

Saugus Board of Selectmen
February 25, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA
Saugus Board of Selectmen
February 25, 2020 at 5:30 PM
Town Hall Auditorium
298 Central Street
Saugus, MA

5:30 PM Selectmen Goals
Discussion on goals & priorities. –Open forum

7:00 PM FY21 Budget Review
Selectmen's budget recommendations & notice to the Finance Committee

Saugus Board of Selectmen
February 25, 2020

The Saugus Board of Selectmen met on February 25, 2020 at 5:30 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, 298 Central Street. Present: Selectmen Jeffrey Cicolini, Debra Panetta, Corrine Riley, Michael Serino and the Chairman Anthony Cogliano. Selectman Serino arrived at 5:50 PM.

5:30 PM Selectmen Goals

Discussion on goals & priorities. –Open forum

The Chair called the meeting to order and said Selectman Serino will be arriving late and welcomed those in attendance and for showing interest in sharing their ideas. The Chair explained each speaker will be allowed 2 minutes and if there's any time left at the end, may be allowed additional time. The Chair thanked Selectman Riley for putting this together.

Selectman Riley thanked the Board Members for agreeing to have this and said hopefully they will do this again because everyone should have a voice in their government.

Speakers:

Bill Cross, 12 Pearson St, TMMP8, Chairman of the Retirement Board, Chairman of the Public Employee Insurance Committee, and President of Firefighters local and said he is here for a 3rd fire station.

Ron Meuse, 6 Alvah Street, agreed a 3rd fire station is needed.

Dan Kelly, 15 Valley Street & TMMP9, agreed we definitely need a fire station on the west side. The Chair commented that the entire Board has endorsed a 3rd fire station and they need to plan it and budget it. All Board Members agreed.

Richard Lavoie, 20 Central Street & TMMP7, suggested exploring the possibility of a dog park / explore options.

Selectman Cicolini said he supports the idea and said there are hurdles to look into. Selectman Panetta said at a forum a couple of years ago there was interest in a dog park. The Chair said there will soon be 4 schools coming off-line and the areas will be looked into for future use.

Ken Strum, 18 Endicott Street, said the Senior Center needs a custodian and needs a custodian and said the Senior Center is an emergency shelter and has no generator. Selectman Panetta said this came up at their meeting last night on the budget and the Manager the position has been advertised. Selectman Cicolini asked their clerk to see if the Manager would look into temp help to bridge the gap. Selectman Panetta said the Manager told them a top to bottom cleaning was done recently.

Mary McKenzie, 9 Hull Drive, Saugus Public Health Nurse, said her office is housed at the Senior Center said they have been without a custodian for 2 years and noted not only cleaning but snow removal and the point there's no generator.

Mr. Strum said he spoke to the Fire Dept. that said they could put a generator on a trailer but that never happens.

The Chair said he will address this with the Manager.

Jeannie Bartolo, TMMP6, suggested lighting in the Senior Center Parking lot and said we need parking enforcement and graffiti & signs on poles and street lights should be fixed. Selectman Cicolini said the street lights project will be completed in May.

(Selectman Serino arrived at 5:50 PM)

Martin Costello, TMMP 10, said Wheelabrator is a problem and the Board of Health & Selectmen are cognizant of the problems and said closure of the ash pile is important and it's long

Saugus Board of Selectmen
February 25, 2020

overdue. Mr. Costello agreed a dog park is needed and we need a dog officer and the Town Clerk's Office needs some renovations.

Selectman Serino said the Board did have a meeting last night and the Manager is getting positions filled and said regarding Wheelabrator, that they are aware and are on top of it.

Peter Manoogian, TMMP10, commended the Board for coming up with this idea and said an existential threat to Saugus is rising sea water and would like to see the Town take a lead on restarting the regional flood gates project that was proposed by the Army Corp. of Engineers noted this project will protect 5,000 homes and benefit 4 communities and said the Engineer that worked on this project is willing to make presentation to the Board.

The Chair said it could be put on an agenda in April. Selectman Riley said the presentation was very informative and said it's not an easy fix and will take time but East Saugus needs to be protected.

Selectman Cicolini said he lived in that area for 20 years and have witnessed the devastation. Selectman Serino said he supports any options to help with flooding in East Saugus. Selectman Panetta said at the all-day awareness meeting, flooding was the number 1 issue.

Mr. Manoogian said another issue is the Ballard School and thanked the Board for addressing his previous complaints and said the school zone light is damaged and the neighborhood is effected by the abandoned building and said by Charter a committee may be formed by Town Meeting or the Selectmen and it's time to get input from residents and start the process. Mr. Manoogian said another issue are sidewalks and explained there used to be a Sidewalk Committee and plans were completed for Lincoln Ave but one section not done and would like to see that project started.

Bob Palleschi, TMMP7, asked if the school buildings, if we will be selling them or is there a plan and agreed it is important they not let them just sit vacant and agreed with continuing the flood gate project.

Selectman Serino said he would like to see a master plan first and public hearings on the vacant buildings and personally doesn't want to sell them. Selectman Cicolini said the master plan will take 12-18 months and he will also not support any movement on the buildings or support them being sold and would like to see input from residents. Selectman Panetta said she has said from the start of the school building project that we would need to have public hearings on buildings use and is not in favor of selling.

Shawn Ayube, TMMP7, said another abandoned building he wished could be addressed is Carla's Shoe's on Rte. 1 and feels there should be something that can be done; and said another issue is the playground at Lynnhurst.

Bill Bateman, 11 East Denver Street, said the Evans School is a mess.

John Andreucci, 14 Norman Road, said he was happy to see the Board is looking for other TV providers and thanked the Board.

Selectman Serino said in the early 200's the Board did License RCN but they never came.

Gene Decareau, 388 Central Street, thanked the Board for allowing people to talk and said transparency in the budget with breakdowns so public can see and understand it. Mr. Decareau said he would also like to see job descriptions and said the Charter Committee did a survey and we need to itemize what people do and any stipend; and said he wants fairness which is most important part of management; and negotiations, if come to an agreement should be signed; and said rules in the community should be the same for everyone and all should be treated the same.

Joe Vecchione, TMMP2, 31 Wamesit Avenue, said the Revere Planning Board held a meeting this evening on the Caddy Farm Development and it has been continued for 60 days and urged the Town to be proactive. Mr. Vecchione said he sent a letter to the Board outlining his concerns and importance for

Saugus Board of Selectmen
February 25, 2020

a master plan, Cliftdale Square study has been stalled 3 years and when studies are done there should be measurers to implement; and agreed a dog park is needed and is willing to serve on a committee. The Chair said Caddy Farm seems to have a simple solution to resolve and think with the right people at the table it can be resolved. Selectman Panetta said the developer promised a conceptual plan would be sent to the Town, but the Town and once it's received, the Manager wants to sit down with them. The Chair said Revere has gone out of their way to accommodate our need to protect Saugus. Selectman Panetta agreed.

Bob Davis 8 Holden Avenue, 8 Holden Avenue, said a committee was formed to make streets safer and the results were lit up speed signs and doesn't want this to fall through the cracks. Selectman Panetta said it has been budgeted for police officers for traffic enforcement. Selectman Cicolini said 4 officers are at the academy now and then 2 or 3 will start the academy.

Bill Brown, TMMP6, also had concern with traffic and enforcement and questioned the location of the speed signs and believes in education, enactment & enforcement. Selectman Panetta said the consultant suggested locations for the signs and they are not permanent and can be moved. Selectman Serino said the signs don't only flash your speed but they also collect data and said Central Street has different speeds. Selectman Cicolini said there were 8 different speed zones on Central Street and the Board changed them to 30MPH to be more consistent and said phase II will be additional traffic studies.

The Chair said they allotted to 7PM for this forum but will allow additional time.

Marie Tringali, 1 Fox Hollow Drive, said she called Town Hall and was told she was "on the list" and just wants her sidewalk fixed and it's been 4 years. Selectman Cicolini asked their clerk to push this through DPW.

Ms. Tringali said Parkway Drive is a throughway and you can't see the signs and need the speed lowered.

The Chair said they will look into it. Selectman Serino said they tried to get a light but it's a State road and it was denied.

Carol Andrucci, 14 Norman Road, expressed concern with the high rate of the flu and said the Town needs to be prepared for the corona virus; and said there are only 5 custodial positions in Town and only 3 custodians.

Chris Riley, 7 Oceanview Avenue, TMMP2, thanked the Board for holding this meeting and offered a few comments: revitalization of Cliftdale Square & need for Economic Development Coordinator; transparency –would like to see the Board's policies on the website; town budget there's no context for the line items; Hillco Development was a great idea but at that hearing several people commented that our Zoning By-Laws were antiquated so we should try to adjust them; and the need to get the cost of health care benefits under control and said the Finance Committee conducted a study and should be addressed.

Selectman Cicolini said insurance would need to be a give and take with the unions and said some receive less pay for good benefits and said the Board discussed conducting a salary survey.

Rick Smith, 91 Hamilton Street, said after the shootings, he would like to see an update to our robo-call system to advise residents if an act of violence should occur; said street cleaning could be done more often; and is in full support of an enforcement officer. Selectman Cicolini said it was a priority of the Board at last night's meeting to fill vacancies including the code enforcement.

Saugus Board of Selectmen
February 25, 2020

Helen, 21 Eustis Street, said Anna Parker was built up which led to 2 problems, yards are flooding and the fence is leaning and rusted; and regarding health benefits she agrees.

Ann Kennedy, 15 Marshall Avenue, said she walks a lot and said the cemetery is a dumping ground and disgrace and asked why put new gates if they don't close them. The Chair said they will look into it. Selectman Cicolini said they discussed last night and are looking to put cameras.

Bob Long, TMMP9, said he's concerned with traffic & cars running red lights; vacant schools; and west side fire station.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming, it was a great turn out and great dialogue and thanked Selectman Riley and the entire Board.

7:00 PM FY21 Budget Review

Selectmen's budget recommendations & notice to the Finance Committee

The Chair said the Board did vote their budget recommendation at last night's meeting so no further action is needed.

Selectman Panetta moved to adjourn. Chair seconds 5-0.
Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Reed, Clerk