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**MINUTES
SELECT BOARD'S MEETING
DONN B. GRIFFIN ROOM, TOWN HALL
REGULAR MEETING 6:00PM
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023**

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Michael MacAskill, Chairman, Larry Ballantine, Don Howell and Julie Kavanagh

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Joseph F. Powers, Town Administrator

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman MacAskill called the meeting of the Select Board to order on May 15, 2023 at 6:00PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman MacAskill invited attendees to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lincoln Hooper, Director of the Department of Public Works announced that the Cape Cod Commission is holding a workshop on low lying roads on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 4:00PM. The meeting will be virtual and the information will be on the Town's and the DPW's websites.

David Guillemette, Chief of Police announced a personnel change at Harwich Police Department. Officer Michael Porter is retiring and his last day was last Friday. Chief Guillemette gave a history of Officer Porter's career and reflected on his many accomplishments. On behalf of the Police Department, he expressed his gratitude and thanks, he congratulated Officer Turner on his retirement.

The Select Board expressed their congratulations and thanks to Officer Porter.

Mr. Ballantine noted the picture of the Firefighters hanging in the meeting room which had been presented to the Select Board last week.

A. Committee Vacancies

Chairman MacAskill noted that the list of vacancies is on the website and encouraged anyone interested to apply.

B. Memorial Day Ceremony - Monday, May 29, 2023 at 9:30 am Brooks Park

Mr. Powers announced the details of the Memorial Day Celebration.

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C. Annual Town Election May 16, 2023 at Harwich Community Center, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Powers announced the details of the Annual Town Elections.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Introduction to new Finance Director/Town Accountant Kathleen Barrette

Ms. Barrette commented on how happy she is to be working in Harwich and she is excited to start her new position in June.

Mr. Powers presented the Finance Director/Town Accountant Kathleen Barrette.

Members of the Select Board welcomed Ms. Barrette.

B. Proclamation for Larry Ballantine

Ms. Kavanagh read a Proclamation for Larry Ballantine for all his years of service to the Town of Harwich. The different positions, Board and Committees that Mr. Ballantine served were noted along with appreciation and thanks for his years of dedicated service to the Town of Harwich.

Mr. Ballantine reflected on his years of service and especially noted how many great people that he has met over the years, the history of the town and the culture that they have created. It has been his pleasure.

Mr. Powers noted many of Mr. Ballantine's accomplishments and especially noted his leadership during the COVID pandemic.

All Select Board members shared memories and expressed gratitude to Mr. Ballantine for everything he has done over the years. They all sincerely appreciate him and will miss working with him.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Vote to waive the Right of First Refusal for the sale of Gomes Way

Mr. Howell moved to vote to approve the Consent Agenda was presented assuming that the conveyance will retain its affordability restriction on its deed, seconded by Ms. Kavanagh.

Mr. Powers commented that there is permanent affordable restriction in the deed, that is expected to carry forward as it must. He has no objection.

Vote 4:0 in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion on support of a proposed recreation program

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Jeffrey Craig was present to discuss the proposal for a new recreational facility for the Town of Harwich and the Cape, Project Adventure Ropes Course. He gave a brief history of Project Adventure and shared details. He also noted the benefits to Project Adventure and noted the support of the Committees and Departments that he has presented the Project to including the Recreation Department and the School Committee. He is asking for the Select Board's support.

Select Board members asked questions that Mr. Craig answered in detail. They also expressed their support and appreciation for the project and the vision.

Mr. MacAskill asked if it was the consensus of the Board members present to support going to the next step. There is a consensus to move forward to the next step.

Mr. Powers commented that the Project has a lot of potential but the land in question has a number of issues related to it. With the consensus of the Board, he is able to take the next steps.

Mr. MacAskill commented that the property is under the care and custody of Monomoy Schools but there are other properties that the Town owns that could be used if needed. He asked that Mr. Powers explore what needs to be done to get to the next level.

B. Discussion on proposed deed rider amendment for properties at One and Three North Westgate Road and 1028 Factory Road, Harwich

Mr. Howell recused himself as having an apparent conflict of interest.

Mr. Powers referred to documents in the packet that were sent to the Harwich Housing Authority. There are restrictions and riders on the property noted. He noted that the Housing Authority voted that the management of the property should continue to be coordinated through the Harwich Ecumenical Council for Housing (HECH). He asked the Board for their thoughts on actions that the Town should take. Staff recommendation is for HECH to continue management of the property. The request is for management to go through November 14, 2033.

Ms. Kavanagh moved to allow HECH to continue to manage One and Three North Westgate Road and 1028 Factory Road, Harwich for the next ten years, seconded by Mr. Ballantine. Vote 3:0:1 in favor with Mr. Howell recusing.

C. Discussion on proposed fee schedule increases includingL:

1. Harwich Community Center

Mr. Powers noted the increase on the proposed fee schedule, he is directing staff to work through Administration before fee increases come before the Board. He supports the recommendation coming before the Board in a presentation.

Carol Carey, Director of the Community Center presented the proposed fee schedule. She described the meetings that were held to get feedback from the public. The feedback has been positive. She also described the new definition of “uses”.

Mr. Howell read the Public Meeting Notice.

Ms. Carey asked for the Board’s support of the new fees and the new definition of what a “use” is at the Center.

Mr. MacAskill asked for comments from the public present and on line.

Mr. Powers requested a certain effective date.

Ms. Carey noted that they are requesting July 1, 2023 as an effective date.

Mr. Howell moved to accept the fee schedule as presented, effective July 1, 2023, seconded by Ms. Kavanagh. Vote 4:0 in favor.

D. Vote to approve the Committee Appointments recommended by the Interview Committee:

1. Robert Spencer - Harwich Affordable Housing Trust - Full member - Term to expire June 20, 2023
- begin 2. Robert Spencer - harwich Affordable Housing Trust - Full member - Term to July 1, 2023 and expire June 30, 2025
3. Claudia Williams - Harwich Affordable Housing Trust - Full member - Term to begin July 1, 2023 and expire June 30, 2025

Mr. Ballantine moved to vote to approve the Committee Appointments as presented, seconded by Ms. Kavanagh. Vote 4:0

CONTRACTS:

- A. Approve a License Agreement with the Family Pantry Corp. for use of land at 1343 Queen Anne Road

Mr. Howell moved to approve the License Agreement as presented, seconded by Ms. Kavanagh. Vote 4:0 in favor.

- B. Approve change order #2 submitted by Campbell Construction Group, LLC for the Brooks Academy Museum foundation repair in the amount of \$88,690

Mr. Howell moved to approve the change order as presented, seconded by Mr. Ballantine. Vote 4:0 in favor.

- C. Approve a license agreement renewal with the Friends of the South Harwich Meetinghouse, Inc. for use of property located at 270 Chatham Road

Mr. Howell moved to approve a license agreement as presented and to authorize the Chair to sign, seconded by Ms. Kavanagh. Vote 4:0 in favor.

D. Approve a contract with Tight & Bond, LLC in the amount of \$199,000 to update the Local Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Howell moved to approve the contract as presented, seconded by Mr. Ballantine. Vote 4:0 in favor.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

No report

SELECT BOARD'S REPORT:

Mr. MacAskill commented on social media and particularly Harwich Old Timers that constantly call out civility and attacks elected officials. He feels they went too far this past weekend and gave his reasons and noted that this is why people don't want to get involved. Noted was the behavior of Sandra Hall and what she promoted on social medial. He thanked the residents that call him to say that they are only on there for the amusement. He stated that, to call out Channel 18 and the hardworking people there for purposely suppressing a debate, is sickening. This is the worst form of bullying and legislation has been proposed because of the effects it has on teenagers. He is not wondering why people didn't want to get involved.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Kavanagh moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Howell. Vow 4:0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith R. Moldstad
Board Secretary

May 15, 2023

