

Town of Dudley
Board of Selectmen
Finance, Appropriation and Advisory Committee
June 25, 2022 @ 6:30pm
Dudley Municipal Complex
71 West Main Street
Dudley, MA 01571
Room 321A
Approved 8/8/2022

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

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:

Honorable Vice- Chairman John Marsi opened the meeting at 6:35pm. In attendance were Honorable Mark Landry. Honorable Steven Sullivan and Honorable Kerry Cyganiewicz. Honorable Jason Johnson was absent.

2. Consent Agenda:

Kerry Cyganiewicz motioned to accept the minutes of July 11, 2022. Mark Landry seconded. Vote 3-0-1 with Steven Sullivan abstaining.

Kerry Cyganiewicz motioned to appoint John Cunningham to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. Mark Landry seconded. Unanimous 4-0.

Kerry Cyganiewicz motioned to approve the remaining Consent Agenda which encompasses appointing Jo Ann Brinker to the Cultural Council with a term to expire June 30, 2025, Appointments to the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee: Linda Lorkiewicz, David Harrigan, Edward Bazinet, Jo Ann Brinker and Richard Clark with William Scanlan and Jeff Murray as Ex-officio members and no term limits. Mark Landry seconded. Unanimous 4-0.

3. Public Regulatory and Compliance Update:

Weston and Sampson and MassDEP – Mary Jude Pigsley, Central Regional Director for MassDEP along with Sean Healey and Rob Bukowski from Weston and Sampson, an engineering and environmental service who has been testing the private wells abutting the landfill, came before the Board. Ms. Pigsley thanked Mr. Ruda for his invitation tonight to update the public so that there is no miscommunication on this project. She stated that the town signed an Agreement to install solar panels on the capped town landfill a few years ago. This required a permit from MassDEP, and it brought to their attention that the town was not in compliance monitoring/testing the landfill. Since then, the Town has been proactive with testing. Ms. Pigsley stated that in 2020 PFAS was found in the drinking water in Dudley. This chemical is a contaminate and is in everything. Called a “forever chemical” since it is in fire foam, Teflon, and even in the lining of microwave popcorn bags. It is one of the strongest chemical bonds in chemistry. The town tested, blending the water and in the process of installing a new well site. Since the town started the process early for borrowing the funds for these expensive projects, we are ahead of the curve. Mass DEP is trying to find out where the chemicals are coming from and have asked for a Request for Information. Since the landfill was not monitored for years, which is not uncommon and that there are many landfills in Massachusetts not monitored, they have required the town to test the private wells that are 600 feet from the landfill located on Eagle Drive. Weston and Sampson are testing these wells. Out of the 34 homes on Eagle Drive and Fairview Ave, 31 have been tested. Mr. Healey provided the board

with a table showing what homes have been tested. They are monitoring ground and surface water as well. The first table, figure 1, showed the well samples done last October and November 2021.

The second was in March of 2022 and a few weeks ago in July 2022. The green dots signify non detect PFAS homes, yellow – less than (<) 10 parts per trillion, which is good. The orange dots signify is less than (<) 20 parts per trillion, which is standard, and the red dot is more than (>) 20 parts per trillion, which is a high concentration home near Gentex Optics. Along with testing the wells they are doing hydrogeological testing, looking for “nature and extent” of the contamination. They have a lot of work to do. The residents in the subdivision have been very cooperative and Gentex will be submitting a plan by September 2, 2022. The house in red, 63 Eagle Drive, has been receiving bottled water from the town and we have asked other residents affected by the testing if they want bottled water as well. Mary Jude Pigsley stated that in the fall there will be 34 states in the USA in noncompliance, there will be demands for parts and testing and Dudley is fortunate to have started the process. Kerry Cyganiewicz questioned on why the one red dot house is the only house in the subdivision showing higher concentrates of PFAS? Rob Bukowski stated that the well was installed using direct displacement high pressure pumps (hydrofracking) to inject water under high pressure into the bedrock for the well. It was widely used in 1990s. Water is carried through the fractures and the home is close to the Gentex lot. The Board thanked all for the information.

4. **Citizens’ Comments:** n/a

5. **Town Administrator’s Report** – Intern Olivia Antonson presented the Town Administrator’s report. Ms. Antonson will be greatly missed as she leaves Dudley to pursue her master’s degree in Indiana the first week in August. The following bullet points were reported and discussed:

- Updated the Open Space, Conserved Land and Protected Land Report which is in the Selectmen’s packet. Olivia reported back in April on Chapter Land (61, 61A, 61B) and APR land in Dudley. Chapter 61A land reflects those 3,758.51 acres or 26% of Dudley total land is Chapterland.
- Worcester Woo Sox – An intern from the WooSox contacted our office and is interested in getting involved with Dudley. This involvement is usually related to future events with the park and recognition. The biggest example of involvement is “Town Takeovers”, new in 2022. A town is invited to a game a Polar Park where residents, local nonprofits and local businesses are honored in the pregame ceremonies and in game activities. There will be a special link for resident’s ticket sales and \$5 of each ticket would be towards a Dudley nonprofit.
- Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) – Olivia and Jon Ruda met with Geraldo Maldonado, QCC Southbridge Site Leader, to discuss degree and certificate options offered by QCC at their Southbridge campus located in Southbridge High School. The conversation was QCC’s Center for Workforce Development and continuing Education and feels this is a valuable asset to the town.
- Playground at the Dudley Municipal Complex – The Dudley Woman’s Club, a well-established Charitable Organization in Dudley has agreed to spearhead the fundraising efforts to cover the costs of renovation and replacement of equipment at the Carmignani Memorial Funzone Playground, locate outside the Dudley Town Hall. This playground is an important part of our community and has been for many years. The quote we received stated that the repair and replacement costs are around \$380,000. This is major fundraising project, but she is confident that the Dudley Woman’s Club will be successful in this endeavor. They have already received a pledge of \$10,000 donation from a business in town. If anyone watching this wants to donate you can visit www.dudleywomansclub.org/playground and there is a link to a PayPal donation page.

- **Dudley Sign Design Contest** – The Town received a grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust to fund a new sign where the existing sign is outside the town hall. Town staff members were split into three groups, she met with each group last week to brainstorm design ideas. Each group came up with a design for the new sign. Dudley residents will be able to vote on their favorite sign at the primary election on 9/6/22. The winning design will become the new Dudley Town Hall and Police Headquarters Sign.

6. Public Hearings:

- Pole Petition from National Grid – No. 30583971 – Sawmill Road, Dudley, MA** - The Public Hearing opened at 7:37pm – No attendance from a representative from National Grid. All agreed to keep the Hearing opened until our next meeting on August 8, 2022.
- Public Hearing – Secondhand Vehicle License – Class II – 16-18 Southbridge Rd., Dudley, MA – owner Stephen Zeveska** – The Public Hearing opened at 7:38pm. Mr. Zeveska stated that he has purchased the property and would like to sell a few cars on the lot. Bob Hill, 15 Southbridge Rd., an abutter, came before the Board with concerns about how many cars he will have on his lot. Nelson Burlingame, Building Commissioner, provided a letter showing 4 vehicles will be suitable for the lot. Any more will need a site plan review. Mr. Hill was agreeable to the application. The Public Hearing closed at 7:43pm. **Steven Sullivan motioned to approve the Application for a Secondhand Vehicle License to Stateline Enterprises, LLC located at 16-18 Southbridge Rd and owned by Stephen Zeveska. Kerry Cyganiewicz seconded. Unanimous 4-0.**

7. New Business:

- State Primary Warrant and Special Election Warrant – Kerry Cyganiewicz motioned to approve the State Primary Warrant on 9/6/2022. Mark Landry seconded. Unanimous 4-0.**
- Steven Sullivan motioned to approve the Special Election Warrant for 9/6/2022. Kerry Cyganiewicz seconded. Unanimous 4-0.**
- Lori Smith, Town Clerk – Update on changes in election requirements** – Ms. Smith stated that in June an election reform law titled “The VOTES Act” was signed into law in Massachusetts. It changes who is responsible for assigning police officers at polling places. It is now the responsibility of the Selectmen to assign police officers to polling places, which was once her responsibility. She recommends that the Selectmen designate the Police Chief to be compliance with the new law. **Kerry Cyganiewicz motioned to approve a sufficient number of police officers, but not less than 1, at the polling location at every election therein to preserve order and to protect the election officers and supervisors from any interference with their duties and to aid in enforcing the laws relating to elections, as required by Section 72 of MGL Chapter 54 which was changed in the “Vote Act of 2022”. Further, I move to designate the Police Chief the authority to assign specific police officers according to scheduling and availability. The Town Clerk will advise the Police Chief on the location and time and the number of officer(s) needed. Mark Landry seconded. Unanimous 4-0.** Ms. Smith also reviewed the new early voting for all elections. She stated that this new voting is a large financial burden on her budget and workload in her office. She will need to send out the ballots by mail (new postage rates have been recently introduced) as well as hire multiple part time people to help in her office. The law states that the Selectmen can opt out of a local election by voting 45 days prior to said election or pay the costs for the early voting. We are planning on having an override question placed on a 12/12/22 election to pay the additional funds the DCRSD will be assessing the town. Jon Ruda stated that we need to have this override. The town needs additional staffing, and the budget is tight. Also, we need a Public Health Agent for additional hours which will be an added cost.

8. Old Business:

Town Administrator's (TA) Final Evaluation for FY22 – Final Rating – John Marsi stated that the evaluation is a 4-point scale with four categories, each 25% of the total. Ratings for each category are numbered 1-4 with 4= exceeds/expectations; 3= meets expectations; 2= satisfactory and 1= unsatisfactory. Chairman Johnson submitted his review for the record prior to the meeting.

1. Professional, Responsibility and Presentation: With the goal of maintaining a professional trust with the Board of Selectmen and Town meeting,

Steven Sullivan – 4 – Exceeds Expectations – In the unprecedented last two years of COVID the TA has gone above and beyond to keep the trust with the Selectmen and the residents, ensuring that all town objectives have been met. When the board has a question for the TA outside his scope of knowledge or responsibility, he gathers the info from the appropriate authority or has the appropriate authority present to the Selectmen.

John Marsi – 4 – Exceeds Expectations – Jonathan continues to overachieve at maintaining trust with the Selectmen and the Town Meeting. He has grown with his role as TA and takes extra steps on his responsibilities.

Kerry Cyganiewicz – 4 – Exceeds Expectations – Jonathan is always well prepared, used technology well and takes his position very seriously.

Mark Landry 3 –Meets Expectations – Mr. Landry stated that since he is coming from the FAA and CIP and new to the Board, he viewed the TA role differently. He understands the heading but whenever he has any questions, he goes to Jonathan who takes time to get the answer.

Jason Johnson – 4 – Exceeds Expectations – The TA exceeds at ensuring the Board is in communication with him or subject matter experts in all matters. The TA is prepared for questions at Town Meeting. The TA executes based on his interpretation of the Boards wishes.

2. Communication with the Board of Selectmen: With the goal of successfully managing the flow of information that is relevant and important to the Board of Selectmen, and information that is irrelevant, unactionable and inappropriate is handled below the Board of Selectmen level.

John Marsi – 4 – Exceeds Expectations – Jonathan was in constant contact with me as last year's Chairman. He excels in keeping the BOS up to date in real time and during regular meetings.

Steven Sullivan – 4 – Exceeds Expectations – Jonathan does an excellent job organizing incoming correspondence and documentation. He ensures that any relevant material is provided and also provides all documentation for selectmen review in OneDrive.

Jason Johnson – 4 - Exceeds Expectations – Jonathan is in constant contact with me to ensure we have dialogue on the direction I wish to take on items. The TA communicates well formally and verbally in most avenues. He informs the Board members of impending issues and his needs for direction.

Mark Landry – 4 – Exceeds Expectations – He agrees about the One Drive and the information Jonathan submits. Excellent communication with members of the Board.

Kerry Cyganiewicz –4 - Exceeds Expectations – Jonathan shares the information I need to make the right decision. He has taken technology to a new level.

3. Fiscal Management: With the Goal of successfully establishing, developing, and managing the Town's budgeting processes:

Jason Johnson – 4- Exceeds Expectations – The TA coordinates the creation of a budget that is on time, very accurate, and allows for meeting the town requirement, legal obligations and when possible unexpected costs.

John Marsi – 4 – Exceeds Expectations – Jonathan navigated a very difficult budgeting season, particularly around the DCRSD with professionalism and a sense of urgency. His creativity in working with the department heads was outstanding.

Steven Sullivan – 4 – Exceeds Expectations – Jonathan prepared the budget in a timely and orderly manner and presented an easily interpreted document for review and approval. Also, works with department heads and DCRSD in regarding to federal COVID relief funds.

Mark Landry – 4 – Exceeds Expectations – Agrees with the other members that his budget, looking at it as a FAA member, was outstanding.

Kerry Cyganiewicz – 4 – Exceed Expectations – Jonathan is able to demonstrate his ability to adapt to unforeseen changes in his budget recommendations throughout the course of the fiscal year. He rolled with updated school figures and adjusted the amounts to balance the budget.

4. Revenues derived from other sources: With the goal of establishing other sources of funding outside of local taxation:

The

John Marsi – 4 – Exceeds Expectations – Jonathan received over 12 million of award grants in the last four years. \$600,000 in 2022 alone. He pushes for money that the town needs to address many issues.

Jason Johnson – 4 – Exceeds Expectations – The TA does an excellent job working with State, Federal and Private sources of funding including programs and grants designed to fund programs that would otherwise be paid by the Town.

Steven Sullivan – 4 – Exceeds Expectations – Jonathan provided four years of grants received and 2022 was second highest in his tenure. New security is installed at town facilities providing for better security of not only equipment and IT, but also ensuring safety for staff and the public. These upgrades are all provided through direct application or collaborative process of the TA.

Mark Landry – 4 – Exceeds Expectations –the list of grants is long, great work and should be commended.

Kerry Cyganiewicz – 4 – Exceeds Expectations – Jonathan did an excellent job working with grants.

Total Points: 3.95 out of 4.

Steven Sullivan motioned to accept the FY22 Final Evaluation for Jonathan Ruda, Town Administrator. Kerry Cyganiewicz seconded. Unanimous 4-0.

Jon Ruda thanked the Board and would like to move forward with his FY23 appraisal. The Selectmen will have to come up with his goals and objectives, so the next step is the planning phase which he is requesting to be completed by 9/1/22. John Marsi stated we should assign a committee. This topic will be on the next agenda.

9. **Board Comments:** All members thanked our intern Olivia Antonson for all her work this past year. She has been a asset to the Town and will be greatly missed.

10. **Department Communication:** Deputy Chief Konieczny stated that last week paramedics were dispatched to a man who was unresponsive and not breathing. With the help of our paramedics and performing CPR he is now home and resting. Quick response time and full paramedic service is the direct result of the hard work of Chief Kochanowski.

George Patrinos stated the central Massachusetts is in a level 3 drought. No watering of lawns, washing vehicles, etc and fines will be imposed.

Richard Carmignani, Treasurer/Collector stated that after the spring town meeting he received approval from Locke and Lord, the bond company regarding the fire truck and Partridge Hill Rd. Steven Sullivan asked about the police cruisers and the brine machine bonds and Mr. Carmignani stated that he is waiting for compliance letter. He rolled the amounts for these purchases into one bond amount.

11. **Adjournment:** Steven Sullivan motioned to adjourn at 9:18pm Mark Landry seconded. Unanimous 4-0.

Respectfully submitted
Michelle Jervis, Administrative Secretary

**** Documents physically identified, discussed, or considered by the Board:**

Draft minutes of 7/11/2022:

Draft of minutes of 7/11/2022

Employee Performance Evaluation Form for Jonathan Ruda

State Primary Warrant

Special Election Warrant

Changes in Election Requirements letter from Town Clerk

Early voting information from Town Clerk

Application for Pole Hearing – National Grid – Sawmill Rd.

Application for a Class II License – Stateline Enterprises, LLC

Letters of Intent for John Cunningham, CIP, JoAnn Brinker, Cultural Council and newly organized Open Space and Recreation Plan members

Town Administrator's Report – O. Antonson