

Saugus Board of Selectmen

March 23, 2021 7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 7:100PM.

Chairman Cogliano's dad passed away and Mr. Cogliano will not be in attendance. The Selectmen sent prayers to the family on the loss of Mr. Andrew Cogliano. Roll Call: Selectman Corinne Riley who will serve a Vice-Chair, Selectmen Debra Panetta, Michael Serino, and Jeffrey Cicolini. Also present; Scott Crabtree, Town Manager

Selectman Serino stated that he spoke with Anthony and wished him well. Selectman Cicolini, "I'll echo those comments, very close to family and grew up together, I want them to know we are here for them."

Correspondence: Selectman Panetta moved to accept the resignation of Fatima Allan, a member of the Saugus Cable TV Board of Directors. A letter of gratitude and appreciation for her dedication to be sent. "She put her heart and soul into her position," stated Selectman Panetta. Selectman Serino: "Fatima worked extremely hard and then thanked her for her dedication. Selectman Cicolini praised her for her dedication to the town and her cooking show project. Motion seconded by the chair, Passed 4-0.

Selectman Panetta moved to advertise for the open position on SCTV. Board discussed number of positions – maybe change to 5-7. SCTV board wants to keep it as 5 positions. Riley suggested an alternate placement. Selectman Panetta stated the by-laws would need to be changed. Selectman Cicolini said that it would be a SCTV vote – it is their decision. If they want to take a vote it is their choice.

Mr. Mark Sacco, 16 Westford Street sent a letter 'A vision with a Petition.' Mr. Sacco was present. The letter describes the push to improve the road conditions in the area.

Selectman Cicolini: Given the details, it is something that should be referred to the town manager. He offered a motion to refer the issue to the Town Manager and DPW to come up with a plan that could build the cost into future planning in the Water and Sewer Enterprise Account.

Selectman Serino: "I drove up and down the street and found it in extremely poor condition. I agree contact DPW to put that road on the list to get paved. I came up Pelham Street where signs are needed on the corner of Westford and Pelham Streets. At Westland Avenue, there is an old green sign that needs to be replaced. Western needs come down from Pelham, Westford needs a sign and a sign also at the corner of Pelham Street."

Town Manager Crabtree: I have reviewed the area with DPW and there is more extensive work needed than just repaving due to the storm water issues and drainage. DPW was not aware of the

extent of the drainage problem but it is on the radar. Regarding the Petition, we received calls and there is a lot more involved – drainage issues. Much bigger project than just paving.

Rick Smith TMM Pct. #3. “I met with Mr. Sacco and reviewed the area and most streets recently repaved, and 20-30 potholes patched. I agree with Selectman Cicolini to refer to Town Manager and DPW and to put the issue on a time frame with updates for the neighborhood. “

Selectman Cicolini the asked Manager for a three-month time frame. Town Manager Crabtree stated that they are not going to repave – need to plan for it and place it in the budget. Scott agreed to the three months to review the problem, give updates and move forward with design work. Three months is reasonable as there is quite a bit of storm water issues for scope of it a project - not just repaving. Selectman Cicolini amended his motion to refer Westford Street and adjacent areas to the DPW and have a status update in three months, by the end of June. Seconded by the Chair. Any in favor/Objections? None. Motion passed 4-0.

Mass Housing 40B Hilltop Drive Project: Selectmen Serino made a motion to refer it to the Town Manager for department head comments. Chair seconded: Town Manager explained to the Board that the letter was a formality to the selectmen to give notice. The letter was dated March 5 but was received it on the 11th. We have distributed this to department heads. This project is like the 40B; Department heads will submit concerns under the comment period. Developer notified Mass Housing, then sent notice to us. No site visits yet and would come under the Zoning Board of Appeals technical advice and legal counsel. We are already working on this on behalf of the Town. Selectman Panetta asked the TM about the deadline response of April 7, 2021, where they are requesting comments back and stated she knew it was working through departments and counsel and asked if he preferred that the Board defer to Town Manager - that we don't write a letter or that the Selectmen send a letter in support the recommendations from town manager, department heads and legal counsel.

The town manager stated it would be up to the Selectmen and information will be forwarded based on the proposal. He suggested that the Board be careful not to put things in a letter that might be used in a negative way should the project be denied and appeal to the State, those words could be construed incorrectly.

Selectman Cicolini: “I am publicly stating that I am opposed to this project due to the major development going on now. There is already a 40B in the works. Should this project pass, we are at a disadvantage as we are under 10%. If it should go through, the only good thing – we will reach 10%. If 25 units are affordable out of 300 units, then we get credit for all 300 units. I hope this does not go through. 40B came forward to bring it to the State level and takes it out of our hands. The Town Manager has the right people involved.”

Town Manager: “In the 10% rule, there is a presumption that we don't have enough affordable housing in town. When older families want to downsize, affordable housing works for them and they can stay in their hometown. Seniors are happy when they get into affordable housing.

We are at 6.9%. Essex Landing 7% - Saugus Ridge has not applied for permits. Almost to 9% and once we reach, 10% we will have more control. 40B hearings are bypassed and go right to

the state guild lines. We are prepared for this and know how to partner with the developers to limit the impact the community.”

Selectman Riley asked for further comments, seeing none what is the wish of the Board? All in favor? Passed 4-0. Selectman Cicolini amended to refer to town Manager to take it forward to the Planning and Zoning Boards. Chair seconded. All in favor? 4-0. Passed

Conservation Request: Selectman Serino: I took a ride to Nirvana Drive that has a Conservation easement but not on Oak Point Road. Selectman Panetta agreed and said that she saw the Chairman of the Conservation Commission, Joan Fowler on Zoom. Ms. Fowler stated that she agreed with Frank McKinnon’s recommendation. Selectman Panetta asked the Town Manager to instruct the Clerk for a recommendation from Town Counsel.

Selectman Serino moved to accept the two parcels and to refer to Town Counsel for his review. Chair seconded. All in favor? Passed 4-0.

Citizen Comments: Mr. Rick Smith, 91 Hamilton Street, Town Meeting. Concerns about Route One. “There is a huge trash problem ongoing for several years. They do clean up once a year. I do not think that is enough. Lately, some of these exits are full of yard equipment, trash etc. The state used our exits overnights to store equipment– there is no grass on any of the exits. Town Meeting Members spent a lot of time on Route One – we have done our part especially with zoning issues and thank you Selectman Panetta for getting graffiti removed from Friendly’s.”

Selectman Riley: “We should work with the state delegates and invite them to meet with us.” Selectman Cicolini: “I think it goes more than just writing a letter. It would have more heat if our delegates would sign on to the letter as well.”

Selectman Panetta: “We have asked for help from our delegates in the past.

Selectman Riley: “Do we want to write and invite them to come to work with us on the issues brought up by Mr. Smith?” Selectman Serino agreed with Rick Smith. “Some of those exit ramps are being used for storing construction materials and jersey barriers. They should put trees or grass instead of rubbish and used equipment. I am not sure about a meeting but maybe write the letter as there is more than one thing to discuss. It should be a joint letter, he stated”

Selectman Cicolini offered a Motion to write a letter and have the delegates sign it to let them know what our concerns are and join in dealing with the many issues on Route One. Chair seconded; all in favor/Opposed? No. Passed 4-0.

7:15: Public Hearing: Aggregate Industries, Inc., 1831 Broadway, to extend a Special Permit (S2), to allow for the removal of earth and rock and for the operation of a quarry at Rear Broadway and Whittier Avenue, Assessor’s Plan 2030, Lot A-61, and Assessor’s Plan 2031, Lot A-122, for a period of six (6) months.

Attorney Richard Magnan, 194 Central Street, representing the petitioner, addressed the Board and explained the process. A plan was included, no work done. The issue is subject to the 30 conditions included. Spoke with representative from Aggregate. They did blast, a small one, in Oct of 2020, and there are no plans for any other blasting at thin 2021. A post closer meeting

was held on 9/14/ 20 with Paul Rupp, who represents the Town. Another meeting is scheduled for April of 2021 and not operating the business now. Selectman Panetta was told the last meeting was October of 2020 and no blasting. Selectman Panetta moved to close the public hearing. Motion to extend the Special Permit to allow for the removal and the operation of the quarry for six months with 30 restrictions. Any blasting to be referred to the Fire Department. Chair seconds the Motion. All in favor/opposed? No. Roll Call: Selectmen Serino, Panetta, Cicolini, and Chair Riley. Passed 4-0.

7:30: To amend the Town's Traffic Rules and Regulations: to place a 'Deaf Child' sign at 33 Henry Street or any other action the Selectmen may take.

Jennifer and Sal Lombardi present. Mr. Lombardi: "Many deliveries on street often and daughter cannot hear vehicles. Would like to make drivers aware." Ms. Shauna Antonello, neighbor, 32 Henry Street, requested that a dead-end sign was knocked down and needs to be replaced. Selectman Cicolini referred the matter of the sign to the town manager. Mr. Crabtree inquired as to where it was placed and was told at the beginning of the street.

Ms. Antonello: "The Lombardi's daughter constantly plays in their double driveway."

Lt Art Connors: "The department and Chief have no problem. Sign should read 'Caution deaf child.'" He asked if the family moves, to please notify the Police Department. Selectman Cicolini asked the Lt. for the exact placement of the sign. Lt Connors replied, "At least 20 feet from this property to give the truck drivers and others time to understand the sign. This not a panacea but it gives a warning that a child is deaf."

Town Manager Crabtree drafted a memo for the new sign to the DPW. Selectman Cicolini moved to close the public hearing. Chair seconded. All in favor: Opposed: No. Selectman Cicolini then moved to place the sign and location to be determined by the Police Department. Passed 4-0.

7:45 PM: To amend the Town's Traffic Rules & Regulations to remove the yellow curbing at 11 Baker Street or any other action the Selectmen may take.

Mr. Nick Vincente, 11 Baker Street addressed the Board: "I send my condolences to Selectman Cogliano. They painted the right side, my side of the street yellow and put up No Parking signs, 7 AM – to 5PM on the left side of the street. I have several concerns, and a hardship and hope to remove the yellow and No Parking signs."

Selectman Cicolini: "Inspectional Services does not recommend removing yellow paint on the curbing and read letter dated 11/23 from Police regarding parking in front of home at 11 Baker Street. A site visit was made, and it was recommended that yellow curbing to be removed, and signs remain in place. Selectman Cicolini and Mr. Vincente agreed. Fire Department recommendations remain with no parking, in letter of 11/2/2020. Fire Department stated they want yellow curbing, and no parking signs to remain. Signed Capt. James Hughes.

Selectman Cicolini: "The difference of opinion between the Police and Fire is a concern. We need to come to a common agreement. Does Sweetser Corner have any parking available in that area?"

The Town Manager Crabtree told the Board that the cutout is used for visitor services. Two issues, parking and 11 Baker St. No parking to provide residents at the building any services.

Selectman Cicolini felt that both departments should together decide what the best public safety results would be. Mr. Vincente appreciated the help. Selectman Cicolini thought the yellow line could be removed.

Selectman Panetta thought it was a good idea to have both fire and police departments to find a happy medium and not jeopardize safety.

Selectman Cicolini moved to continue this hearing until a meeting in April or May could come back with a mutual agreement. Chair Riley asked if there were other streets like this. Town Manager said probably but not aware of any. Chair seconded; Passed 4-0.

New Business: Directors Sue Paloma, Donna Sordello, and Bryan Nadeau presented the Saugus Cable TV budget.

Selectman Panetta asked about payroll expenses for staff: Employees 5 fulltime 1 part-time.

Selectman Cicolini stated the budget shows total \$497,602. FY Approved of \$452,602, an extra \$30,000 added in for new expenditures. A Delta there and if you knew the items to make that up? Mr. Nadeau explained that the Board cut the budget \$45,000 and he did not go back to know where to take it. We over budgeted last year because of the unknowns. Employer payroll taxes were overstated but resolved. \$452,602 expected have a leftover balance of \$67,000 and will apply to the request for 2022. 438,680.00 How much are the actual payments per year? \$438,680.00 plus \$371,680. He said he gets nervous because of cable decrease and the number will continue to go down to \$371,680. We need to find ways to save.

Mr. Nadeau thought of rented out part of the rooms to offset the cost. Demands of programming require more employees' services but may be cut or may face layoffs. Selectman Cicolini told Mr. Nadeau to keep an eye on that because of UBIT. Mr. Nadeau told the Board he was going to other facilities to find out how they rent out rooms 85/15 or less if income could trigger the IRS. The Town Manager suggested to plan for the unexpected.

Selectman Panetta was told that everything has be paid functional. If cooking Show continues to be popular, he may come back for more funds. Town Manager asked if there were funds for the equipment at the Waybright and was told no, it is not in the budget. Mr. Nadeau stated that they need permission from the Selectmen for the quote of \$35,249.77 - 4 cameras, joy sticks and installation – all inclusive. The PEG access account is approximately \$500,000.00 and there is a balance left. Fence, landscaping and paving all paid in full. No electric as solar will be used. Selectman Cicolini said that \$20,000 30,000 could be put toward the Waybright.

Mr. Nadeau said it may be close. We can agree to Delta would come out of the PEG access. Town Manager asked two things, want to take this up and give authorization soon while they are

still working and text it. Selectman Cicolini stated it is an easy motion to exhaust the construction account and the rest to come from the PEG access.

Selectman Panetta: "Maybe we need to close the account when all is done. About the utilities, is SCTV paying for all the facilities for the buildings?" Mr. Nadeau: "We are paying all the expenses except \$400.00 a year from the Historical Society as that is what they used to pay and we pick up the rest; building maintenance for the most part, we take care of the cleaning, any damage, and just cleaning common areas not the Historical Society area."

Selectman Serino. "I spoke with Bryan about the budget; I didn't support the last year's budget, but I support this budget this year, but you must be aware that the revenue is going down. I did tour the building, cameras, beautiful, wish you luck and I support the budget."

Selectman Panetta: To Director Donna Sordello and Director Sue Palumbo; "When will you host an open house?" Ms. Palumbo: "It may be in the fall. We have new furniture but waiting to get the outside done." Mr. Nadeau suggested maybe this summer.

Selectman Cicolini: "We are just making a recommendation then it goes to Town Meeting for final appropriation. When all is done, we can close the account. There is an Article here to be inserted and the Town Manager will look to make sure it's correct."

Selectman Cicolini moved to approve \$ 371,680.00 from the PEG access account for operating expenses from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. Further, he stated that \$438,680.00 minus left over of \$67,000.00 and comes to \$371.680.00 for a total budget of \$438,680. 00. Town Manager and Selectman Panetta recommended a separate motion for the cameras. Chair seconds, all in favor? Passed 4-0.

Selectman Cicolini moved to approve and appropriate the total budget for cameras which is all inclusive, and installation of \$35,249.77 not to exceed \$40,000 as outlined, and the money should first exhaust the remaining balance account and any remaining amount to be funded from the PEG access account. Chair seconds, all in favor? Passed 4-0.

Mr. Nadeau informed the Board of \$25,000, put into the PEG access account, a rebate, received through our lighting vendor for the efficient use of electricity.

Old Business:

Selectman Riley inquired about the Cable TV Budget.

Cable Construction Audit: Town Manager stated he is going out to advertise until the end of the month, the 29th, then it will out to vendors - open those sent their quote in, and then select the company for services. Next month someone will be engaged to complete it. There is already a Cable audit in place. Only question is reimbursement.

Selectman Riley asked if the Cable audit that is still going on, can they be allowed to also do the construction audit? Town Manager Crabtree said it makes sense to have another company with no relationship and come in audit only. Selectman Cicolini stated that we should have a company

with no relationship just to look at what was spent and why. The Town will send information over to the Finance Committee.

Tax bill emergency Relief Fund/Committee:

Selectman Riley: "I spoke with Manager about the Bill signed by the Governor. DOR needs approval from the Commissioner. That is where it stands now.

Westside Fire Station: Town Manager Crabtree recognizes that this Board has set this issue as a priority. Operational third location report, just prior to the Pandemic was set but was delayed. Another company was also engaged. The Fire Chief worked with them in editing and finalized and asked the Chief to forward it for a public presentation.

Cable provider Service: Selectman Riley said that a letter went out to other cable companies but received no response. Selectman Cicolini stated it is just going to get worse. They are not going to invest money in cable, they are not expanding small cities and towns as big cities are more profitable and customers are finding cheaper alternatives.

Selectman Panetta attended trade shows and inquired about other cable companies to come to Saugus, but no one has come forward. She said, "We sent letters to all providers; we have done everything we can to bring them in. We are trying. Selectman Serino stated that we licensed RCN in 2000, but they were told Version would not let them use the poles.

Town Manager: Covid Report: There were 67 Deaths in Saugus and 104 new cases from last Tuesday. Our prayers go out to the families. State reported 1,103 newly reported cases, extremely high and climbing. We need to remind people to get the vaccine - Paris was just shut down, US has 4 of the variants that create more harm. He asked the public to be careful and take care.

Minutes of Feb 23, 2021: Selectman Panetta tabled minutes to next meeting. Passed 4-0. Selectman Panetta told the board that Chairman Cogliano appointed both her and Selectman Riley to the Cliftdale Study Committee.

Member's Comments:

Selectman Cicolini offered prayers to Chairman Cogliano's father and expressed thanks to the Town Manager and DPW for taking care of Henry Street.

Selectman Serino: "When will the compost, street sweeping, and leaves programs be opened? Town Manager Crabtree: A Street sweeping press release went out on April 6. We are waiting on the compost and leaves and it will be opening soon. The Town Manager said the fees should be higher but will figure it out. We waived the fees last year for full service.

Selectman Panetta: "I extend my prayers to the Cogliano and congratulations on the new grandchild for our Chairman. Community Master Plan Committee is meeting tomorrow night. Topics include expanded development, transportation, and public facilities - important topics and we need to hear comments from the public. The more who come, the better our Master Plan will be to set goals over the next 15 years. At the Planning Board meeting, they did a mitigation plan

that can be found on the Planning Board website. Congratulations to Nicholas Finny in receiving the Eagle Scout Award from Troop 62."

Town Manager Crabtree encouraged the Public to get involved with the Master Plan Committee and attend the meeting, tomorrow night, March 24th. He stated that goals need to be set. We need long term studies to learn what we want in Saugus. The town has been at a disadvantage for the past 10 years. We can be eligible for state and federal grants. These studies help us so we can move ahead. Board wants to prioritize it and get people to attend.

Selectman Panetta said there are especially important meetings. "It's building a foundation for our future. At the meeting, groups will break out in threes, and get their voices heard." She encouraged people to come and state their concerns.

Selectman Riley sent best wishes to the Cogliano Family, Happy Easter, and Passover, and thanked the board for help and support for her first attempt at chairing the meeting. Selectman Panetta moved to adjourn. Passed 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Janice K. Jarosz, Temp Clerk