

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 6, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Christopher R. Carreiro, Chairman
Mr. Derek W. Heim, Vice Chairman
Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. William Anderson, Interim Town Administrator
Mr. Jordan Remy, Administrative Assistant

A regular Board of Selectmen meeting was held on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, at the Swansea Police Department, 1700 G.A.R. Highway, Swansea, Massachusetts.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Mr. Carreiro led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Carreiro announced that this evening's meeting is being broadcast live on Swansea Cable Access Television, on the Swansea Cable Access Facebook page, and will be available for replay on swanseacabletv.com.

Mr. Carreiro announced if anybody wishes to record the meeting, they are required to notify the Chairman. No one has done so except for Swansea Cable Access.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: M.G.L. c30A, S21(a)(3) TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO LITIGATION IF AN OPEN MEETING MAY HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE LITIGATING POSITION OF THE PUBLIC BODY AND THE CHAIR SO DECLARES:

Potential litigation for recovery of payments made pursuant to Chapter 41 SS100 and 111F

Mr. Carreiro announced the Board of Selectmen will be entering executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c30A, S21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declared.

Mr. Carreiro said the Board of Selectmen would reconvene to open session following the executive session.

MOTION made by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin and seconded by Mr. Derek W. Heim, to enter executive session.

ALL IN FAVOR -- UNANIMOUS.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Kitchin; Aye, Mr. Heim; Aye, Mr. Carreiro; Aye.

MOTION made by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin and seconded by Mr. Derek W. Heim, to recess at 6:20 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR -- UNANIMOUS.

MOTION made by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin and seconded by Mr. Derek W. Heim, to reconvene at 6:42 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS.

6:30 P.M. – PUBLIC HEARING – ESTABLISHMENT OF FY2021 SOLID WASTE FEES

MOTION made by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin and seconded by Mr. Derek W. Heim, to enter the public hearing for the establishment of FY2021 solid waste fees.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Anderson provided the solid waste enterprise fund breakdown of actual costs until June 30th as well as the costs for July and August. He said the Solid Waste Committee met last week to discuss whether there was a need to increase the \$120.00 annual rate and the bag fees.

Mr. Anderson reported as of July 1st, there is \$213,600.00 certified retained earnings. He said the committee feels we can stay the same this year.

Mr. Anderson pointed out there were \$720,000.00 in abatements this year.

Mr. Heim had no objection in holding the fees. He did ask Mr. Anderson whether it makes sense to wait a year or to make an incremental change now or a larger change later.

Mr. Anderson said looking at the \$213,000.00 in retained earnings, and due to Covid and what Swansea residents are going through, it makes sense to revisit this next year and make adjustments at that time.

There was a discussion on recycling costs.

Mr. Kitchin felt this would not be the year we would want to increase any fees. Noting the retained earnings of \$213,000 and the recommendation of the treasurer and committee, moved to maintain this account at level funded and level charges at \$120.00 annual fee and small bag cost of \$1.00 and large bag cost of \$2.00 is appropriate.

Mr. Carreiro asked Mr. Anderson which town departments have their own trash hauler contracts with the exception of the School Department.

Mr. Anderson said the dumpsters are all under the town's solid waste contract. There are dumpsters at the Fire Station, Police Station, beach, Town Hall, and the Council on Aging.

Mr. Carreiro spoke about the residents that have their own private trash haulers and solid waste contracts. He asked Mr. Anderson if only the folks in the program are subsidizing trash removal for all our municipal departments with the exception of the School Department.

Mr. Anderson said this comes out of the town's budget, not the enterprise fund. Residents are paying for their own trash, recycling, and yard waste. Mr. Anderson said he will confirm this and report back to the Board of Selectmen.

MOTION made by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin and seconded by Mr. Derek W. Heim, to adopt the recommendation of the Town Accountant to keep the bag fees the same and the household fee the same.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS.

MOTION made by Mr. Derek W. Heim and seconded by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, to exit the public hearing.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS.

CITATION PRESENTATION – CAPTAIN CARLTON WINDLE, SWANSEA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief George Arruda

Captain Windle, Lt. Martin, Police Chief Arruda, and Mrs. Windle were present.

Chief Arruda stated Captain Windle served the Swansea Police Department for fifty years, from October 1970 until August 2003. He was also a combat veteran in the Vietnam war and has been an active police officer since his retirement.

Chief Arruda praised Captain Windle, calling him a courageous and dedicated individual. He thanked the Board of Selectmen for taking the time to recognize Captain Windle's fifty years of service in the Swansea Police Department.

Mr. Carreiro, read the Certificate of Recognition, and the Board of Selectmen congratulated Captain Windle for his service to this community.

Captain Windle said he worked under four different police chiefs. He gave a little history of how in his fifty years of service, changes that have occurred.

Captain Windle made two requests to the Board of Selectmen for consideration. When hiring, he asked that they keep the high standards of an educational degree or military service, and when picking the next police chief, to please consider picking within the department.

Captain Windle thanked the Board of Selectmen for the award.

MOTION made by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin and seconded by Mr. Christopher R. Carreiro, to take Communication and Correspondence out of order this evening.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS.

CORRESPONDENCE

On or about October 1st. Mr. Carreiro said he received notification from Chief Arruda of his intent to retire on January 1, 2021.

Mr. Carreiro read Chief Arruda's letter of notification of retirement.

Mr. Heim said the news of the Chief's retirement is bittersweet and commented how Chief Arruda stood out to him and mentored him. He congratulated Chief Arruda on his upcoming retirement, and told him our town is better because of him.

Mr. Kitchin told Chief Arruda he is grateful for his service. He spoke about the challenges Chief Arruda had before him when he came to Swansea 17.9 years ago. Mr. Kitchin congratulated Chief Arruda on his upcoming retirement, and on behalf of the community, thanked him for his service.

Mr. Carreiro commented when Chief Arruda became Police Chief, he was a freshman in high school. He recalled when we lost Lt. Cabral, he personally took notice of Chief Arruda's leadership and his ability to bring people together, and his leadership in a heartbroken community moved him greatly.

Chief Arruda thanked the Board of Selectmen for supporting his decisions, the organization, and for advocating for the men and women of the police department. He said he is humbled and privileged to work in a town where he grew up in, and appreciates the Board of Selectmen's kind words.

MOTION made by Mr. Derek W. Heim and seconded by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, to recess at 7:17 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR- UNANIMOUS.

MOTION made by Mr. Derek W. Heim and seconded by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, to reconvene at 7: 24 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR FINAL INTERVIEWS AND DECISION OF APPOINTMENT

6:45 PM – Thomas M. Guerino, Vernon, VT

7:15 PM – Mallory E. Aronstein, North Easton, MA

Thomas M. Guerino, Vernon, VT

Mr. Carreiro introduced Mr. Bernie Lynch, from Community Paradigm Associates, via ZOOM. Mr. Lynch has served as the Board of Selectmen's consultant and has guided them through the recruiting process.

Mr. Lynch asked Mr. Guerino to give the Board of Selectmen a little background and the reason why he would like to work in Swansea.

Mr. Guerino thanked the Board of Selectmen for bringing him this far in the process. He said he has spent a lot of time in Westport when he was town administrator in Bourne and visited Swansea many times. He said Swansea is similar to Bourne.

Mr. Guerino spoke about the Bourne budget process. He said Swansea has done a tremendous job in the last fifteen years and he would like to see the town maintain that. He spoke about his ability to bring in really good department leaders that had a similar vision.

Mr. Guerino said he has spent quite a lot of time in Swansea the past few weeks driving around town and observing the buildings, roads, housing, town hall, Swansea Mall, library, DPW, and all the fire stations. He said he feels he can help the town chart the course for a capital improvement plan as well as financial policies.

Mr. Carreiro thanked Mr. Guerino for his presentation.

Mr. Heim thanked Mr. Guerino for being here tonight and for his willingness to be part of the interview process.

Mr. Heim asked Mr. Guerino what he would envision in his first 30, 60, and 90 days if he was chosen.

Mr. Guerino described his intention and plans.

As a member of the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Heim asked Mr. Guerino what he could do to assure he is successful in this position.

Mr. Kitchin thanked Mr. Guerino for his time. He said he echoed the sentiments of Mr. Heim.

Mr. Kitchin said we've been fortunate to have Mr. Kern for ten years, Mr. Purcell as interim twice, and Mr. McAuliffe for five years. He said we have more work to do to continue what's happened the last twenty years.

Mr. Kitchin asked Mr. Guerino to describe a situation where he disagreed with a Select Board or leadership, and was able to convince them that your way was the better way to go.

Mr. Guerino gave an example of a situation he dealt with in Bourne.

Mr. Kitchin gave Mr. Guerino the opportunity to make his best argument to the Board of Selectmen and the reason why he should be selected as our next Town Administrator.

Mr. Carreiro asked Mr. Guerino if he were selected as our next town administrator, contingent on successfully negotiating a contract for employment, when would he be able to start.

Mr. Guerino said he would be able to start the week after Columbus Day, 2 weeks from yesterday.

Mr. Guerino thanked the Board of Selectmen for their time.

MOTION made by Mr. Derek W. Heim and seconded by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, to recess at 7:48 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR- UNANIMOUS.

MOTION made by Mr. Derek W. Heim and seconded by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, to reconvene at 7:50 p.m.
ALL IN FAVOR- UNANIMOUS.

Mallory E. Aronstein, North Easton, MA

Mr. Carreiro turned the meeting over to Mr. Bernie Lynch.

Mr. Lynch told Ms. Aronstein this final interview will give her the opportunity to re-iterate her background and why she is interested in this position.

Ms. Aronstein said she is enthusiastic, works collaboratively, has a good sense of instincts, and she is eager to get into Swansea's many projects. She said this is an exciting time to be in Swansea. She would like the opportunity to show Swansea what she can do, and join the team.

Mr. Heim asked Ms. Aronstein what she would envision in her first 30, 60, and 90 days plan to be if she was selected.

She said she would meet with every department head, meet everybody, tour the town buildings, establish communication, and introduce herself to the residents.

Mr. Heim said we have been fortunate to have great town administrators in this community. He asked Ms. Aronstein if she were selected for the position, what could he do to ensure her success in this position.

Ms. Aronstein said she just wants to get out there, know the Board's expectations, and what project is out there that isn't done. She said she also needs to spend some time with each Board member to understand how they operate, their work style, and what their main priorities are.

Mr. Kitchin commented that none of the Board of Selectmen expected after five years of service with Mr. McAuliffe, we would be in the position we're in this evening. Previously to Mr. McAuliffe, we had Mr. Kern for ten years, and Mr. Purcell as interim.

He asked her to describe a situation where she was definitively in the minority and show how she convinced the board to move their position in another direction.

Ms. Aronstein described a situation in Dighton where ground rules and policies were created. She spoke about a performance evaluation process she had ideas to develop, but the department heads did not agree with her ideas on how to tie in the merit base pay with the performance evaluation. After all was said and done, they did not roll out her version and did not vote her way. Because of this, the whole design behind the evaluation process is gone.

Mr. Kitchin gave Ms. Aronstein the opportunity to make her best case as to why she is the best candidate for this position in Swansea.

Ms. Aronstein said she has a strong determination to succeed and will work to make this the best brand it can be. She said she adopts the town she works in as her own, and has an open door policy.

Mr. Carreiro asked Ms. Aronstein if she were selected as our next town administrator, contingent on successfully negotiating a contract for employment, when would she be able to start.

Ms. Aronstein said she would like to give thirty days notice to the community.

Ms. Aronstein had questions for the Board of Selectmen regarding what matters most to each of them and what they expect from a town administrator. She thanked them for the opportunity to meet with them.

MOTION made by Mr. Derek W. Heim and seconded by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, to recess at 8:10 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR - UNANIMOUS.

MOTION made by Mr. Derek W. Heim and seconded by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, to reconvene at 8:15 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Carreiro asked his colleagues for their analysis as to both candidates and who they feel has risen to the top in terms of finalist, and who should be appointed as Swansea Town Administrator.

Mr. Heim shared his feedback on both candidates. At this point, he said his preference for town administrator would be Ms. Aronstein.

Mr. Kitchin said it is clear either of these two candidates would be a very effective town administrator for Swansea, and shared his comments with the Board. Between her education and experiences in Bridgewater and Dighton, the edge for him went to Mallory Aronstein. He said he feels she is the right candidate for Swansea.

Mr. Carreiro recapped the interviews of both candidates. He said both candidates are qualified for the position. He commented what the Board is looking for is the right person for the right time, and someone that will grow with the town.

Mr. Carreiro said his recommendation for town administrator is to select Mallory Aronstein.

Mr. Carreiro said it seems there is a consensus from the Board and entertained a motion.

MOTION made by Mr. Derek W. Heim and seconded by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, contingent upon any additional background checks and successful negotiation of a contract, to appoint Mallory Aronstein of North Easton, as Swansea's next Town Administrator.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Carreiro asked his colleagues how they would like to proceed with offering a contract. He asked the Board if they would like the Chair to take the lead on this and ratify by the Board of Selectmen.

The Board was in agreement contingent upon receiving the document for approval.

DISCUSS & APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF THE RAVE SYSTEM BY THE SWANSEA WATER DISTRICT

Fire Chief Eric Hajder was present.

Chief Hajder said the intent of the automated notification system is for emergency purposes.

Mr. Anderson said this information will only go out to those who sign up for information from the water department.

Mr. Heim asked Chief Hajder if there is a way we can track how frequently this system is being used for water announcements.

Chief Hajder said yes, this could be tracked. He explained what types of emergencies would go over the automated notification system.

Mr. Kitchin read the terms of the agreement.

Mr. Carreiro asked if it is clear that people are opting in for the Swansea Water District alerts and the Town of Swansea alerts.

Chief Hajder said yes, there are three different option lists. He said the easiest way to opt in is on the town website.

Chief Hajder said it would make sense to have Attorney Savastano look at the agreement.

Mr. Carreiro moved to approve the agreement contingent upon town counsel's review and to make possible adjustments to the duration of the term of the agreement, not to exceed one year.

MOTION made by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin and seconded by Mr. Derek W. Heim, to approve the agreement contingent upon town counsel's review and to make possible adjustments to the duration of the term of the agreement, to start at the appropriate time and to end at the appropriate time, not to exceed one year.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS.

RATIFY VOTE TAKEN ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 TO RELOCATE ELECTION POLLING PLACE

Mr. Anderson led the discussion. He said on September 22, 2020, the town clerk requested a vote to approve relocating the polling location to the Venus deMilo. After that took place the State put new rules together.

Mr. Anderson said Mrs. Pelland has requested that the board ratify the vote to state : Motion made under the provisions of House Bill No. 4820, Section 11, that the polling location for Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 be relocated to the Venus deMilo Restaurant, 75 G.A.R. Highway, Swansea, MA for the November 3, 2020 State General Election, with the polling hours of 7 AM to 8 PM.

MOTION made by Mr. Derek W. Heim and seconded by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, to move as presented.
ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Carreiro noted the vote has been ratified.

Mr. Carreiro announced the Town Clerk's office has received the mail in ballots.

APPROVE WARRANT FOR 2020 STATE ELECTION

MOTION made by Mr. Derek W. Heim and seconded by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, to approve the Warrant for the 2020 State Election – Electors of President and Vice President, Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress, Councillor, Senator in General Court, Representative in General Court, Register of Probate, County Commissioner, County Treasurer, and two questions, including question 1 and question 2 to be placed on the warrant and posted at the following places: Town Hall, Fire Station No.2, Water District, Police Station, Senior Center/Community Center, U.S. Post Office, St. Dominic's Credit Union, Harvest Market.
ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS.

APPOINTMENTS – SWANSEA CULTURAL COUNCIL – TERMS TO EXPIRE OCTOBER 6, 2023

Lisa Majewski, Swansea, MA
Colleen Mulligan, Swansea, MA

MOTION made by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin and seconded by Mr. Derek W. Heim to appoint Lisa Majewski and Colleen Mulligan to the Swansea Cultural Council, terms to expire October 6, 2023.
ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Anderson reported he received a new IMA from Somerset Sewerage with a number of changes, however the one we received has not been vetted by their counsel.

Mr. Anderson said when he receives the document that has been vetted by their counsel, the Board of Selectmen will review it and come back with their comments.

Mr. Anderson has had discussions with Mr. James Tobin and Mr. Brady Sullivan (Swansea Mall), and received revised layouts that will be sent to the department heads relative to space requirements.

He said he should be getting an agreement by the 15th that can be presented to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Anderson reported on the air monitors that were discussed previously. He said they will be placed at specified locations near Brayton Point and will be monitored for the next thirty days.

Mr. Anderson gave an update on access to waterways. He is looking to clear out two locations and needs to check on a funding mechanism.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Mr. Derek W. Heim and seconded by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, to approve the open session minutes of September 8, 2020 as presented.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS.

MOTION made by Mr. Derek W. Heim and seconded by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, to approve the executive session minutes of September 8, 2020, but not to be released.

Mr. Christopher R. Carreiro abstained.

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kitchin announced the Venus deMilo Restaurant will be closing. Some of their food will be available for take-out at another location.

Mr. Kitchin said the Ferris family has stepped up many times for this community and has allowed us to use their facility for a number of meetings. He said he feels it would be appropriate for our consideration to recognize the community minded spirit of the Ferris family and the folks of the Venus deMilo with a citation and offered the suggestion to the Board of Selectmen.

MOTION made by Mr. Derek W. Heim and seconded by Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS.

Respectfully Submitted,



Madeleine L. Lopes
Board of Selectmen Minutes Clerk

List of Documents in the October 6, 2020 Open Session Meeting

- Solid Waste Budget Sheets
- Certificate of Recognition - Captain Carlton Windle
- Agreement for Use of Automated Notification System
- Request from Town Clerk Diane Pelland to ratify the vote of September 22, 2020 to re-locate the polling location for Precints 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 to the Venus deMilo Restaurant, 75 G.A.R. Highway.
- Warrant for 2020 State Election
- Swansea Cultural Council appointments