

**Regular Session Minutes—Select Board Meeting**  
**Remote Participation Meeting**  
**March 21, 2022**

PRESENT: Town Manager Sarah Stanton, Chair Margot Fleischman, Clerk Emily Mitchell, Shawn Hanegan, Edward Pierce, Bopha Malone.

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Siegenthaler, Town Moderator; Jeff King, Director of Housing and Economic Development; David Manugian, Director of the Department of Public Works; Melanie Raposa; Maureen Richichi, Board of Health; Ben Thomas, Finance Committee; Katie Guerino; Abbie Seibert; Emily Prince, Energy and Sustainability Committee; Richard Rosen, Council on Aging; Dan Carroll; Kellyann Casey; Betsey Anderson; Jason Alves; Suzanne Koller; William Moonan; Charlie Ticotsky, Special Assistant to the Town Manager; Jennifer Kennery; Melissa Indelicato; Angela Winter; Walter St. Onge, Petitioners' Advisory Committee; Eileen Blanchette, Administrative Assistant, Town Manager's Office; Michele Karas, Treasurer/Collector; Melissa Farb; Susan Schwartz, Board of Health; Bedford T.V

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Ms. Fleischman opened the meeting at 7:00 PM via remote participation conference call.

**The Select Board members were asked to announce that they were present: Ms. Mitchell present; Ms. Fleischman present; Ms. Malone present; Mr. Hanegan present; Mr. Pierce present.**

### **22-66 Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **22-67 Select Board Reorganization**

**Ms. Malone moved to nominate Ms. Emily Mitchell to be the next Select Board Chair, for the term of March 2022 to March 2023. Mr. Hanegan seconded.**

**The Select Board was polled individually: Ms. Fleischman aye; Ms. Mitchell aye; Ms. Malone aye; Mr. Hanegan aye; Mr. Pierce aye. The motion passed 5-0-0.**

**Mr. Hanegan moved to nominate Bopha Malone to be the next Select Board Clerk, for a term of March 2022 to March 2023. Mr. Pierce seconded.**

**The Select Board was polled individually: Ms. Fleischman aye; Ms. Mitchell aye; Ms. Malone aye; Mr. Hanegan aye; Mr. Pierce aye. The motion passed 5-0-0.**

### **22-68 Annual Town Meeting**

Article Recommendations:

Ms. Stanton stated that staff is recommending that the Finance Committee and the Select Board vote to indefinitely postpone Article 4, Bills of Prior Year, and Article 14, Supplemental Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 and Articles of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting. For Article 4, there are no bills of prior year. For Article 14, Ms. Stanton said that in talking with the Finance Director and members of the Finance Committee, as well as the School Superintendent, they feel they don't yet have a clear picture of what the end of year school-related costs may be. Therefore, they are not

comfortable moving any money from the Finance Committee Reserve into the Stabilization fund.

**Mr. Pierce moved to indefinitely postpone articles 4 and 14. Ms. Malone seconded.**

**The Select Board was polled individually: Ms. Fleischman aye; Ms. Mitchell aye; Ms. Malone aye; Mr. Hanegan aye; Mr. Pierce aye. The motion passed 5-0-0.**

Article 20—Appropriate Funds for Collective Bargaining Agreement – FY2022–FY2024. **Ms. Stanton noted that negotiations are continuing and will be discussed in executive session.**

Article 26 – Free Cash. **Ms. Stanton said this number would be finalized and voted on immediately prior to Annual Town Meeting.**

Article 12—Land Acquisition—33 Shawsheen Road. Ms. Stanton reminded the Board that there was an initial vote to allow future expansion of Shawsheen Cemetery. However, the Community Preservation Act does not allow these funds to be used for this purpose. In talking with the Finance Director, Ms. Stanton said that they are recommending the use of funds from the **Cemetery—Sale of Lots and Vaults fund**. David Manugian, Director of the Department of Public Works, is requesting \$437,340 from the **Cemetery—Sale of Lots and Vaults** fund and \$87,660 from the general fund, for a total of \$525,000. Ms. Stanton said that the **remaining** balance in this fund will be roughly \$300,000.

**Mr. Pierce moved that the Select Board approve the purchase of 33 Shawsheen Road for \$525,000, with \$87,660 to come from the Land Acquisition fund (General Fund) and \$437,340 to come from the Cemetery—Sale of Lots and Vaults fund. Ms. Malone seconded.**

**The Select Board was polled individually: Ms. Fleischman aye; Ms. Mitchell aye; Ms. Malone aye; Mr. Hanegan aye; Mr. Pierce aye. The motion passed 5-0-0.**

Review of Motions:

Ms. Stanton and Town Counsel are in the process of finalizing the motions for Town Meeting. Once final, a copy will be sent to the Select Board as well as **handed out** to all residents at Town Meeting.

Ms. Stanton reported that she, along with school staff, the Town Moderator, the Clerk of the Select Board, and Bedford TV walked the site for Annual Town Meeting, including confirming the BHS Library as a satellite room for the meeting.

Ms. Mitchell raised the topic of masks at Town Meeting, **noting that it is the Moderator's decision whether masks will be required. Ms. Mitchell asked if the Select Board wished to revisit its previous vote to require masks at Town Meeting. The Select Board chose not to amend its previous vote.** The Select Board agreed that speakers at any of the microphones will be allowed to remove their masks. Mr. Siegenthaler will make his decision either tonight or tomorrow.

*Materials: Bedford ATM Warrant 2022 – FINAL*

### **22-69 Consent Agenda**

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AP/Payroll Warrants

**Ms. Malone moved that the Select Board approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Pierce seconded.**

**The Select Board was polled individually: Ms. Fleischman aye; Ms. Mitchell aye; Ms. Malone aye; Mr. Hanegan abstained; Mr. Pierce aye. The motion passed 4-0-1.**

*Materials: 03072022 Select Board Minutes – Draft, AP GL Distribution School ck date 03.17.22 DC Signed, AP GL Distribution Town ck date 03.17.22 DC Signed*

## **22-70 Town Manager's Report**

### **COVID-19 Update**

#### **Introduction of new Housing and Economic Development Director – Jeff King**

Ms. Stanton provide a brief overview of Mr. King's professional background. Mr. King introduced himself and is looking forward to the work ahead.

#### **Outdoor Dining – Legislative Update and Extension**

Ms. Stanton reported that the current permits are slated to expire on April 15, 2022. She said that the Town strongly supports an extension of the program for another year. However, we are waiting on the actions of the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor to enable communities to proceed with any extension. We are anticipating that the state will pass enabling legislation shortly. Jeff King is working with local businesses to ensure they are aware of this information and preparing an updated application in advance of legislative approval.

Mr. Hanegan asked if there were any issues with outdoor dining last year. Ms. Stanton said that it was very successful with no issues being reported.

**Ms. Fleischman moved to extend the outdoor dining program through April 2023, contingent on the action of the State Legislature, and to authorize the Town Manager to continue to grant temporary outdoor**

**dining permits, subject to approval by the Select Board at their next meeting. Mr. Pierce seconded.**

**The Select Board was polled individually: Ms. Fleischman aye; Ms. Mitchell aye; Ms. Malone aye; Mr. Hanegan aye; Mr. Pierce aye. The motion passed 5-0-0.**

### **Remote Board and Committee Meeting Discussion**

s. Stanton **noted that** the legislature has extended the options for cities and towns to meet remotely through July 15, 2022. If the Select Board should vote to allow boards and committees to return to in person meetings, Ms. Stanton offered the Select Board suggestions on how to move forward. One suggestion is that all Boards and Committees should meet virtually to vote and determine if they would like to return to in-person meetings or remain virtual.

Ms. Mitchell proposed that the Select Board take into consideration the recommendations outlined in Ms. Stanton's Town Manager's Report. They will revisit this at their April 11<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting.

Ms. Stanton reported that she has been invited to participate in the Civic Action Project (CAP) Collaborative Executive Fellow Program. The executive fellowship will help train participants to develop and promote strong public policy, increase diversity amongst stake holders, identify areas to bring social change, break down barriers between public and private sector leaders, promote better policy making, and strengthen leadership development. The executive fellowship will run from March 28, 2022, through May 26, 2022, Thursday afternoons from 3:00 – 9:00 PM. Costs of the fellowship, including meals and one evening of travel, will be fully subsidized by the CAP Collaborative nonprofit. Ms. Stanton requested that Ms. Mitchell sign the disclosure document that has been provided.

Ms. Stanton also said that there is a vacancy on the Board of Assessors, noting that Joseph Gilbert resigned his seat effective March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. The Select Board and Board of Assessors will need to advertise the vacancy and then make the interim appointment at a joint meeting.

*Materials: Board of Assessors Appointment Memo, S. Stanton – c.268A Public Disclosure – CAP Collaborative*

*Correspondence: Masks at Town Meeting – Dr. Michelle Sanders, 38 Dunster Road; PEL – Merriam Farm, Bedford*

~~The Select Board was polled individually: Ms. Fleischman aye; Ms. Mitchell aye; Ms. Malone aye; Mr. Moonan aye; Mr. Pierce aye. The motion passed 5-0-0.~~

### 22-71 Open Discussion and Liaison Reports

Ms. Mitchell asked Ms. Stanton to send her the most recent list of liaison assignments. She would like the Select Board to discuss any changes that individuals would like to make on their assignments at their meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Malone reported that Patriotic Holiday Committee is meeting tomorrow to discuss the Memorial Day Ceremony. Bedford Arbor Resources Committee (BARC) will meet next week.

Mr. Pierce reported that the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) met and they voted to oppose the demolition of the historic building at 139 The Great Road **for the new fire station.**

Ms. Fleishman reported that she attended the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting. They are in support of pending e-bike legislation and would like to the Town Manager to know that.

Ms. Mitchell reported that she attended the Hanscom Field Advisory Committee (HFAC) meeting. Construction is starting on the **new box hangars for Ross Aviation at the North Airfield area. Massport expects** to confirm the winning bid for other **North Airfield development** project in May. There was also a presentation from Quiet Communities, a nonprofit 501C3 organization that is dedicated to helping communities reduce health and environmental harm from noise and pollution.

There is a new working group, an off shoot of the Arts and Cultural working group. They are looking at a permanent outdoor performance space in Bedford (Bedford POPS).

**Ms. Fleischman moved to adjourn into Executive Session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, and not to return to open session. Ms. Malone seconded.**

**The Select Board was polled individually: Ms. Fleischman aye; Ms. Mitchell aye; Ms. Malone aye; Mr. Hanegan aye; Mr. Pierce aye. The motion passed 5-0-0.**

**22-72 Executive Session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

**Approved as Record Copy**

**Respectfully submitted by Eileen Blanchette**