

Saugus Board of Selectmen Meeting

January 13, 2023

9:30 AM – Conference Room

This meeting is being recorded.

Chairman Anthony Cogliano opened the meeting. Present Vice Chair Debra Panetta, Selectmen Corinne Riley, Jeffrey Cicolini and Michael Serino. Also present, Town Manager Scott Crabtree.

Town Manager Crabtree: “Real positive news as we were able to secure the purchase of 42 Jackson Street for \$825,000 with the support of town meeting. This purchase may be able to help with the issues of parking for the revitalization of Cliftdale in the future.”

Town Manager Crabtree read into the record the language referencing the purchase of property at 42 Jackson Street, written by town counsel.

Vice Chair Panetta: “When this property is purchased, will it be left vacant?” Town Manager Crabtree explained that the property is vacated. Vice Chair asked for a passing date and was told that, perhaps within 30 days or sooner.

Vice Chair asked for a two-minute recess, chair seconds – all in favor; Motion passes 5-0.

Selectman Cicolini offered the Motion to re-open the meeting; Motion, seconded by the Chair. All in favor, Motion passes 5-0.

Chairman Cogliano asked about future plans for the revitalization of Cliftdale. The town manager explained that plans are being formulated to assess possible mitigation. Selectman Cicolini suggested that a two-tier parking garage could be a possibility.

The town manager stated that parking access is only one part of the problem and if a lively restaurant could come in and create foot traffic, then maybe an ice cream business may open up and now different businesses can build off each other.

Selectman Riley to the town manager: “What is the plan the town meeting voted and will there be a committee formed to vet all the prospective issues?”

Town Manager Crabtree: “We have to look at the bigger picture to move forward. A plan is necessary before we go any further; we need to gather input, figure out a balance to determine what would work and I think businesses versus housing – business opportunities are the best choice for the future.”

Vice Chair Panetta: "There were meetings years ago about revitalizing Clifftondale and not too much ever happened since. In reviewing the Master Plan, Clifftondale was one of the major areas that residents wanted some sort of revitalization. It is exciting but we do need a plan."

Town Manager Crabtree: "I think it is a good idea to get outside opinions initially, offering different perspectives."


Selectman Cicolini: "We should not put the cart before the horse. We need to determine a bigger plan, not just dealing with these two properties. The churches may consolidate in the future based on their future attendance as their parcels are significant. Oftentimes if you make improvements around other areas, some may be interested in selling. We clearly need a plan, and the most recent one was very comprehensive, but we cannot force business owners to make investments in their properties as they make look at their ownership as their source of income. There are a lot of moving parts, but I think it shows the town's commitment because of our significant investment of those two parcels alone."

Chairman Cogliano asked for a Motion to adjourn; meeting ended at 9:47 AM

Selectman Cicolini: "I offer a Motion to adjourn in open session and to go into executive session. Chair seconds, all in favor, Motion passes 5-0. Those going into executive session: Chairman Cogliano, Vice Chair Panetta, Selectmen Riley, Serino and Cicolini along with Town Manager Scott Crabtree for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and will come back into open session. Chair seconds the Motion – all in favor, Motion passes 5-0."

The Chair reopened the meeting in open session. Vice Chair Panetta made the motion to adjourn, seconded by the chair. All in favor, Motion passes 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Janice K. Jarosz, Temp Clerk