

## MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023  
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM  
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS  
6:30 p.m.**

**Select Board present:** Jim Justice, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Bill Packard, Adam Fuller, and Martha Johnston-Nash

**Others present:** Jay Feyler (Town Manager), Ruth Ann Senff Wiemer, Ann Donaldson, Fay Larkin, Catherine Meyer, John Mountainland, Linda Mountainland, Greg Grotton, Argy Nestor, Josie Austin, Wayne Cunningham, Frances Upham, Janice Linscott, Denise Migliorini, Ellen Harrison, Elaine Frost, Lawrence Nash, Steve Migliorini, Abraham Knight, Tim Harrison, John Loker, Wendy Loker, Erik Amundsen, Sherry Cobb, Bruce Cobb, Matthew Wyman, Patrick Hood, Andrea Smith, Irene Hawes, Ron Hawes, Robert Wellen, Katherine Wellen, Mario Abaldo, Charles Martz, Sarah Drickey, Stuart Finkelstein, Tim Colson, John Gibbons, and others

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Adam Fuller.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Public Comment:**

Bill received a query from a citizen was going to attend but had been dissuaded due to fears s/he would be embarrassed, humiliated, or comments taken in a negative context. He said the board should be mindful, professional, and respectful.

Adam said Catherine Meyer reached out with many emails in the last two days. He's been working in Boston but will forward them to the board.

Lawrence Nash called the TCC closure "back room good ol' boy politics," and he expects better from elected officials in the future. Adam said he would respond in #8.

Elaine Frost brought up the farmers market and the TCC closure not being on the agenda. She requested the December 20 TCC vote be reconsidered.

Catherine Meyer said pickleball started opening on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She asked about tennis/basketball court quotes re: Pullen deadline. Jay said we have one estimate and are waiting for the other company.

Linda Mountainland thanked Matt and crew for fixing the bottom of their driveway. John Mountainland said for the record it's a public road not their specific driveway.

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### 4. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, December 20, 2022:

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice

Martha said the minutes should reflect that she objected to a vote on the TCC because it was not on the agenda, & Bill didn't think they had enough information.

Motion to approve with the above amendment by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Justice

5-0

### 5. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated Tuesday, January 3, 2023:

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Bill Packard

5-0

Martha amended to change cable heading to phone.

### 6. Set Tentative Dates for Public Informational Meeting and Budget Public Hearings:

Public informational meeting: March 13, 2023, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Public informational meeting on Preliminary Budget and Referendum process: April 17, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Public Hearing on Budget Referendum and other Referendum articles: May 22, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Budget Committee and Select Board budget reviews: May 8, 9, and 10 if needed, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Adam noted the importance of these due to referendum voting.

Motion to tentatively accept all above dates by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Bill Packard

5-0

### 7. Accept the donation of a new "Welcome to Union" sign:

Jay said this would be a replacement sign on the Washington side like the Hope one.

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Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
5-0

### **8. Public questions on TCC closure:**

Extensive discussion and debate took place re: the TCC closure. The majority of attendees spoke against closure. Apparent discrepancies in communications with the Fire Marshal's office came to light.

Adam recapped the situation and reminded that what happens to the TCC building is at the sole discretion of the select board.

Attendees who spoke included Ann Donaldson, Argy Nestor, and Janice Linscott. Denise Migliorini introduced five speakers: Sherry Cobb, Wendy Loker, Ruth Ann Senff Wiemer, Tim Colson of Coastal Opportunities, and Catherine Meyer. Catherine presented two financial scenarios re: TCC which she had researched, one closing the TCC and one keeping it open.

Charlie Martz spoke of his concerns as a taxpayer. He does not want more tax dollars going into that building.

Abraham Knight, Greg Grotton, Linda Mountainland, Lawrence Nash, Elaine Frost, Bruce Cobb, Stuart Finkelstein, and Steve Migliorini spoke as did Parks and Rec Chair Pat Hood and Matt Wyman, also on Parks and Rec.

Motion to rescind the motion to close the TCC adopted at the December 20, 2022 select board meeting by: Bill Packard

Jay said as a point of order, the only people who can make a motion are the people who voted for it.

After much more discussion on Fire Marshal directives, the upshot was that Jay will contact the Fire Marshal's office and get back to the board with clarified information including correspondence in writing.

### **9. Town Manager's Report: None.**

### **10. Other Business:**

Abraham Knight filled out a statement of interest form for the TCC Working Committee, but it did not get put in the packet.

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### 11. Committee Reports:

#### a. Broadband

John Gibbons said the LCI/Tidewater grant application has been submitted. The deadline is January 6 after which MCA will be negotiating with applicants re: \$20 million. They expect pretty strong clues by mid-February but nothing final until the MCA board meeting in March. It now looks like they are four months behind the original schedule. It looks like mid-2025 before everything is in place.

Adam added this grant package will put fiber down most of our roads. John concurred 90% is a good figure. The board thanked John.

#### b. Aging in Place in Union – None.

#### c. Green Space – None.

#### d. Sestercentennial

Martha said they are moving forward. There should be idea boxes around town in the next couple of days. They'd love more members for the committee or subcommittees involving business partnerships, etc. as well as working groups. In answer to Wayne, Martha said they will probably be asking for sponsors like the fair does.

#### e. Ambulance Advisory – None.

### 12. Select Board Reports:

Wayne asked about fixing the apron out front. Jay will get a price.

In answer to Martha, Jay said when the TCC is shut down there will be after-storm cleanup plowing there.

Adam mentioned fundraisers for Tim Brewster who is fighting cancer.

Jim said there will be a proposal to keep in mind, with the budget coming up, re: a state-of-the-art sign outside.

### 13. Future Agenda Requests: None.

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**14. Adjourn:**

Motion by: Jim Justice  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
5-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary