

Saugus Board of Selectmen
November 13, 2019

The Saugus Board of Selectmen met on November 13, 2019 at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall First Floor Conference Room, 298 Central Street. Present: Selectmen Jeffrey Cicolini, Debra Panetta, Corinne Riley, Michael Serino and the Chairman Anthony Cogliano. The Town Manager Scott Crabtree was also present.

The Chair called the meeting to order and explained the special meeting is to update the Board and bring the new Members up to speed.

The Manager gave updates:

Police Department:

- the purchase of 4 new cruisers approved by Town Meeting
- finalizing organizational & staffing analysis to use as a guide.

Mr. Serino asked about the rumor of privatizing police. The Manager said no, the Town will use an outside company to evaluate but will still be civil service. Mr. Cicolini asked if the company just makes recommendations. The Manager said yes. Mr. Cicolini asked the time line for hiring a Chief. The Manager said he will know better in a few months. Ms. Riley asked about privatizing other parts of the department. The Manager said no. The Chair asked if there were any thoughts on taking the Chief position out of civil service. The Manager said the police would like to keep it in civil service and right now he is moving forward with a Chief from in-house. The Chair said it's best to hire a Chief and then implement changes. The Chair asked for update by Feb. 1st.

- hired 6 new officers and 2 promotions and in process of hiring additional officers.
- radar speed signs are installed
- police reaccreditation

Fire Department:

- hired 5 firefighters
- struggling on getting dispatchers

Planning:

- The Chair asked if he hired an economic development director. The Manager said it's in process.
- MAPC resiliency climate preparedness grant.

-completed audit on LED street light replacement project. Mr. Serino asked if every street light will be changed. The Manager said yes.

-working on developing a visitors' guide with funding from MA Gaming Community Mitigation Fund & signage / branding.

- working on projects under the Green Communities
- working with Everett, Malden, Lynn & Revere on rail trail crossing improvements
- design & permitting stage on the River Walk Project.

The Chair asked about the bridge. The Manager said he gets updates.

DPW:

- in process of replacing guard rails in golden hills
- finished paving season
- master plan for water main replacement, street paving & sewer
- ACO is coming to an end and have completed inflow/infiltration removal and other requirements. Mr. Cicolini said it seems there are less water breaks and improvements made with MWRA 0% interest loans.

- looking to try to get more roadways accepted.
- in process of putting drainage master plan for storm water
- Elm St drainage area completed and seems to be successful
- TEC report on traffic signage that will be presented to the Board.

Ms. Riley asked about ADA crosswalks. The Manager said they are still installing as we do sidewalk work. Mr. Serino asked if any plans to finish Lincoln Ave. The Manager said yes. Ms. Panetta said there are complaints about speeding and asked if any thoughts on putting the radar signs. The

Saugus Board of Selectmen
November 13, 2019

Manager said they have a trailer radar. Ms. Panetta explained issues with Sterling Ave and the Manager said he would follow-up.

- continue catch basin cleaning.
- safety training for DPW
- design for spring dam is complete
- water meter replacement
- 2 new RTV's

Ms. Riley asked how many DPW workers. The Manager said 13. The Chair asked how it's working. The Manager said it's a balance.

- Working toward implementing a GIS system

School Project:

-will set up a tour for the Board and the project is 60% complete and are working on design for middle school and Vets building renovations. Ms. Riley asked when next Building Committee meeting is. The Manager said he would send notification. Ms. Riley asked how the contingency is. The Manager said going well.

- will have vacant buildings once the conversion is complete we will talk about.

Health Department:

- the interim director has adopted new regulations

Christmas Tree

-the hole is dug and awaiting replacement tree. The Chair asked if Wheelabrator sponsors tree lighting. The Manager said there are many sponsors.

Financial:

- have \$9.2 million in stabilization
- free cash was certified at \$2.1 million
- sewer \$288,000 & water \$1.9 million

CIP:

- Explained the plan development
- Board Members discussed plans completed without a debt exclusion or override.
- west side fire station

Board Members discussed the potential impact of MS/HS project impact and the potential for new vocational school impact. The Manager noted the Town gives double on tax statutory exemptions.

The Chairman said he would like another meeting like this in January.

Mr. Cicolini moved to adjourn. Mr. Serino seconds 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Reed, Clerk