

Town of Dudley

Board of Selectmen, Highway and Cemetery Commissioners

Monday, March 18, 2024 @ 7:00pm

Dudley Municipal Complex

71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571

Room 321A

Approved 4/1/2024

Some matters have been taken out of agenda order but were typed up in agenda order for ease of locating information when necessary.

Open Public Meeting, Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. The Chairman stated that this meeting is being recorded.

In attendance were the Honorable Kerry Cyganiewicz, the Honorable John Marsi, the Honorable Mark Landry, the Honorable Steven Sullivan and the Honorable Jason Johnson. Also present were Jonathan Ruda, Town Administrator and Michelle Jervis, Assistant Town Administrator.

1. Public Business:

- a. **Ed Bazinet, Chairman of the Historical Commission, came before the Board to ask permission to name the dye house property off of Ardlock Place Centennial Park for the town's Tricentennial Celebration in 2032.** He would like to submit a grant and start fundraising efforts and secure design concepts. He recently spoke with Mike Radner, the architect hired by the Town to design the Town Common project and he is very interested. The funds would come from businesses and families who worked in the Stevens Mill. He stated that park would be like the one in Webster along the river off of Main St. He will need lighting, electricity, and water. It is more private than the one in Webster and would be a cultural asset to Dudley. All agreed to table this until our next meeting and will send over several questions and concerns they have on the project to Mr. Bazinet.
- b. **Sean Bowes – Request a toll booth for Pan Mass Challenge Fundraiser** – John Marsi motioned to approve the toll booth request for Sean Bowes for Saturday, June 1, 2024, with a rain date of Saturday, June 8, 2024 for the Pan Mass Challenge Fund Raiser. Steven Sullivan seconded. Unanimous 5-0.
- c. **Richard Carmignani – Toll Booth Request for Knights of Columbus** – John Marsi motioned to approve the request for a toll booth on Saturday, September 28, 2024, with a rain date of Saturday, October 5, 2024 for the Knights of Columbus fundraiser. Mark Landry seconded. Unanimous 5-0.
- d. **Treasurer/Collector and Principal Assessor – Tabled from 3/11/24. Debt Exclusion calculation to pay for school capital costs as approved by voters on 9/6/22 for Dudley's portion of the costs and answer any relevant questions** – Lisa Berg, Principal Assessor, participated remotely. She stated that she is working on a 15-year breakdown with \$1.95

increase in the tax rate for each year of the debt exclusion. As we decrease each year the taxes would decrease as well. You have to understand the assessed values are still going up so the tax rate goes down. Annual increases are the last column of the handout and these are estimated since she does not have the numbers for FY25. Steven Sullivan stated that these are our financial people, and we rely on their figures. The roof project was approved but with no funding. If it doesn't pass the town will have to deal with it. The cost would be \$348,150.81 and is a 15-year debt exclusion. Steven Sullivan motioned to approve that the following debt exclusion language be included on the June 10, 2024, election ballot and transmit the authorizing vote to the Town Clerk. " Shall the Town of Dudley be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition Two and One-half, so called, The town's share of the amounts required to pay for the costs of roof repairs to the Dudley Middle School Building, upgrading fire alarm panels and devices throughout the Dudley's School facilities, replacing and installing cameras and video infrastructure, upgrading radio communications, conducting an architectural review of Dudley's School buildings, and paying related professional fees associated therewith, and including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, as approved by the majority of voters ballot vote at the September 6, 2022 Dudley-Charlton Regional School District Election?" Yes or No and provided, further, that said questions shall be deemed approved if by a majority of the persons voting shall vote "yes". Jason Johnson seconded. Unanimous 5-0.

2. Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Ruda reported the Opioid Settlement money we recently received. The town meeting authorized setting up as a separate stabilization account for qualifying expenditures of money coming from the National class Action Suit for Opioid Settlements. On Friday, the town was notified of the following disbursements as part of the settlement: Walgreens – Payment 1 for \$656.83, Walgreens Payment 2 for \$433.55, Teva Payment 1 for \$454.92, CVS payment 1 for \$559.85, Allergan Payment 1 for \$503.36, Walmart Payment 1 for \$4,433.19 and Distributor Payment 1 for \$758.55 for a total of \$7,800.25. Information about the acceptable uses of the funds can be found online at the Substance Addiction Bureau of the Commonwealth's Office of Health and Human Services. Another matter is that we received our final financial audit report for the year ending June 30, 2023, on Friday and it is posted on our website. Soon we will be publishing and advertising for our April 8th meeting the opportunity for the kids to come in and help choose the type of replacement playground equipment that they would like to see the town include in it's application to the Commonwealth's Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program. Michael Radner, the architect that was hired using some of the funds that were donated to the playground fundraiser will be on hand to talk about the playground project and hear first-hand what type of equipment that the children of Dudley would like to see and this would be included in the grant application that opens in April. If successful we could get up to \$400,000. John Marsi motioned to accept the Town Administrator's Report. Mark Landry seconded. Unanimous 5-0.

Departmental Communications:

Chief Karlowicz stated that his department has received a generous anonymous donation of \$50,000 to resurrect the K-9 program. They would like to get a bloodhound and the biggest cost is startup.

Richard Carmignani brought to the Board's attention the passing of Dick Conley, who was active in the community and veteran and a past water/sewer commissioner.

Adjournment/Executive Session: Mark Landry motioned to adjourn at 7:40pm and to convene into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A§21(a)(6)-To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property as declared by the chair that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body and MGL. Chapter 30A§21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on bargaining or litigating position of the public body as also declared by the chair (sewer employee grievance) and not to reconvene into public session.

Roll Call Vote:

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

John Marsi, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

Mark Landry, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Jervis

Assistant Town Administrator

Cc: documents discussed or/and voted on:

Debt Exclusion Question – tabled for 3/18/24.