

Saugus Board of Selectmen
Meeting – 8:00 AM September 30, 2021

Present: Chair Anthony Cogliano, Vice Chair Corinne Riley, Selectmen Jeffrey Cicolini, Debra Panetta, and Michael Serino.

Chair opened the meeting and asked for a moment of silence on the tragic loss of Greg Nickolas. "The town lost a devoted friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family."

INVITED GUESTS: State Representatives Donald Wong and Jessica Ann Giannino, Saugus Police Chief Michael Ricciardelli, Fire Chief Newbury, Assistant Fire Chief D'Eon, Representative from Revere Turco.

First order of business is to call and sign the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting on October 18, 2021. Selectman Cicolini moved to accept and sign the Warrant. Chair seconds, all in favor, motion passes 5-0. Selectman Panetta offered the motion to close the Warrant. Chair seconds, all in favor; motion passes 5-0.

Town Manager Scott Crabtree addressed the Board with his concerns about the language of the Warrant article as to whether it is an appropriation article or some form of an authorization article and what the intent is. "I spoke with town counsel and asked him to review it and, as you know, Town Meeting cannot appropriate money for a future date. It does not seem to be a borrowing article as there is no dollar amount. We are moving forward but there are concerns."

Selectman Cicolini: "This issue involved over an hour of discussion at our last meeting when you were not present. We went through this proposed Article in detail and decided that if presented to Town Meeting and the body feels it is not appropriate, they can kick it back. We just wanted to do our administrative duty to put it in.

We discussed it; we read it. I totally agree with what you are stating, Mr. Crabtree but if Town Counsel has questions on that, Town Meeting can kick it back." Mr. Crabtree agreed: "I am not looking to put it back on the Board, only would like clarification so all Boards will have a better understanding rather than have the maker of the Article telling us what we are supposed to do or what their interpretation would be. An example would be a developer telling the Conservation Board telling them what they can or cannot do. We need to have a grasp on where the Town stands; what Town Meeting votes on or how to manage it. By taking no action it is considered constructive approval.

Most people are positive for this project, but it is the price tag and source of funding for it. I have been in communication with state delegates and other cities and towns involved and there are major concerns of the sustainability for thirty-years of an assessment that is out of our operation budget."

Selectman Serino: "Mr. Manager, couldn't we change that language at Town Meeting?" Mr. Crabtree stated yes if it does not change the substance. I spoke with the chair and town counsel, and we will get a little more information on procedures on the statute that governs it."

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Selectman Panetta: "We were told the Northeast Vocational School Committee voted on this September 6, 2021, for this work to be done. If we did not say anything for the next sixty days, that would be giving constructive approval from the town. This Board, by voting to call a Town Meeting, acted instead of no action to allow town meeting to vet the same action that we did at our last Board meeting and have a chance to discuss it. If we didn't do that, they would have received constructive approval and our Board did not want that to happen.

Town Manager Scott Crabtree: "I spoke to several members from several finance committee members, along with several town meeting members and I think they can they are under the impression that they can just refer this back to the maker. That is the legalities and technicalities that we need to know from town counsel and by doing that, it would mean constructive approval. They must take a vote and the issue is a source of funding. Is this a majority vote or is it something like affirmative app. al? It needs to be laid out somewhere within a statute or a procedure in the past. If that is what we are supposed to do. Both the chair and I have asked for further information allowing us to be more informed on the decision making." No further comments from board members.

Town Clerk Ellen Schena addressed the board with the plans to redistrict the town.

Selectman Cicolini: "We had our clerk at our last meeting who stated that we submitted information to the state but have not heard back yet. We then voted 4-1 to accept the town committee that you sit on Mr. Chairman to accept the map which did not differ materially from what the state presented. At our next meeting the following day, the town clerk informed us that she did hear back from the state and now we have the state proposal in acceptance. Can we now vote on the States map? If so, I am fine on accepting the map from the state as presented.

Selectman Cicolini moved to accept the map on redistricting from the state. Chair seconds; all in favor? Motion passes 5-0.

DISCUSSION: Proposed relocation of Methadone Mile, Boston, MA. To Quality Inns, 98 Bennett Highway, Saugus/Revere, MA.

Chairman Cogliano stated that he just heard of this through newspaper articles. No one from the Mayor of Boston contacted the town. No officials in Saugus and Revere object to bringing a Boston problem into Revere and Saugus.

Selectmen Cicolini, Riley, Panetta, Cicolini and Cogliano are unified in being opposed to this. Moving to a highway hotel next to a liquor store, with no access to health issues is a wrong move. There is no transportation access, no kitchen facilities only providing them with a room with a bed.

Police Chief Ricciardelli addressed the board with his concerns. No communications with officials. No knowledge of care services proposed or rehabilitation treatment. Saugus knows nothing about the proposed treatment. Saugus will be overwhelmed. Putting these people on a six-lane highway will cause severe casualties when attempting to cross. Calls for service from our many hotels already places a strain on the services needed.

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This hotel was not built for permanent residents o plan to feed this cliental.

Fire Chief Newbury stated: These issues need regional treatment. "The city of Revere had no knowledge of the plans. It is not in our back yard is not accurate it is in our back yard with serious drug usage and crime. There is nowhere for them to go safely."

State Representative Donald Wong: We just also learned about it through the media. I do not think Boston even had a plan. There were just letting the public that they were doing some. We need solutions. Boston should take care of their own problems."

State Representative Jessica Ann Giannino: "I am honored to stand with my colleagues in objecting to this proposal. "How can someone not in the election come November make this decision? Who gave her the authority and where did it come from? This delegation is going to do everything we can to protect our residents. There needs to be a collaboration in developing a plan for those in need of help,"

State Representative: Rep. Peter Turco stated: "We all have family members suffering drug addiction but many of those in Boston are not seeking help. They made their choices. Boston has allowed this place to continue to grow and because of a lack of will, they are trying to ship this problem off to someone else. The simple solution is to enforce the law. The courts can offer a structured problem for help. It criminal what has been done there. They need medical help. They are killing themselves."

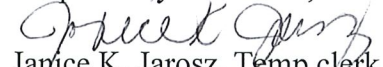
Selectman Riley asked who gave the mayor the authority and allowed the populations continues to grow? Rep Turco stated the policy decisions to needs to be fixed. Rep Giannino stated no one gave permission to the mayor of Boston, they have neglected the problem. Several town meeting members and many residents from Saugus voiced their opposition to this proposal.

Chairman Cogliano thanked everyone who were in attendance and spoke out. "I think its about time our country starts to take care of the people in our country before they care for all the illegals flooding our communities. No way this town will support this and will to everything we can to stop this.

Selectman Panetta moved to approve the minutes of June 25, 2021. Chair seconds, motion passes 5-0.

Ended 1 15.

Respectfully submitted,


Janice K. Jarosz, Temp clerk

