has over 20 years of managerial experience in retail alcohol establishments, prior experience in pouring alcohol, and that he is TIPS certified through 2025. Mr. Demake explained that the Church has been at 34 Gold Street and has hosted smaller events, but this would be the Church's first larger scale event as a way to introduce themselves to the larger community. Mr. Demake also noted that a police detail will be present before, during, and after the event.

On a motion by Ms. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Samia, the Board unanimously approved the One Day Beer and Wine License Application of George Demake, St. Nicholas Romanian Orthodox Church, 34 Gold Street, for the Grapevine Picnic on September 10, 2023, from 12:00pm to 5:00pm.

9. Review and act on the One Day Beer and Wine and Common Victualler License Applications of David Anthony Finlay, St. Mary's Parish, 20 Summer Street, for the Family Festival on September 14, 2023, September 15, 2023 from 5:00pm to 10:00pm, September 16, 2023 from 12:00pm to 10:00pm, September 17, 2023 from 12:00pm to 5:00pm, and September 18, 2023.

Ms. Casavant summarized the application and noted that this is a repeat applicant.

On a motion by Ms. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Samia, the Board unanimously approved the One Day License Applications of David Anthony Finlay, St. Mary's Parish, 20 Summer Street, for the Family Festival on September 14, 2023, September 15, 2023 from 5:00pm to 10:00pm, September 16, 2023 from 12:00pm to 10:00pm, September 17, 2023 from 12:00pm to 5:00pm, and September 18, 2023.

10. Review and act on the One-Day All Alcohol License Application of Rami Chamoun, St. Mary's Syriac Orthodox Church, 1 Industrial Drive, for a wedding on August 26, 2023 from 7:00pm to 12:00am

Ms. Casavant summarized the application.

On a motion by Ms. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Samia, the Board unanimously approved the One Day All Alcohol License Application of Rami Chamoun, St. Mary's Syriac Orthodox Church, for a wedding on August 26, 2023, from 7:00pm to 12:00am, conditional on the provision of an updated certificate of liability insurance with the appropriate excess liability policy limits.

11. Review and act to amend and extend the intermunicipal agreement for public health services between the Town of Shrewsbury and the City of Worcester

Mr. Mizikar provided an overview of the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance which includes the City of Worcester, Town of Grafton, Town of West Boylston, and the Town of Shrewsbury. There has been a turnover in staff after the COVID-19 pandemic, but under the leadership of Director of Public Health Soloe Dennis, the City of Worcester has regained stability. Mr. Mizikar noted that the Town's contribution to funding the CMRPHA over the agreement term of five years has actually decreased due to recent staffing shortages and because the Town no longer needs to contribute additional funding relative to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Mr. Mizikar recommended that the Board approve the agreement.

Mr. Samia and Mr. Mizikar discussed the termination clause of the agreement. Ms. Casavant noted that the Town could not replicate the level of services provided by the CMRPHA by itself at the current level of funding provided by the Town. Mr. Samia noted that the Town should review ahead of the next budget cycle what its contingency plan would be in the event that the level of services received through the CMRPHA is determined to be inadequate in the future.

On a motion by Ms. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Samia, the Board unanimously voted to approve amending and extending the intermunicipal agreement for public health services between the Town of Shrewsbury and the City of Worcester.

12. Review and act on the appointment of precinct officers to serve a one year term expiring August 31, 2024 (See Attachment A).

Ms. Casavant provided a summary of the agenda item.

On a motion by Ms. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Samia, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of precinct officers to serve a one year term expiring August 31, 2024.

13. Review and act on the road race request for the Barefoot Half Marathon on Sunday, September 3, 2023 at 6:30am, beginning in Sterling, MA, and going through the intersection of Glendale Avenue and Route 70 (Clinton Street) in Shrewsbury to Cypress Avenue and ending at Shrewsbury High School.

Ms. Casavant summarized the agenda item and that approval will be pending confirmation of a police detail.

On a motion by Ms. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Samia, the Board unanimously approved the road race request for the Barefoot Half Marathon on Sunday, September 3, 2023 at 6:30am, beginning in Sterling, MA, and going through the intersection of Glendale Avenue and Route 70 (Clinton Street) in Shrewsbury to Cypress Avenue and ending at Shrewsbury High School.

14. Review and act on the following appointments to the Complete Streets Committee to three year terms set to expire June 30, 2026

- a. James V. Brown, Parks and Cemetery Commission Representative, 92 High Street
- b. Jeffrey Howland, Director of the Department of Public Works, 100 Maple Avenue
- c. Nick Repekta, Highway Division Manager, 100 Maple Avenue
- d. Patricia Sheehan, Building Inspector, 100 Maple Avenue
- e. Andrew Truman, Engineering and Conservation Division Manager, 100 Maple Avenue

- f. Keith Baldinger, Assistant Town Manager - Operations, 100 Maple Avenue

Ms. Casavant summarized the agenda item.

On a motion by Ms. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Samia, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of James V. Brown, Jeffrey Howland, Nick Repekta, Patricia Sheehan, Andrew Truman, and Keith Baldinger to the Complete Streets Committee for three year terms set to expire on June 30, 2026.

15. Review and vote to call a Special Town Meeting for Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7:00pm

Mr. Mizikar provided an overview of the Special Town Meeting and the number of expected articles on the warrant. Ms. Casavant discussed the news of Shrewsbury Electric and Cable Operations (SELCO) potentially acquiring the Patrick Subaru location. Board members discussed the need for SELCO to appear before the Board prior to reviewing the draft Special Town Meeting in order to better understand this proposed transaction and any potential impact on residents.

On a motion by Ms. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Samia, the Board unanimously voted to call a Special Town Meeting for Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7:00pm.

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

16. Email dated August 7, 2023, from Eddie Bates, Municipal Grants Coordinator, at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation re: MassDOT Complete Streets Funding Decision

Ms. Casavant noted this email is relative to \$492,000 in funding awarded through MassDOT's Complete Streets program and that the Board just appointed these Committee members in a prior agenda item.

17. Email, dated August 8, 2023, from Representative Hannah Kane re: Governor Healey Declares State of Emergency, Calls for Support for Newly Arriving Migrant Families

Ms. Casavant summarized the email and Governor Healey's declaration of a State of Emergency.

18. Email, dated August 10, 2023, from John Casillo re: SELCO Proposed Move

Ms. Casavant summarized the email which expressed concerns over vehicular traffic at the Patrick Subaru location should SELCO relocate there.

19. Email, dated August 11, 2023, from Superintendent Joseph Sawyer re: MSBA/Shrewsbury Senior High School 2023 Core Program Senior Study Confirmation

Ms. Casavant summarized the email and explained that the MSBA will visit Shrewsbury High School in October as part of their review of the application for funding submitted by the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

20. Email, dated August 14, 2023, from Cynthia McKinlay, Bloodmobile Coordinator for Boston Children's Hospital, re: Boston Children's bloodmobile is coming to Shrewsbury!

So noted.

21. Email, dated August 15, 2023, from Hailey Page, Environmental Scientist II at Weston & Sampson re: Northborough Reservoir Dam Removal Project - MEPA Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF) Distribution 8.15.2023

So noted.

EXHIBIT A

**PRECINCT OFFICERS
2023 – 2024**

PRECINCT ONE

U	Warden	Carol J. McWilliams	28 Colton Ln.
R	Clerk	Carolyn R. Henderson	529 Main St.
U	Inspector	MaryLouise Daly	14 Knowlton Ave.
U	Inspector	Maria A. Duva	29 Colton Ln.
U	Inspector	Jean C. Giles	92 Prospect St.
U	Inspector	Susan A. Leahy	61 North St.
U	Inspector	Raluca Iuster	18 Round Table Rd.

PRECINCT TWO

D	Warden	Gail A. Bisceglia	8 Pratt Ln.
U	Clerk	Mary Jane Cygielnik	25 Lexington Rd.
U	Inspector	Deborah M. Alger	46 Longfellow Rd.
U	Inspector	Stephanie Ambra	16 Founders Rd.
D	Inspector	Mary Lou Brisson	60 Dewey Rd..
U	Inspector	Evelyn M. Gulledge	35 Hartford Tpke..

PRECINCT THREE

U	Warden	Kathryn R. Gaudette	25 Plainfield Ave.
D	Clerk	Donna Marie Towner	16 Naples St., #1
U	Inspector	Florence R. Bergquist	25 Ferncroft Rd.
D	Inspector	Bonnie J. Goodney	88 Grace Ave.
D	Inspector	Barbara A. Greenwood	49 Harrington Farms Way
U	Inspector	Sheila M. McDowell	199 North Quinsigamond Ave.

PRECINCT FOUR

U	Warden	Jane L. Cox	25 Adams Rd.
D	Clerk	Linda M. Hallihan	48 Lake St.
U	Inspector	Gale M. Racine	101 Crescent St.
U	Inspector	Elaine E. Shaw	131 Floral St.
D	Inspector	Janice M. Holland	14 Fairfax St.
U	Inspector	Arnold H. Wensky	73 Orchard Meadow Dr.

PRECINCT FIVE

U	Warden	Sheila A. Gerardi	519 Grafton St.
U	Clerk	John Cygielnik	25 Lexington Rd.

D	Inspector	Maryann T. Belinskas	485 Grafton St.
U	Inspector	John P. Collins	16 Gates Rd.
R	Inspector	Melanie K. Petrucci	1 Tory Dr.
U	Inspector	Susan E. Graham	73 School St.

PRECINCT SIX

D	Warden	Edith D. Messier	19 Bellridge Dr.
R	Clerk	Judith H. Flanagan	26 St. James Rd.
R	Inspector	Beryl A. Notargiacomo	106 Crescent St.
U	Inspector	Linda J. Josti	12 Saybrook Rd.
U	Inspector	Moira C. Minnucci	4 Elma Cir.
U	Inspector	Janice A. Heipler	109 Walnut St.

PRECINCT SEVEN

U	Warden	Robert Holland	22 Orchard Meadow Dr.
U	Inspector	Barbara L. Metcalf	14 Washington St.
U	Inspector	Gladys C. Chan	5 Northland Rd.
U	Inspector	Janet Dee-Mulcahy	71 Lamplighter Dr.
U	Inspector	Helen K. Strickland	16 Raymond Ave.
U	Inspector	Maxton L. Strickland	16 Raymond Ave.

PRECINCT EIGHT

U	Warden	Carol C. Swydan	7 Tavern St.
U	Clerk	Susan E. Falzoi	4 Stratton Dr.
U	Inspector	Debra M. Kilpatrick	10 Jacobson Dr.
R	Inspector	Allyn C. Taylor, III	496 Grafton St.
R	Inspector	Linda N. Taylor	496 Grafton St.
D	Inspector	Steven G. Waite	9 Broushane Cir.

PRECINCT NINE

U	Warden	Joan Elaine Ethier	23 Hunting Ave.
U	Clerk	Brigid E. Malee-Rubin	62 High St.
R	Inspector	Joseph M. Armenti, Jr.	386 Lake St.
D	Inspector	Hazel E. Houseman	11 Boston Dr.
U	Inspector	Therese Lunt	11 Walnut St.
D	Inspector	Maria P.G. Picazo	5 Pheasant Hill Dr.

PRECINCT TEN

D	Warden	Lois E.E. Horton	60 Plainfield Ave.
U	Clerk	Melissa D. Wensky	9 Browning Rd.
U	Inspector	Andrea B. Granito	34 Eastern Point Dr.
U	Inspector	Margaret S. Harbert	3 Slocum Meadow Ln.

D	Inspector	Nancy J. Hughes	16 Gates Rd.
U	Inspector	Barbara Heisler	2 Timari Dr..
D	Inspector	Susan Watkins	3 Hamilton Cir.

Select Board