

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday, February, 23, 2021
7 PM
Zoom I.D. 8671529423 – Pass Code 241377

Agenda

7:00 PM Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Chairman Cogliano called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Board members stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Chair Anthony Cogliano, Co- Chair Corrine Riley, Selectmen Debra Panetta, Jeff Cicolini and Town Manager Scott Crabtree. Absent Selectman Michael Serino due to a procedure requiring attention. Chairman Cogliano announced that the executive session scheduled for a 6 PM meeting was postponed.

Board members expressed their condolences on the loss of their clerk, Wendy Reed, who passed away suddenly on February 5, 2021. The board also offered their appreciation to Janice Jarosz stepping in as temporary replacement.

Selectman Jeff Cicolini made the motion to accept the application for an All Acholic liquor license from King Crab Juicy Seafood, 180 Main Street and place said application on file; seconded by the Chair. Passed 4-0.

On the request of Mr. Ken Scourtas to be re-appointed to the Saugus Cultural Council, Selectman Cicolini made the motion, and was seconded by the Chair, to appoint Mr. Scourtas to a three-year term to expire on 12/31/23. All Board members expressed their appreciation for his service to the town. Motion passed 4-0.

Selectman Panetta made full disclosure stating her husband is a member of the K of C. She then made the Motion to accept the annual Knights of Columbus Beano license report. Motion seconded by the Chair. Motion passed 4-0.

Selectman Panetta expressed concern over the lack of members serving on the Saugus Disability Commission and suggested an ad be placed in the Saugus Advertiser seeking candidates. Board members agreed. Selectman Panetta made the Motion to accept the report submitted by Marion Dawicki and was seconded by the Chair. Motion passed 4-0.

Citizen Forum: No one on line.

Public Hearings: Selectman Cicolini made the motion, and the Chair seconded, to refer both Henry Street sign placement and Baker Street parking issue to the next selectmen's meeting as both hearings were not properly advertised. Motion passed 4-0.

Town Managers Report:

Town Manger Scott Crabtree stated that the Department of Public Health issued a report last week stating there were 3,490 cases of Covid with 64 deaths in Saugus but the trend is coming down as there were 59 cases with 1 death last week. As of February, there has been 11,050 new cases of Covid in the State. He reminded the public to stay vigilant – wash hands, wear a mask and socially distance. He also stated that in the past month there seems to be a spread of the mutant with three cases in California.

The State has listed Web sites available to make appointments for the vaccine but, due to the small amount allotted to Saugus, there is not enough to fulfill the needs of the community and no more vaccine has been allotted to Saugus, only to the larger communities.

Mr. Crabtree explained that extra staff members have been answering the 400-500 calls made daily to the Town Hall inquiring about making appointments to receive the vaccine and if appointments made do not cancel. Calls are also being returned gathering the age of the person and placing them in the proper list - the elderly first. He offered his apology to the residents of the town but the supply given to Saugus is minimal to the needs. He suggested that people should continue to call the State number, 211, as well.

The State has stopped hospitals from delivering vaccine to candidates. The Housing Authority has partnered with the pharmacies but little vaccine is available in Saugus.

Chairman Cogliano asked the town manger about those trying to get their second shots and was told that second shots need to administered at the same location the first one was given and, also, the State is dealing with the same dilemma. Further the Manager stated that there is no record keeping and no numbers available to project progress made with the distribution.

Co-Chair Riley inquired about record keeping with the two-shot requirement but was told there is no access to the information. She stated that maybe a letter to the State asking if closer locations were feasible as Route One and the Mall would be perfect location. Selectman Cicolini explained that the State has already chosen all the locations. Selectman Riley stated that residents of Saugus need to be protected and maybe other communities and officials could join in signing the proposed letter.

Chair Cogliano asked where the closest sites are and was told Danvers, Natick and Worcester presently. Town Manger Crabtree told the board that a Fire Department in the Cape area regionalized the search and, together made all kinds of plans for citizens to receive the vaccine, but they learned there were no doses available. The State dropped the ball they felt. The Town Manager explained that the supplies are limited and some state sites are now shut down.

Chair Cogliano, Cicolini and Panetta agreed to send letter to Governor Baker and adding state representatives to the endorsement. He stated that he supports the letter but that our state of Massachusetts received an F grade regarding distribution.

Selectman Riley offered to draft the letter requesting additional vaccine sites perhaps at the Mall. Selectman Riley will also contact state representatives to also sign the letter. Selectman Riley moved to send letter, seconded by the Chair – passed 4-0.

Members Motions:

Selectman Panetta commented on the passing of Wendy Reed. “It will be so odd at the food drive without Wendy there. She knew all the history and if you had a question, she had the answers.” On another matter, Selectman Panetta thanked the Kowloon for hosting the Turkey Drop recently and the CC Church at held a clothing drive along with the Masons and Ann Kennedy. For more information on the project contact Terri Leander55@gmail.com or call the Church at 781-233-3028.

Selectman Cogliano thanked both Selectmen Deb Panetta and Corrinne Riley for their participation in both the Kowloon Turkey Drop and the Clothing Drive at the First Congregational Church.

Selectman Riley inquired about the tide gate and asked the town manager for his comments. Mr. Crabtree replied that the project is now at the State level and has nothing on it presently from L. Baker but it is in the works. He will follow through with an inquiry.

According to the Town Manager, the Belden Bly Bridge work is ongoing. Flooding repairs in Pct 10 will take 2-3 years for completion. Project very challenging but the work being done presently will help accumulate points needed to help and support the flooding issues when report has been completed. The Planner is working on it presently.

Selectman Riley reminded the public about the upcoming Food Drive Saturday, at the Saugus Senior Center from 10 AM to 12 PM. She stated that much has been depleted and the Senior Center is in need of replenishing all types of items. Ms. Riley stated; “This will be the first Food Drive without Wendy - she was so good at her job– she is so missed.”

Selectman Riley inquired about the possibility of meeting on March 18th to co-join with the Saugus Cable TV Board in an effort to guide them. Selectman Cicolini explained that, due to the structure of the recent Agreement, Board members should be allowed only two members per meeting without voting privileges.

Chair Cogliano stated the SCTV Board is looking for a little support and he will attend the meeting and if any other Board member would like to join. Town Manager Crabtree stated he will ask Town Counsel for advice.

Selectman Riley asked about the West Side Fire Station report. Town Manger Crabtree explained to the Board that the report has not been finalized as yet. The Fire Chief is presently reviewing it and will be finalizing the Report in the near future.

Selectman Cicolini spoke of the tragic and sudden loss of Wendy Reed. "She was always helping out especially in volunteering at the Food Pantry at the Congregational Church on Essex Street."

Selectman Cicolini also extended his deep appreciation to the Saugus Department of Public Works stating that dealing with wind, rain, and snow throughout the winter, Saugus roads were in great shape despite the difficult and unpredictable weather. The town was down 20-30 contractors but were still able to keep our streets open to traffic.

Town Manager Crabtree explained the difficulty in predicting storms – the rain line and freezing, mixed with snow are challenging. He suggested that when a storm occurs, please stay home!

Selectman Cicolini thanked the Saugus Police Department for their efforts in dealing with parking issues near the Saugus River.

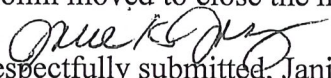
Selectman Panetta echoed the thoughts of Selectman Cicolini in remembering Wendy Reed. "When you had a question, you could always refer to Wendy for the answer. She volunteered at the Food Pantry each week and I will miss her and she will always be remembered. Janice Jarosz trained her in 1998 and the Board appreciates Janice for helping out during our loss of Wendy. I want to also thank the Kowloon for the successful Turkey Drop last Saturday and a special thanks to the First Congregational Church at 300 Central Street for their recent clothing drive along with Ann Kennedy and the Saugus Masons. "Great team work!"

Selectman Cogliano thanked both Selectmen Panetta and Riley for volunteering their time and efforts at both the Kowloon Turkey Drive and the Clothing Drive at the Congregational Church. He also stated that the late Wendy Reed will truly be missed. "I loved her as a friend and as a professional. I will be presenting her family with a check for \$5,000, raised on the Go Fund Me site, organized by Julie Mitchell. I had the opportunity to meet Wendy's children – a wonderful family."

Selectman Cogliano offered an update on 34 Bradford Street. The site was visited by the town manager, Inspectional Services, Fire and Police to assess the issue. The property owner was notified of the serious conditions and has agreed to deal with the needs of the property. Town Manager Crabtree stated that he anticipates work will be done shortly and, if not, further action may be taken.

Selectman Panetta asked about the deplorable condition of Karla's on Broadway and wanted to know what could be done as the property is a fire hazard. The Town Manager explained that the law is different between residential and business zoned property and commented that it is more difficult to work with business zoned property but the Town is aware of the situation and is watching it.

No comments from the public. Selectman Cicolini moved to close the meeting seconded by the Chair. Passed 4-0.


Respectfully submitted, Janice Jarosz, Temp Clerk