

Select Board
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT
Thursday, March 7, 2024
6:30 PM
SPECIAL MEETING

Select Board Members Present: Kelly O’Brien, David Fuller, Michael Todd, Rika Henderson, Nathan McNaughton

Select Board Members Absent:
Brandon Gulnick, Town Manager

Others Present:

Olivia Savage		
August Murray (remote)		
deForest Bearse (remote)		

1 Call to Order

Mr. Todd called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. McNaughton led the pledge of allegiance.

3 Election of Chairperson

Rika Henderson nominated Mike Todd for Select Board Chair.
Ms. Henderson, Mr. McNaughton, and Mr. Todd were in favor of this nomination.

Kelly O’Brien nominated Dave Fuller for Chair.
Ms. O’Brien and Mr. Fuller were in favor of this nomination.

Mr. Todd was declared Select Board Chair.

4 Election of Vice-Chair

Michael Todd nominated Dave Fuller for Select Board Vice-Chair.
Mr. Fuller declined.

Dave Fuller nominated Nathan McNaughton for Select Board Vice-Chair.
All were in favor of this nomination.

Mr. McNaughton was declared Select Board Vice-Chair

5 Election of Board Clerk

Nathan McNaughton nominated Rika Henderson for Select Board Clerk.
All were in favor of this nomination.

Rika Henderson was declared Select Board Clerk.

6 Appointment of Recording Secretary

Mike Todd nominated Nichole Gagnon as Recording Secretary for the Select Board.
All were in favor of this nomination.

Nichole Gagnon was declared Recording Secretary for the Select Board.

7 Appoint a newspaper of record

a. Eagle Times, Valley News

Motion: To appoint the Eagle Times and the Valley News as the Newspapers of record.

Made by: Ms. Henderson **Second:** Ms. O' Brien

Vote: All in Favor

8 Establish Regular Meeting Dates/Times

The Select Board discussed changing the day of the Select Board meetings to either Tuesdays or the second/fourth Monday of the month as this would benefit Mr. McNaughton's schedule better. Mr. Todd did express concern about how the people of the town are accustomed to the days and the structure that had been in place.

Motion: To set the Select Board meetings to the 2nd and the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30pm at Martin Memorial Hall.

Made by: Mr. McNaughton **Second:** Ms. Henderson

Vote: All in Favor

The Select Board discussed concerns surrounding how the Planning Commission meetings may be impacted. The Planning Commission has a Public Hearing set at the next Select Board meeting on March 18, 2024 at 6:30pm. It was agreed upon that the new Select Board schedule would start after that meeting.

9 Review Minutes from Previous Meeting: 2/20/24

Motion: To approve the 2/20/24 minutes.

Made by: Ms. O'Brien **Second:** Mr. Todd

Vote: 3 yays, 2 abstentions (Mr. McNaughton, Ms. Henderson)

10 Future Agenda Items

None.

11 Appointments

Mr. Todd read the vacancies out loud for the public:

Appointments

- Animal Control Officer (1 Vacancy)
- Board of Listers (2 Vacancies)
- Budget Committee (7 Vacancies)
 - August Murray
 - Dylan Brown
- Conservation Commission (1 Vacancy)
- Connecticut River Joint Committee Rep (1 Vacancy)
 - Howard Beach
- Energy Coordinator (1 Vacancy)
- Fence Viewer (1 Vacancy)
 - Amy Beth Main
 - Joseph Bublat
- Green Up Coordinator (1 Vacancy)
 - Steve Aikenhead
- Health Officer (1 Vacancy)
- Martin Memorial Hall Trustees (3 Vacancies)
 - Amy Beth Main
 - Olivia Savage
 - Julia Gumbart
- Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (1 Vacancy)
- Parks and Recreation (7 Vacancies)
 - Joseph Bublat
 - Olivia Savage
 - Nichole Gagnon
 - Julia Gumbart
- Planning Commission
 - August Murray
 - Todd Hindinger
- Solid Waste Mgmt. District Rep (1 Vacancy)
- Surveyor of Wood and Lumber (1 Vacancy)
 - Amy Beth Main
 - Roderick Bates
- Transportation Advisory Committee (1 Vacancy)
- Tree Warden (1 Vacancy)
 - Ryan Gumbart
- Veterans Memorial Committee (7 Vacancies)
 - Patience Bearse
 - Dylan Brown
 - deForest Bearse
- Weigher of Coal
 - Amy Beth Main
 - Roderick Bates
 - John Arrison
- Zoning Board of Adjustment (7 Vacancies)
 - Jason Rasmussen
 - Beth Hunton
 - Todd Hindinger
 - Willis Wood
 - Andrea Murray

There was an error in the list of vacancies as there were currently no Planning Commission vacancies. Mr. Fuller expressed concern that the appointment list seems to be missing a few names and that he would like to allow more time for submission. The Town Manager had sent out an email to those previously appointed. The vacancies are posted on the Town [Website](#).

Motion: To amend the list to remove the Planning Commission.

Made by: Ms. O'Brian **Second:** Ms. Henderson

Vote: 4 yay, 1 abstention (Mr. Fuller)

Motion: To amend the Fence Viewer position to three vacancies.

Made by: Ms. O'Brien **Second:** Mr. Todd
Vote: 4 yay, 1 abstention (Mr. Fuller)

Motion: To table the whole slate of appointments until the 3/18/24 Select Board meeting.

Made by: Mr. Fuller **Second:** Mr. McNaughton
Vote: All in Favor

Approve Warrant

To approve the warrants for 3/7/2024 as followed:

General Funds
Operating Expenses: \$28,684.73
Payroll: \$15,283.67

Library
Payroll: \$2,362.46
Operating Expenses: \$0

Highway Fund
Operating Expenses: \$16,862.24
Payroll: \$10,904.67

PACIF Grant: \$4,450.65

Solid Waste Management Fund
Operating Expenses: \$19,842.64
Payroll: \$1,901.09

Grand Totals:
Operating Expenses: \$69,840.26
Payroll: \$30,451.89

Made by: Ms. O'Brien
Vote: All in Favor

Second: Mr. Todd

12 Any Other Business

There was discussion about having only one Select Board meeting a month as a few other towns do this. The Select Board concluded that they could take up the issue at a later date.

Mr. Todd took a moment to clarify Vermont [Open Meeting Laws](#).

13 Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Mr. Fuller **Second:** Ms. O'Brien
Vote: All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nichole Gagnon

WEATHERSFIELD SELECT BOARD

Michael Todd, Chairperson

Rika Henderson, Clerk

Nathan McNaughton, Vice-Chairperson

Dave Fuller, Selector

Kelly O'Brien, Selector