

## **TOWN OF CANTON - BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

### **Regular Hybrid Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 25, 2023 – 7:00 pm**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Members Present:** First Selectman Robert Bessel, Warren Humphrey, Tim LeGeyt, Stephen Sedor, William Volovski

**Also Present:** Chief Administrative Officer Robert Skinner, Lisa Coggins, Len Dunston, Recording Secretary Maureen Griffin

**Call to Order:** R. Bessel called the meeting to order at 9:29p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Lisa Coggins commented on the discussion at the last BOS meeting about the firehouse bunk area being excluded from the plans. She thinks it might be more efficient if it is included.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

**Appointment of Len Dunstan (R) as a regular member of the Canton Housing Authority for a term to expire on 12/31/25.**

T. LeGeyt said that he was pleased that Mr. Dunstan came forward to volunteer. He knows Mr. Dunstan and he said the committee will be served well by him.

Motion: T. LeGeyt moved to appoint Len Dunstan (R) as a regular member of the Canton Housing Authority for a term to expire on 12/31/25.

Seconded by: W. Volovski

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dunston was sworn in by R. Skinner.

### **ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion: W. Volovski moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

Seconded by: T. LeGeyt

The motion passed unanimously.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Review and possibly approve the Canton Public Library to dispose several pieces of furniture.**

S. Sedor asked why this needs BOS approval. R. Skinner said that it is due to the Charter. The disposal of Town property has never been quantified, so items like this come before the BOS.

Motion: T. LeGeyt moved to approve the Canton Public Library to dispose several pieces of furniture that are broken or no longer needed.

Seconded by: W. Volovski

The motion passed unanimously.

**Review proposal for the new Collinsville Fire Station and authorize the CAO to execute an agreement with Millennium Builders under the EZIQC system for the construction of the Fire Station.**

R. Bessel said that a lot of work was done to bring the project in at the current price in a way that meets department needs and functionality. R. Skinner provided a history of the process and project expenses. He presented the revised cost estimate and explained how costs were decreased. The new estimate for construction costs is \$4,933,703.63. He presented a breakdown of other costs and deferred costs. Selectmen discussed the possibility of alternate funding sources/bonds; items that were removed from the original plans; pavement costs and the pavement management budget. T. LeGeyt asked if \$150,000 was sufficient as a contingency fund. R. Skinner said that there may be as

much as \$200,000 in the contingency fund depending on additional savings. There are many unknowns, but there is a good chance this project will be close to the total budgeted amount. W. Volovski commented that he was initially concerned about having a metal building. However, the North Canton Firehouse is metal—it is in good condition after 20 years, and it has served the Town well. He added that Millennium Builders is a good contractor. He worked with them for projects in other towns; they meet their schedule and costs. They have done other projects in Canton and have a good track record. He has confidence in the project and price. R. Skinner added that they have provided advice to help us reduce costs. T. LeGeyt asked J. Gotaski if the department is satisfied with the proposed project and budget. J. Gotaski said that they are satisfied. He asked if the ARPA funds that had been designated for the air packs might be used for the firehouse project.

Motion: R. Bessel moved to authorize the CAO to execute an agreement with Millennium Builders under the EZIQC system for the construction of the new Collinsville Fire Station in an amount not to exceed \$4,950,000.

Seconded by: W. Volovski

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Review and possibly approve to transfer \$360,000 of ARPA funding from the Canton Volunteer Fire/EMS Air Packs account.**

R. Bessel said that he would like to see these monies go into the Undesignated Fund because we don't know about the potential grant. T. LeGeyt asked about the timeframe for the grant decision. J. Gotaski explained that we expect to know by July, and that the funds will need to be spent within one year. Mr. LeGeyt commented that we have until 2026 to spend ARPA funds. R. Skinner said that there will be a need for discipline with the remaining funds—there will be many requests for its use. Many areas need funding in the upcoming budget. R. Bessel added that there will be another round of Infrastructure funding that will be administered by the state.

Motion: R. Bessel moved to approve the transfer of \$360,000 of ARPA funding from the Canton Volunteer Fire/EMS Air Packs and leave as undesignated funds.

Seconded by: S. Sedor

The motion passed unanimously.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CAO, TOWN AGENCIES, OFFICIALS AND/OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS**

#### **First Selectman's Report**

- He received Gary Roman's resignation from the Planning & Zoning Commission. He accepted the resignation with regret. Mr. Roman is moving out of Canton. Mr. Bessel recognized Mr. Roman's many volunteer contributions to the Town; he was instrumental in building a structure for success in community activities. W. Volovski added that Mr. Roman will be sorely missed.
- He will attend an Avon/Canton Rotary Club meeting on Friday. They want to contribute to Town projects. He is proposing three potential projects: upgrades to the Senior Center beautification efforts; enhancing programs at the Historical Museum; supporting shuttle bus services and possibly helping with pedestrian/bike safety. Tonoa Jackson (Senior and Social Services Director), W. Volovski and T. LeGeyt will attend this meeting.
- Canton Hydro announced that they plan to hold an open house on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Town, State, and Federal officials will attend. W. Volovski commented that the site work seems incomplete and asked who Canton Hydro has to satisfy—does the Town have input in the final inspection? R. Skinner said that it is a condition of their license. FERC will continue to inspect the site; the Town initially had input in the safety plan, etc. R. Skinner said that concerns can be brought to Canton Hydro to be discussed at upcoming meetings.
- The state legislature is discussing three things of concern to us: Medicaid reimbursements for ambulance transportation; excess cost reimbursement for special education students; early voting implementation costs.

- R. Skinner brought an issue to the attention of the BOS. The Superintendent of Schools and the BOE Chair met with him and R. Bessel several months ago. They want to move the BOE offices to the Community Center. They would like to utilize the Park and Rec offices, and the meeting rooms would be used for classrooms. This would cause issues for the Parks & Rec Department. Also, the rooms are used for Senior Center programs, community organization meetings, and Town agency meetings. There may be a need for a temporary committee about space/facility needs and issues. There seemed to be an agreement about having a committee but since that time the BOE hired an engineering firm to do a feasibility study. They have been in to obtain room measurements, etc. R. Skinner commented that their approach to this issue may be detrimental to operations. S. Sedor asked if their proposal would require BOS approval and commented that hiring an engineering firm, and taking measurements, are premature steps. R. Bessel said that this would be hugely disruptive. He has spoken with them and he understands that they are looking at the needs of Town schools but they also need to look at overall Town needs. This would need to be planned and well-orchestrated. T. LeGeyt said that he discussed this with Lou Daniels who is concerned with demographics and the future need for additional space for schools and programs. W. Volovski noted that additional office space will be available in the Town Hall when the Firehouse is built. T. LeGeyt asked about the appointment of the new Superintendent of Schools. R. Bessel said that it was announced on Friday. Dr. Grossman was approved and accepted the offer. R. Bessel read a letter from Taryn Schrager, Parks and Rec Director. She expressed concern about this proposed use of the Community Center. She said it would be impossible to maintain Parks and Rec programs if the proposal goes forward. R. Skinner and R. Bessel will keep a close eye on this proposal.
- The RFP for the Splash Pad closed and no bids were submitted. The RFP for the extension of the bike trail to the Shoppes closed and no engineering firms responded. The Town Hall auditorium HVAC project is currently out to bid.
- The softball field should be operational by spring. Construction progress is being made for the concession stand, dugouts, bleachers, and scoreboard.
- R. Bessel added that commercial construction projects are progressing at the old Mikado Restaurant site and at the new Asian steakhouse restaurant.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: S. Sedor moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 p.m.

Seconded by: W. Volovski

The motion passed unanimously.