



**LANCASTER SELECT BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes
of Monday, April 1, 2024, 6:00 P.M.
Prescott Building, Nashaway Room, and via ZOOM**

ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84038943792>

Meeting ID 840 3894 3792

I. CALL TO ORDER

Select Board Chair Stephen Kerrigan called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 PM and advised that the meeting was being recorded and broadcast via ZOOM and via Sterling-Lancaster Cable Television. *Additional materials for Select Board meetings are available at <https://www.ci.lancaster.ma.us/administration-select-board> > Meeting Materials.*

Roll call vote taken, Jason A. Allison, present, Alexandra W. Turner, present, Stephen J. Kerrigan, present. Also present, Kate Hodges, Town Administrator.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Turner moved to approve the Select Board’s Regular and Special Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2024, and March 25, 2024. Mr. Allison seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

III. SCHEDULED APPEARANCES & PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opportunity for the public to address their concerns, make comments, offer suggestions, or ask questions.

Mr. Kerrigan recognized Cara Sanford, 350 Bull Hill Road. Ms. Sanford expressed concern about some of the abutter lots listed in the Town Meeting Warrant as potentially available for sale.

V. ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET, AND POLICY

1. Board of Health and Department of Health and Human Services request for approval of Blood Drive

Jeff Paster, 646 South Meadow Rd., Chair of the Board of Health, explained that he seeks approval for a blood drive on May 21 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The van will be located in front of the Town Hall / Library area. Mr. Allison moved to approve the blood drive as

discussed. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

2. Review of Classification Study Results

Ms. Hodges has distributed an updated copy of the Classification Study Results to the Select Board (dated 4/1/24). Ms. Hodges reviewed the process that had been implemented by the Collins Center and paid for with a grant. Ms. Turner requested that this item be added to the next meeting's agenda in case she has additional questions.

3. Review of Town Meeting Warrant Draft

- a. Select Board Disposition on Articles**
- b. Set date for Public Forum / Warrant Review**

Article 1. Operating Budget.

Mr. Allison moved to recommend positive action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 2. Appropriation of Free Cash to Capital Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 3. Renewable Energy Enterprise

Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 4. Water Enterprise Fund Budget (sponsored by the Board of Public Works).

Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. Ms. Turner abstained because she stated that she needed more information. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Abstain; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [2-0-1].*

Article 5. Revolving Fund Account Budgets.

Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 6. Compensation Plans.

Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. Ms. Turner stated that she would abstain until she has had the opportunity to ask Ms. Hodges additional questions. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Abstain; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [2-0-1].*

Article 7. Pay Bills of Prior Year.

Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 8. Community Preservation Committee – FY25 Budget (sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee).

Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 9. Community Preservation Committee – FY25 Projects/Allocations (sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee).

Ms. Turner moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Mr. Allison seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 10. Investing – Adoption of the “Prudent Investment Rule”.

Ms. Turner moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Mr. Allison seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 11. Acquisition of North Lancaster Land.

Ms. Hodges explained that this will ratify the Acquisition of the North Lancaster Land that has been in discussion for several years. Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 12. Parcels for Consideration for FY25 Abutter Lot Sales Program.

Ms. Hodges recommended removing parcels 2 (White Pond Road), 3 (Lunenburg Road), all the Brockelman Road parcels, 14 (Lunenburg Road), 15 (Old County Road), 16 (Langen Road), 17 (Hill Top Road), Magnolia (both parcels), and the tiny lot on the Sterling line. Ms. Turner moved to amend the list as recommended. Ms. Hodges explained that the initial list was computer generated, and the exclusions are because the land may have valid town use. Mr. Allison seconded the motion to amend for purposes of discussion. Mr. Allison expressed concern with modifying the list without citizen input; Mr. Kerrigan stated that the action is in keeping with the Abutter Lot program as designed.

Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 13. Adoption of M.G.L. Chapter 41 §21.

Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 14. Management of Blood Town Forest.

Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 15. Ratification/Revote – Veterans’ Tax Exclusion.

Ms. Turner moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Mr. Allison seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 16. Amendments to Town Code Part I, Chapter 92 – “Hawkers & Peddlers”.

Ms. Hodges explained that the existing language is only relevant if the Hawker or Peddler in question is selling fruit or fish in a basket door-to-door. This article would create regulations for modern circumstances and would charge the Police Department with maintaining a list of approved vendors rather than the Town Clerk. Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 17. Acceptance of M.G.L. relative to creditable service for call Firefighters.

Ms. Turner moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Mr. Allison seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Article 18. Amendments to Town Code I, Ch. 10 §1.0 and §10-8 “Animal Control”.

Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. Ms. Turner would like to retain the role of the Animal Control Commission and suggested striking the section of the article that substitutes the Select Board for the Animal Control Commission. Mr. Kerrigan stated that in this article, the Select Board becomes the Animal Control Commission, while currently the Commission has not met in several years and does not have enough members to reach a quorum. Mr. Kerrigan stated that the article as written codifies the actual practice. Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, No; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [2-1-0].*

Article 19. Hawthorne Lane – Citizens’ Petition.

Ms. Hodges explained that this article could be the impetus for several different actions, including a later order of taking by the Select Board, or a referral to the Planning Board who would then need to hold a public hearing. Mr. Allison moved to recommend favorable action on this Article. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A.*

Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].

Article 20. Act Increasing the Membership of the Select Board of the Town of Lancaster – Citizens’ Petition.

Mr. Allison moved to recommend unfavorable action on this Article. Mr. Kerrigan seconded the motion. All three members asserted their views, with Messrs. Allison and Kerrigan against increasing the Select Board Membership and Ms. Turner in favor of same. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, No; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed (Unfavorable action recommended). [2-1-0].*

Mr. Allison moved to accept the Warrant for the 2024 Annual Town Meeting as written, as amended, and to instruct the Town Constable to post said Warrant in a manner consistent with the Town Code, the Bylaws, and Massachusetts General Law. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

It was determined that the date for the Warrant Review Public Forum will be April 29 at 6:30 p.m., following the Select Board meeting.

4. Ratification of Employment Contract: E.L. Moody

Mr. Allison moved to ratify the contract for the Lancaster Chief of Police and Fire, Everett L. Moody, as signed by Town Administrator Kate Hodges on March 27, 2024, pursuant to the Select Board’s affirmative vote on March 18, 2024. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

5. Alcohol License Fee Discussion

Not addressed because George Frantz was not present.

6. 2024 Local Election Ballot Review

Ms. Hodges reviewed the upcoming ballot for the 2024 Local Election as provided by the Town Clerk. There is one ballot question, seeking to remove the Town from Civil Service. Mr. Allison moved that notwithstanding Sections 22A and 21C of Chapter 59 of Massachusetts General Laws, the Board called to be posted the Citizens’ Petition Ballot Question to be seeking to remove the Town from Civil Service, an Act previously authorized by the affirmative passage of Article 7 of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting, and a petition, which Town Clerk Amanda Cannon certified on Monday, March 25, 2024, consistent with Lancaster’s Special Act of 2004, Chapter 149, Section 285. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. Ms. Turner asked why this would be done at Town Meeting rather than by ballot. Ms. Hodges explained that you have to leave Civil Service in the same manner by which it was entered, in this case by Town Meeting. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Mr. Allison moved that consistent with the Lancaster Special Act of 2004, Chapter 149, Section 285, to invite the principal proponents and opponents of the question listed on the 2024 Annual Town Election Ballot to submit one argument for or against said question of no more than 250 words, to be received no later that April 16, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., to the Town Administrator, either in person or via email. For the purposes of this Act, the principal proponent shall be the first ten people who signed the petition to initiate the placement of said question on the ballot. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. It was discussed that it is easy to find someone to write the “pro” statement; the Board agreed that if no one volunteers to write the “con” statement, Ms. Hodges will write one with the help of Town Counsel. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

VI. APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Appointments

Mr. Allison moved to appoint Jim Peters to the Commission on Disability, term to expire June 30, 2024. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Resignations

Mr. Kerrigan accepted the resignation of Shawn Winsor from the Conservation Commission, effective immediately, and thanked Mr. Winsor for his service.

VII. LICENSES AND PERMITS - NONE

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Kerrigan noted that the scheduled Executive Session is no longer needed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Allison noted that at a previous meeting, regarding PJ Keating, he had committed to a resident to provide answers at the next meeting, asking Ms. Hodges if there had been any updates. Ms. Hodges stated that no new information had been received but stated that the contract that had been entered with CIE was only for a Peer Review, and that they do not often take on monthly reviews. Tighe and Bond could be scheduled to appear at an upcoming meeting. The contract for ongoing engineering services will be up for renewal later this year.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- Next Select Board meeting will be Wednesday, April 24, 2024
- Town Offices will be close on Monday, April 15, 2024, in observance of Patriots’ Day
- Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 6, 2024

- Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, May 13, 2024
- A Blood Drive will be held on May 21, 2024
- A Candidates' Night will be held on April 24, 2024
- Miscellaneous Correspondence & Memorandums

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Allison moved to adjourn the meeting. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye. Motion passed. [3-0-0].*

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Rocco

APPROVED

Alexandra W. Turner, Clerk