

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Select Board
Tuesday, January 25, 2022
Remote Online Meeting (Zoom 885 1003 6808)
Called to Order at 6:01 p.m.**

Remotely participating were Board members, Chair, Harvey Boshart, Christopher Houston, and Laurie Bent. Also present were Town Manager Leon A. Gaumond, Jr., Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director Lisa Yanakakis.

Mr. Boshart called the remote meeting to order and read the following:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings in the Town of Weston will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. We will strive to provide access to such meetings via a link to call in, or other similar option. In the event we are unable to accommodate the same, despite best efforts, we will post recorded sessions of the meeting as soon as possible following the same. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings.

Presentation on the Fire Department Operational Review (PP#08):

James Tarr & Mary Aicardi, Collins Center

Mr. Boshart stated that the review began in Spring 2021. Mr. Boshart stated that the review consisted of members of the Weston Fire Department, Town Manager's Office, Mr. Boshart, and members of the Finance Committee. Mr. Gaumond noted that due to Collins Center staffing changes, and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fire Department Operational Review took longer to complete than anticipated.

Mr. Tarr described the Mission Statement of the UMass Boston Collins Center. Mr. Tarr stated that the role of the Collins Center was to measure departmental performance in the areas of; overall operations, resources and equipment, budget/expenditures, organizational structure, practices/policies; such as workload and available resources.

Mr. Tarr stated that the Department responded to 2,076 calls for services in CY2020, 45% of the calls were responded to by EMS. Mr. Tarr stated that the Department operates out of two fire stations, 394 Boston Post Road and 390 South Avenue. Mr. Tarr stated that the Department operates at the Basic Life Support (BLS) level for ambulance service, with ALS paramedic services provided by Pro EMS. Mr. Tarr stated that as of 2021, the Department is comprised of 35 full-time personnel and five (5) on-call personnel.

Mr. Tarr stated that between 2016 and 2019, calls have increased for the Department. Ms. Bent asked what 'good intent' means. Dep. Chief Woodside stated that it is a call that is cancelled en-route because it was mistaken with no malfeasance.

Mr. Tarr stated that in 2020, 72% of all calls were responded to within 4 to 6 minutes of alarm time, respectively. Mr. Boshart said that he thought the standard for all responses was 4 minutes. Dep. Chief Woodside noted that the response times depend on where the stations are located in the Town and other factors.

Mr. Boshart stated that his understanding was that the first vehicle should arrive within 4 minutes and a second vehicle within 6 minutes. Mr. Boshart asked why that was not included in the data. Chief Soar stated that data is not typically collected within a study like this. Chief Soar noted that the Massachusetts Turnpike factors into the longer average response time. Mr. Boshart asked if covering other neighboring communities were factored into the response time data. Chief Soar stated that was correct. Mr. Boshart stated that longer response times for covering other neighboring communities may skew the average response times. Ms. Bent stated that she would be interested to know the response times to locations that are specifically in Weston. Ms. Aicardi noted that the response times within the Town's boundaries are faster when not taking into consideration the Massachusetts Turnpike and mutual aid. Ms. Aicardi stated that national response time standards include rural, urban, and suburban data. Mr. Houston noted that the data for response times do not include a distribution.

Mr. Tarr stated that mutual aid calls grew year from 2016 to 2018 before decreasing year over year through 2020. Mr. Tarr stated that incidences on the Massachusetts Turnpike are rising while the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' reimbursement rate for responding to incidents has not increased in many years. Chief Soar noted that the State used to reimburse every hour of response per each piece of equipment. Chief Soar stated more recently, the State has reimbursed municipalities at a flat of \$400 rate the first hour for the Department's response, and then each piece of equipment gets billed separately after the first hour.

Mr. Tarr stated that scheduling the Town of Weston's four firefighter groups at a staffing level of 7 is not a recommended best practice. Mr. Tarr noted that if there are personnel absent, the staffing levels are not sufficient. Mr. Boshart stated that two personnel on an apparatus are dispatched, and then out of Town services are dispatched if need be.

Chief Soar described an incident earlier that day, where the Department was responding to a roof fire at Meadowbrook School. Chief Soar stated that two engines, a ladder, a shift commander, and himself were dispatched to the initial call. Chief Soar stated that mutual aid was required from the City of Waltham (engine and ladder), the Town of Wellesley, and the Town of Lincoln. Mr. Soar stated that two Weston personnel were called in to backfill the stations in the Town.

Mr. Tarr stated while the Department considers the call firefighter force a tremendous asset, the Weston Fire Department puts time and resources into training call firefighters only for those call fire-fighters to leave for another department for a full-time position. Mr. Tarr noted that the benefits of having trained, knowledgeable, and engaged call firefighters pay dividends when hiring new or replacement members to the full-time force. Mr. Tarr stated that the retention of call personnel is an inherent and ongoing challenge for fire departments generally.

Mr. Boshart asked if on-call personnel are part-time employees. Ms. Yanakakis stated that there are full-time benefited employees that are on-call. Ms. Yanakakis stated that the part-time personnel are called call firefighters. Mr. Boshart asked what the turnover rate for call firefighters. Ms. Yanakakis stated that call firefighters do sometimes leave when there are no full-time open positions available in the Town. Mr. Houston asked if that is the case for other Towns, and if the training of call firefighters is a mutual benefit to the region as a whole. Chief Soar agreed. Chief Soar said that it is a significant cost to train the call firefighters, however it has been a pipeline for the Town. Chief Soar noted that the Town of Weston is perhaps the most eastern municipality in Massachusetts that utilizes call firefighters. Chief Soar noted that the last 9-10 full-time hires were call firefighters that trained in the Town. Ms. Aicardi noted that the call firefighter program is a benefit to the Town if there are immediate openings.

Mr. Tarr stated that ALS transport services from a vendor is at times lacking. Mr. Tarr noted that some calls that Pro EMS are dispatched to have too long of a response time or they are not available. Mr. Tarr

noted that if Pro EMS is not available, mutual aid communities would assist, or the patient would be transported by Weston personnel at the BLS level. Mr. Tarr noted that based off of the Collins Center's findings, since the Department has only two licensed paramedics, it would not be advisable to pursue an ALS license in the immediate future. Mr. Boshart stated that the Town has a contract with Pro EMS for ALS services, and that Pro EMS contracts with other municipalities. Ms. Bent noted that sharing resources can sometimes be beneficial, however, in some instances, the necessary services are not available for the Town. Ms. Aicardi clarified that Pro EMS may be unavailable due to responding to calls in the Town of Weston, not in other municipalities.

Mr. Tarr stated that the recommendation of the report, is to fulfill the Department requests in the FY23 budget for one additional full-time firefighter to allow the scheduling of all groups at eight firefighters with the goal of adding an additional firefighter to each of the four groups in a subsequent year, with the possibility of more, depending on future decisions regarding ALS. Mr. Tarr stated that the Project Team's long-term goal is to increase the groups to nine after a comprehensive evaluation of overtime cost versus the total compensation costs of additional firefighters. Mr. Tarr noted that the Department may want to consider adopting a policy that all new hires be qualified paramedics in the event that ALS is brought in-house.

Mr. Tarr stated that the findings recommend that Departmental leadership should continue to maintain, grow, and train call firefighters and develop a recruitment retention strategy that lays out specific techniques for enhancing call firefighter membership.

Mr. Tarr stated that the findings recommend conducting a cost-benefit analysis to begin exploring the provision of in-house ALS service and hiring paramedics.

Mr. Tarr stated that the Town of Weston should conduct a full cost benefit analysis of Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) reimbursements for service calls and negotiate directly for appropriate compensation.

Mr. Tarr stated that the Department underperformed in the training portion of the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Class (ISO PPC). Mr. Tarr noted that the underperformance was in one particular area, the vast majority the Town scored well. Mr. Boshart questioned the number of hours of training that was recommended for firefighters. Mr. Boshart believed that the length of the recommended trainings is a significant amount of time.

Mr. Tarr stated that the recommendations include to provide overtime funding for critical training sessions that need to be provided without the interruption of calls for service. Mr. Tarr stated that the recommendations include to provide overtime to allow personnel to train off-duty in the areas noted as deficient in the ISO PPC Summary Report.

Mr. Tarr stated that the study found that the Weston Fire Department's headquarters lacks sufficient space and needs repair. Mr. Tarr stated that there are no commercial drying facilities for turnout gear, which represents a health concern. Mr. Tarr described some potential upgrades in technology in the field and on all Department apparatus. Mr. Tarr stated the study recommended that the Town conduct a full evaluation of facilities needs for the Department and otherwise explore new space options to accommodate new firefighters and all genders.

Mr. Houston noted that the presentation lists numerous recommendations but doesn't identify priorities that are complex or simple to accomplish. Mr. Gaumond stated that the work with the Collins Center was an initial review of the Department's operations. Mr. Gaumond stated he would work with the Department to accomplish the recommendations that were outlined. Mr. Gaumond noted that some of the

outlined recommendations are not managed by the Department staff. Ms. Aicardi stated that the report is not a capital improvement plan. Mr. Houston noted that other reports have a list of recommendations as well as researching the financial investments necessary to accomplish said recommendations. Mr. Houston asked Mr. Gaumond if the next step would be to determine financial feasibility for the improvements. Mr. Gaumond stated that the report is a menu that the Town administration and Fire Department can work through.

Ms. Bent expressed her curiosity if the Town is staffed to respond to the calls the Department receives. Ms. Bent stated that a dryer should be available for turnout gear and could be an immediate upgrade. Chief Soar stated that his concerns for the Department is staffing, outdated and inadequate facilities, and the option of having in-house ALS. Chief Soar stated that other communities are having issues with paramedic turnover. Chief Soar stated that there are limited opportunities for trainings that are not in-house. Chief Soar stated that the Town does not have the training facility to properly train staff, in addition, the ability to fund overtime for personnel to attend the trainings. Chief Soar stated Dep. Woodside wrote a grant to purchase a dryer for equipment. Chief Soar noted that due to COVID-19 and quarantining of personnel, some personnel were working significant amounts of overtime.

Mr. Boshart recommended that the Select Board, members of the Finance Committee, and the Fire Department should meet to discuss the findings.

Lisa Reitano, Chair, Finance Committee stated that she would like the Town Manager's data to be included in the findings. Ms. Reitano believed that mutual aid was given and received at the same amount. Ms. Reitano believed that most calls are BLS and not ALS. Ms. Reitano stated that ALS calls average less than one call per day in the Town. Ms. Reitano believes that if the Town wanted to provide ALS services in-house, there would not be enough calls to regularly practice their skills. Ms. Reitano believes it is not worth a study to look into the feasibility to offer ALS services in-house.

Bharath Venkataraman, member of the Finance Committee noted that 2020 data is related to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Venkataraman stated that there should be consistency in the data as to whether 2020 data is included due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Venkataraman asked for clarification regarding the standard response time listed in the report (8 minutes), and why that was not discussed in the presentation. Mr. Venkataraman noted that the presentation discussed 4- and 6-minutes response time standards. Mr. Venkataraman noted that he wants clarification as to how ALS services are lacking in the Town. Mr. Venkataraman noted that it was not clear as to why WiFi is necessary in the vehicles.

Ms. Aicardi reiterated that NFPA standards are national standards of a non-regulatory agency that are made of consensus recommendations. Ms. Aicardi doesn't believe that the level of ALS calls justifies full paramedic services managed by the Town.

John Sallay, member of the Finance Committee noted that based off of his own research two years ago, the Town's ISO ratings were in the middle range compared to other Massachusetts municipalities. Mr. Sallay stated that other municipalities nearby compare to the Town of Weston in regards to ISO ratings. Mr. Sallay noted that the cost per household per Fire Department service is higher in comparison to other communities. Mr. Sallay noted that major equipment was not included in the report.

Adrienne Giske, stated that the Fire Department saved her life from a gas leak. Ms. Giske noted that the facilities should be upgraded to support modernized services.

Discussion on the Kendall Common Historic District:

Mr. Gaumond stated that the Select Board tasked Al Aydelott, Chair of the Crescent Street Historic District Commission to draft a preliminary report regarding the Kendall Common Historic District.

Mr. Aydelott stated that the Select Board asked the Crescent Street Historic District Commission to consider taking on the responsibilities to form a study committee to determine the feasibility to designate the Kendal Common Historic District.

Mr. Aydelott stated that the Crescent Street Historic District Commission met multiple times. Mr. Aydelott stated that some Commission members are not able to participate in the study committee regarding Kendal Common. Mr. Aydelott met with Town Counsel to ask if it would be feasible for some Commission members not to participate in the study committee. According to Mr. Aydelott, Town Counsel stated it is permissible to not have all members participate. Mr. Aydelott stated that the Crescent Street Historic District Commission could appoint non-voting members of the study committee and fill the mandated number of members.

Mr. Aydelott stated that with this additional information from Town Counsel, the Crescent Street Historic District Commission is willing to form the study committee.

MOTION: Ms. Houston moved to appoint the Crescent Street Historic District Commission as the Commission responsible for forming the study committee for considering Kendal Common as a local historic district. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bent. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston, and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**

Mr. Aydelott stated that in a future meeting, nominees for the study committee will be presented to the Select Board.

Resident Comments:

Mr. Venkataraman stated that it is an inconvenience for members of the public to not ask questions during a presentation, he recognizes there may be unnecessary disruptions. Mr. Boshart stated that the intent of the Fire Department Operational Review presentation was directed to the Select Board. Mr. Boshart acknowledged Mr. Venkataraman's point.

Public Hearing: Presentation of the Draft Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Budget

Mr. Gaumond presented the FY23 Town Manager's Proposed Budget and Financing Plan.

Mr. Gaumond stated that the FY23 Budgetary Goals include to deliver current levels of service efficiently and cost effectively. Mr. Gaumond stated that a goal is to limit/reduce the amount of Free Cash used in the operating budget. Mr. Gaumond stated that a goal is to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in a manner consistent with federal rules and not for recurring operational costs. Mr. Gaumond noted an additional goal is to plan for the Town's future financial stability by adding to reserves.

Mr. Gaumond stated that the FY22 Approved Operating Budget is \$88,027,511, the FY23 Proposed Budget is \$90,645,049. Mr. Gaumond stated that the proposed increase is 2.97% from FY22 to FY23. Mr. Gaumond noted that there is 3.4% proposed increase in Schools Operations, 1.8% proposed increase in Unclassified & Fixed Costs, 3.2% proposed increase in Town Wide Operations. Mr. Gaumond stated that the Town is prepared to fund the OPEB for the required amount.

Mr. Gaumond described the FY23 Revenue Projection. Mr. Gaumond noted a 4.6% projected increase in Property Tax Levy-Operations revenue. Mr. Gaumond noted that the projected revenues are conservative. Mr. Gaumond noted a projected 2.7% increase in State Aid. Mr. Gaumond noted that he was anticipating a more significant increase in State Aid due to the high level of State revenue. Mr. Gaumond stated that he is advocating with other municipalities to have increases in State Aid.

Mr. Gaumond described the revenue of the Pay As You Throw program, with the consideration in the future of having Pay As You Throw as a revolving fund.

Mr. Gaumond stated that the Free Cash levels are projected to be lower due to smaller amounts of Local Receipts.

Mr. Gaumond noted that the Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Budget does not include any use of ARPA funds to backfill for municipal services costs. Mr. Gaumond stated that it is an option to utilize APRA funds for that purpose.

Mr. Gaumond described a list of FY23 Proposed Budget Requests totaling \$486,140. The requests include; Town Center expenses of \$199,500, facilities snow equipment of \$115,000, an additional firefighter for \$98,000, software services of \$44,600, TASERS for Police Officers for \$10,000, Library solid waste of \$3,640, emergency communications of \$3,000, and facilities expense line of \$2,400.

Mr. Gaumond described FY23 New Budget Requests that were not recommended, they include an additional Police Officer for \$85,000, Town Center banners for \$33,000, and a bus snow scraper for \$29,300. Mr. Gaumond stated that the total new requests that were not recommended is \$147,300.

Mr. Gaumond described some of the Recommended Capital Requests – Projects Funded by Debt. Mr. Gaumond described drainage improvements and Route 20/Highland Street Intersection Improvements. Mr. Gaumond noted that the Cherry Brook Culvert project may be removed from the budget this year, as it may not be fully finalized. Mr. Gaumond described the Proposed Capital Requests – Departmental Operations.

Mr. Gaumond described Proposed Capital Requests – Projects Funded by Debt. Mr. Gaumond stated that the Paines Hill Tank Replacement is an important project for the Town's infrastructure. Mr. Gaumond stated that the Paine Hill Tank is at the end of life.

Mr. Gaumond described Proposed Capital Requests - Cash & Departmental Operations which include Water Enterprise Departmental Operations, Recreation Enterprise Retained Earnings, and Brook School Apartments Retained Earnings and Departmental Operations.

Mr. Gaumond stated that the Town is currently meeting policy goals in regards to funds reserved in the Free Cash account. Mr. Gaumond stated that the Town is currently meeting policy goals with a balance in the Stabilization Fund. Mr. Gaumond stated that the Town is currently meeting policy goals for Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) reserve, which includes a full amount of annual required contribution (ARC).

Mr. Gaumond noted that the presented information will be included on the Town of Weston website.

Mr. Gaumond described that the FY23 Budget supports the Select Board's stated Projects and Priorities by accelerating roadway maintenance and funding for water tank and water mains that were described in the Water Master Plan. Mr. Gaumond stated that the Josiah Smith Tavern is nearing completion. Mr. Gaumond stated that the progression of the Route 20 and Route 30 Transportation Improvement Plan projects are occurring through the use of funds for the Traffic & Sidewalk Committee. The Select Board is utilizing the consultant line item to improve cell phone service/coverage.

Mr. Gaumond noted that he has concerns regarding the rising costs of inflation questions about union negotiations. Mr. Gaumond noted the revenue variables regarding Final State & School Aid and the potential rebound of the Town's Local Receipts and the benefit of ARPA funds.

Mr. Gaumond highlighted the budget by line item. Mr. Gaumond noted that there are modest increases in Worker's Compensation and Injured on Duty costs. Mr. Gaumond noted that the increases in the Town Clerk's budget is due to the number of elections that are held during the Fiscal Year.

Mr. Gaumond noted an increase in the Information Technology Department budget, due to software costs. Mr. Gaumond and the Department are working to determine what was to mitigate increased costs in the future.

Mr. Gaumond noted some facility expense increases from the Josiah Smith Tavern. Mr. Gaumond noted that the Town will be taking ownership of the Josiah Smith Tavern. Mr. Gaumond added that the master lease agreement would be given to the Friends of the Josiah Smith Tavern. Mr. Gaumond noted that those additional expenses would be assigned to the Lessee.

Mr. Gaumond stated that the budget is flat for Finance, Land Use and Conservation Departments. Mr. Gaumond noted that there is an item for maintenance of fire roads. Mr. Gaumond stated that due to a clerical error, the fire roads item was not included for the vote at 2021 Annual Town Meeting. Due to the cancellation of 2021 Special Town Meeting, the item was never funded. Mr. Gaumond stated it is a false increase.

Mr. Gaumond stated that the costs of purchasing Police Department vehicles has increased. Mr. Gaumond stated that the hiring of a new firefighter is the most significant increase in the Fire Department budget.

Mr. Gaumond stated that there is a decrease of operational expenses at the Transfer Station of roughly \$300,000 due to the Pay As You Throw program.

Mr. Gaumond stated that there are level services in the Health Department, Mosquito Control and the Council on Aging. Mr. Gaumond stated that there is a 4% increase of the West Public Library due to compliance with accreditations.

Mr. Gaumond stated that the Proposed Budget for FY23 would have an estimated \$760,000 increase (3.2%) compared to FY22.

Mr. Gaumond mentioned that the Proposed School Budget is about \$45.3 million for FY23, a 3.3-3.4% increase from FY22.

Mr. Gaumond noted that the Town will contribute the required \$2.1 million for OPEB.

Mr. Gaumond stated that due to lower Free Cash levels, the Town will have to borrow for some projects and improvements. Mr. Gaumond highlighted the Town's AAA credit rating and significantly lower interest rate for borrowing.

Mr. Boshart stated that the FY23 Proposed Budget is responsible. Mr. Boshart stated that he is surprised about the 1.9% growth rate. Mr. Boshart stated that the anticipated growth rate is significantly lower than inflation. Mr. Boshart asked how the various COVID-19 relief funds have been deployed.

Mr. Gaumond stated that the Town has minimally tapped into the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to cover COVID-19 and emergency related expenses. Mr. Gaumond described the initial CARES Act funding that was allocated to the Town. The CARES Act funds were utilized for sanitation, contact tracing, PPE, improvements in air quality. Mr. Gaumond stated that the funds covered a vast majority of COVID-19 related expenses. Mr. Gaumond noted that FEMA reimbursed for some of COVID-19 related expenses.

Mr. Gaumond stated that ARPA funds could be utilized to backfill expenses and operating costs. Mr. Gaumond stated that the funds could subsidize larger projects like replacement of water tanks. Mr. Gaumond stated that the Town received \$3.6 million in ARPA funds.

Ms. Bent asked for clarification regarding the Information Systems budget increase. Mr. Gaumond stated that some of the increase may be a new base level for the budget, however some may be one-time expenses. Mr. Gaumond stated that some of the increases are due to upgrades. Ms. Bent noted the importance of cybersecurity.

Request for Abatement: 158 Lexington Street

Mr. Gaumond outlined the request of Mr. Strassman. Mr. Gaumond stated that the water bill for 158 Lexington Street from October 2020 to May 2021 was roughly \$19,000. Mr. Gaumond stated that the bill for the previous year was \$782. Mr. Gaumond stated that the meter was properly working. Mr. Gaumond stated that a public fire-hydrant was installed on the property of 158 Lexington Street many years ago. Mr. Gaumond stated that it was determined that there was leak at the fire hydrant which caused increased usage of water.

Mr. Gaumond stated that Mr. Strassman was not aware that the fire hydrant was connected to the property's water meter. Mr. Gaumond stated that the leak has been presumably repaired by the DPW.

Mr. Strassman was concerned that may be a community-wide issue that needs to be addressed. Mr. Strassman noted that if one of his neighbors had a fire and the hydrant was used, he would end up paying for the water bill. Ms. Bent stated that it is an issue for the Town to have public hydrants on private property. Mr. Houston stated that he would like to know how many public hydrants are on private property in the Town. Mr. Houston stated that he would like to know ways to solve this issue.

Mr. Houston stated that the Town wanted to place the hydrant there and not on the volition of the property owner. Mr. Gaumond stated that according to Town staff, when properties are more than 500 ft away from the street, a hydrant may be installed closer to the house/building. Mr. Gaumond stated that the Town maintains all public right of way hydrants, and does not maintain hydrants on private property.

Mr. Houston reiterated that the Town should have an inventory of hydrants on private property and determine a method/regulation to properly maintain the hydrants.

Mr. Strassman stated that he believes it would be fair to be charged for the amount in the prior year. Mr. Houston stated that the water bill should be averaged from the past three billing cycles. Mr. Gaumond stated that DPW will determine the price and it will be presented to the Select Board at their next meeting.

Traffic Road Improvements Planned for Park Road as Part of the Greatland Project:

Kevin Sheehan, Greatland, Rick Plenge, VHB

Mr. Gaumond stated that Greatland has been meeting with various Boards and Committees. Mr. Gaumond stated that Greatland is asking the Select Board (Road Commissioners) to conquer with the plan for traffic road improvements for Park Road. Mr. Gaumond stated that once the plan has been approved by the Select Board, Greatland will present it to MassDOT for their review. Mr. Gaumond stated that MassDOT has control and ownership of some of the roads in the improvements, and MassDOT expects that the Town is agreeable to said changes. Mr. Gaumond stated that Steve Fogg, Town Engineer believes that the plans do include recommendations from the Traffic & Sidewalk Committee. Mr. Gaumond stated that the Riverside Working Group met recently to review the plans and agreed to support the changes. Mr. Gaumond stated that the documentation is located on the Town of Weston website.

Ms. Bent asked for clarification regarding the shared use path that crosses Park Road. Ms. Bent asked why the path crosses the road, she believed that it would make sense to have the path fully on one side of the road. Mr. Plenge noted that utility impacts were a main reason as to why the path crosses Park Road. Mr. Plenge noted the path on both sides connects existing pathways and provides more continuity. Mr. Plenge stated that the crossing mitigates the impacts on existing stone walls and utility poles.

Mr. Sheehan describe Greatland's commitments to the Town, it includes right of way improvements on South Ave, and \$3 million to be used for additional improvements. Mr. Sheehan stated that a direct railroad crossing would be a significant expense over \$3 million. Ms. Bent asked if the proposed project extends access pedestrian and bicycling access to the Riverside Station Commuter Rail. Mr. Plenge stated that with the improvements of the Riverside Station, there will be additional paths that will connect. Ms. Bent reiterated that the additional multi-use paths are only good if they are fully connected with other paths. Mr. Plenge agreed.

Judy Nitsch, 17 Blake Road, asked about the proposed left-hand turn lane on Park Road to the I-90 Off-Ramp. Mr. Plenge stated that the section of road is MassDOT right of way. Mr. Plenge believed that MassDOT would want to see a left deceleration lane for maintenance vehicles. Mr. Plenge stated that they will comply with MassDOT recommendations. Ms. Nitsch stated that some residents want two lanes heading North on Park Road. Mr. Plenge stated that they disagree with that recommendation, they believe it will make cars more likely to accelerate, rather than decelerate.

Mr. Houston asked if there is a possibility to have a stop sign at the intersection of Park Road and the I-90 Off-Ramp. Mr. Plenge stated that can be brought up to MassDOT as a short-term safety measure. Mr. Plenge noted that the Off-Ramps may be redesigned in the future by MassDOT.

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to approve the offsite roadway improvements plan and submitted on behalf of Greatland Realty Partners for Riverside Laboratories as reviewed by the Traffic & Sidewalk Committee for submission to MassDOT. The motion was seconded by Mr. Houston. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston, and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**

Refer Zoning Bylaw Change on Municipal Uses & Structure Standards to Planning Board for Hearing (PP#10):

Mr. Gaumond stated that the Town Planner has been working on a draft bylaw change to give more flexibility regarding the proposed water tank improvements. Mr. Gaumond stated that the Town Planner has been working with Wright-Pierce to write a draft.

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to refer the draft bylaw change on municipal uses and structure standards to the Planning Board for a hearing including with or without a provision that would define a municipal utility or use to its primary use regardless of any ancillary uses that may be undertaken. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bent. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston, and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**

Discussion on Citizen Petition: Laying of New Water Lines:

Mr. Gaumond stated that at a recent Select Board meeting, a resident proposed laying new water lines for each property that does not already have access to public water. Mr. Gaumond noted that the project could be in the range of \$5 million.

Mr. Boshart stated that density and distance of properties should be taken into consideration. Mr. Boshart stated that he would like feedback from the Fire Chief regarding this petition. Mr. Gaumond spoke with

the Fire Chief. The Chief brought up the idea of cisterns or tankers for fire suppression. Mr. Gaumont stated that the petition in its current form, is one of many solutions.

Mr. Houston stated he cannot support the petition with such short notice and that there needs to be more research regarding this proposal. Mr. Boshart stated that there needs to be more analysis. Ms. Bent believes that there are other cost-effective strategies.

Update on Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 25% Design for the Intersection of Route 20, Wellesley Street, Boston Post Road & Winsor Way (PP#03):

Mr. Gaumont announced to the Select Board a public hearing has been scheduled, on February 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Gaumont noted that the hearing is a critical part of the TIP process. Mr. Houston and Ms. Bent plan to attend.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved the Consent Agenda as follows:

Vote to approve Select Board minutes: July 13, 2021 regular session, July 29, 2021 regular session, and September 1, 2021 regular session.

Accept gifts of \$100.00 from Fidelity Charitable, \$500.00 from Maria Buttolph to the Fire Department.

Accept gifts of \$50.00 from Lance Wong Jayne, \$100.00 from Michael G. King III to the Council on Aging.

Open the May 9, 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant for Articles and Citizens' Petitions until March 3, 2022

2nd by Mr. Houston.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston, and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Houston. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston, and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Christopher E. Houston
Clerk

Note: A copy of all documents, explanatory material, and exhibits presented to and used by the Select Board as part of this meeting are attached to the approved minutes