

**Select Board Meeting
December 16, 2024 – 7:00 PM
Sanford Hall
155 Village Street**

Present: Frank Rossi, Chair; Todd Alessandri, Vice-Chair; Dennis Crowley, Clerk; Glenn Trindade, Member.

Absent: Maryjane White, Member.

Staff Present: Michael Boynton, Town Manager; Allison Potter, Assistant Town Manager; Fire Chief Jeffrey Lynch; Julie Harrington, Parks and Recreation Director; Fire Chief Jeff Lynch; Deputy Fire Chief Mike Fasolino; Firefighter/Paramedic Alyssa Perella; Police Chief William Kingsbury; Police Sergeant Tony Nigro; Peter Pelletier, Department of Public Works (DPW) Director; Barbara Saint Andre, Community and Economic Development Director; Sandra Johnston, Communications Director.

Others Present: Young Hero Award: Bellah Hewitt, award winner, Kerry Ann Harris mother; Medway High School Field Hockey: Coach Brenda Talamini, Coach Kelly Sotsky, and Team Members Shaw O'Neill, Ciara Maloney, and Mikaela Gales; Tri-County Vocational Technical High School Football Team: Athletic Director, Sara Martin, Head Coach Andy Gomes, Assistant Head Coach Rob McCoy, Medway Team Member Bradley Fitzgerald, Team Captains Jack Disharoon, Charlie Rouhana, and Alden Welch-Tyree; Planning and Economic Development Board (PEDB): Andy Rodenhiser, Chair, Sara Raposa, Vice-Chair, Timothy Harris, Clerk, John Parlee, Member; Alison Dempsey, Agricultural Committee Chair.

At 7:00 PM, Mr. Rossi called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Medway High School Field Hockey Team's 2024 Record

Mr. Rossi read the e-mail excerpt verbiage from the Select Board meeting packet. The coaches and students introduced themselves. The varsity has 21 players and junior varsity (JV) has 16 sixteen players. They noted some on JV moved back and forth to varsity. The students explained how they are building the team and felt their relationship is what brought them to the final four. It was noted they were seeded fifteenth but made it to the final four. They had beat three teams, Nipmuc, Dedham, and Medfield. The Board thanked the efforts of the coaches and students.

Recognition of Bellah Hewitt – Medway Young Hero—Awaiting info from Mom for Proclamation

Mr. Boynton explained the situation related to the call into the Fire Department and the high levels of carbon monoxide in the home. Mr. Trindade read the proclamation. Ms. Hewitt stated she was very proud of her daughter. Bellah stated she was very afraid when she heard the alarm. Bellah is in the fifth grade, and she thanked the Board for her recognition.

Recognition of Tri-County Vocational Technical High School's Football Team's 2024 Vocational High School Superbowl Win

Coach Gomes noted two of the Medway students are at basketball and another could not make it. They started off this season with four wins and one of the captains stated this season was similar to last year noting there were rough patches which came and went. This team was able to overcome these rough patches. The Athletic Director stated their goal is to develop students who are employable noting this experience will help them in the future. Coach McCoy stated they are very proud of their players based on all that they have to manage during the day. Coach Gomes stated all of their games were on the road except for one. This was the first time that Tri-County won this Superbowl. The Select Board stated they were proud to have them at the meeting and they should also be very proud of this accomplishment. It was noted there are two games to make it to the Superbowl and it was at Blue Hills High School under rental lights, and they were their opponent both last year in the Superbowl in which they lost and this year when they won.

Public Comments:

Tracy Stewart stated on behalf of the Tri-County School Committee she is reporting on the recruitment challenges. She stated the state is trying to implement a blind lottery for the admission process. She explained the history of the meetings with the legislators to date. The goal was to determine the criteria for admission across vocational schools. She noted the Board of Education is now addressing this issue. She noted the inaccuracy of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) data. Mr. Boynton stated not all vocational school districts agreements are the same noting Tri-County's agreement is driven by student ratio for each community. He asked Ms. Stewart about the financial impact to Medway of a blind lottery. Ms. Stewart stated they do not know. Mr. Rodenhiser stated it is important as an employer to have kids in a program who actually want to be in that program.

Joint Appointment Consideration: Planning and Economic Development Board – Janine Clifford

The Board reviewed the candidate's resume

Mr. Rodenhiser moved to open the PEDB meeting. Ms. Raposa seconded. No discussion. VOTE:4-0-0.

Mr. Rodenhiser explained a member moved out of Town so there is a vacancy. He stated Ms. Clifford was an abutter to a project and provided valuable comments and discussion. Her term of office was reviewed which will be to the next general election. Ms. Clifford stated she moved here in 2018 and there was a project that would impact her property as an abutter. She attended many PEDB meetings and learned the by-laws, etc. noting they did not ask for anything unreasonable. She has been a member of the Design Review Committee since 2020. The Select Board thanked Ms. Clifford for volunteering noting the PEDB is the most difficult Board. The PEDB drives how Medway will look in the future.

Mr. Trindade moved that the Board appoint Janine Clifford to the Planning and Economic Development Board for a term ending on May 20, 2025. Mr. Alessandri seconded. No Discussion. It was voted by rollcall: Alessandri aye, Crowley aye, Rossi aye, Trindade aye, Harris aye, Raposa aye, Parlee aye, Rodenhiser aye. VOTE: 8-0-0.

Mr. Rodenhiser moved to adjourn. Mr. Parlee seconded. No Discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Appointment Consideration: Trash and Recycling Program Review Committee (5) – Matthew Applebaum, Thomas Erickson, Sean Green, John Hachem, Liam McDermott, and David Travalini

The Board reviewed the (1) candidates' e-mails of interest, and (2) Committee Charge approved on October 4, 2024.

Mr. Boynton explained the role of this committee relative to the upcoming potential cost increases and the issues with the permit and landfill cap at the Recycling Center.

Mr. Applebaum stated his background and interest in serving on this committee noting he has been in scrape metal and recycling for over twenty-two years, has been on many industry committees, and has developed many relationships in the industry. His company currently handles the Town's metal items. Mr. Crowley asked if he is on Town trash. He confirmed. It was noted if Mr. Applebaum is appointed, he will have to report the Town connection to the Town Clerk and recuse himself if any issues come up that impact his company.

Mr. Erickson stated he is a new resident as of three years ago, is a member of Lions, has an open mind, no agenda, is interested in saving the Town money, and to assist the Town to meet its obligations. He is a retired schoolteacher. Mr. Crowley stated he thought it would be good to have someone who is new to Town on the committee. Mr. Erickson is also on Town trash. Mr. Crowley explained the reason this committee was created is that we are spending more than we are taking in. Mr. Trindade stated there are time commitments and Mr. Erickson stated he could meet those to the best of his ability.

Mr. Green stated his interest in serving on this committee noting he has lived in Medway since 1999 and is on the Conservation Commission. His interest is the fiduciary part and to mitigate resident taxes. He is a landscape architect by trade and has been on Town boards for over ten years. His negative experience with the Recycling Center was discussed. Mr. Green stated he has never been a fan of the yellow bags.

Mr. Hachem stated his interest in serving on this committee noting he moved here in 2021, saw the advertisement for this position, has no experience, has a finance background so feels he can contribute from that perspective. He would like to get more involved in the Town. The Board reiterated the importance of getting new residents involved.

Mr. McDermott stated his interest in serving on this committee noting he has been in the scrape metal and waste hauling business for seventeen years including logistics as well. Mr. Crowley and Mr. Trindade stated he has the appropriate experience.

Mr. Travalini stated he interest in serving on this committee noting he has been the Chair of the Conservation Commission for over twenty years, is on both the Community Preservation Committee and Energy and Sustainability Committee. He stated Ms. Carlisle encouraged him to participate as this committee dovetails with the Energy and Sustainability Committee.

Mr. Crowley stated the motion he makes will not include Mr. Travalini as he already spends a lot of his time on Town committees. He likes that there are two new residents as well as a resident with a negative experience with the recycling center.

Mr. Crowley moved that the Board appoint Matthew Applebaum, Thomas Erickson, Sean Green, John Hachem, and Liam McDermott to the Trash and Recycling Program Review Committee for a term ending upon the presentation of the final report to the Select Board no later than October 1, 2025. Mr. Alessandri seconded. No Discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Approval of Minutes: December 2, 2024

The Board reviewed December 2, 2024, draft minutes.

Mr. Trindade moved that the Board approve the minutes for December 2, 2024. Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Authorization to Expend Grant Funds:

- a. USA Field Hockey 2024 Bessant Grow the Game Grant - \$4,000**
- b. Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Municipal Road Safety Grant (MRSG) - \$18,088.40**
- c. Fiscal Year 2025 Housing Choice Grant - \$75,000**

The Board reviewed the (1) Notice of Grant Award forms, (2) USA Field Hockey agreement, (3) FY25 MRAG award letter, and (4) FY25 Housing Choice grant award letter.

Ms. Dempsey stated she follows USA Field Hockey and is now a level one certified coach which allows her to submit grants. Out of 117 grant applicants, Medway was one of twelve who received the grant. Mr. Crowley stated this is a one-year grant. Ms. Dempsey confirmed noting she must meet as a cohort with the rest of the twelve recipients throughout the year. Ms. Harrington explained the structure of the program noting it is like youth soccer.

Mr. Trindade moved that the Board authorize the expenditure of the USA Field Hockey 2024 Bessant Grow the Game grant as discussed. Mr. Alessandri seconded. No Discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Mr. Rossi reported he counted the number of Parks and Recreation programs from January 1st through April 18th, noting there was a total of 73 programs.

Chief Kingsbury stated this is the 8th year in a row that we have received this grant which is used for traffic enforcement (\$18,000) and equipment (\$8,000). Sergeant Nigro has been managing the grant for the past three years and explained the funding over these years. They will purchase two new flashing signs which will be placed on either side of Maple Street.

Mr. Alessandri moved that the Board authorize the expenditure of the FY25 Municipal Road Safety grant as discussed. Mr. Trindade seconded. No Discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Mr. Crowley asked about the traffic fines noting the state takes some and the Town keeps some. Chief Kingsbury stated we have received \$3,000 this year noting that a speeding fine goes to the state for head injury funding, and to fund other state programs. Mr. Boynton stated handicapped fines go directly to the Town, but moving infractions are split with the state.

Ms. Saint Andre stated earlier this year, they applied to the One-Stop Grant and received three grants, two for DPW and this one to update our Design Review Guidelines. We received the entire amount applied for and are doing and Request for Proposals (RFP) to obtain a firm that can assist the Town with this endeavor. Mr. Crowley noted this would not be able to have been obtained if we did not pass the MBTA zoning. Mr. Alessandri asked for the timeline. Ms. Saint Andre stated that the funds must be spent by the end of FY26, but they plan to have this done sooner.

Mr. Alessandri moved that the Board authorize the expenditure of the FY25 Housing Choice grant as discussed. Mr. Trindade seconded. No Discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Approval: Proposal from Tetra Tech for Abatement, Demolition, and Remediation Design and Bidding Services at 120 Main Street - \$36,126

The Board reviewed the proposal.

Mr. Pelletier stated they have been working with Tetra Tech on the reporting relative to the past oil spill at this location. This project is to take down the two buildings in the back and then do a design on the remediation of the soil. Mr. Boynton stated this is part of the funding requested at Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Crowley did not see any construction oversight and asked about oversight of the demolition area. Mr. Pelletier stated that will be included in the contracts that come out of this project. The timing will be in during a dry season. Mr. Crowley would like to see the demolition bid specification once completed.

Mr. Alessandri moved that the Board authorize the Chair to execute the proposal from Tetra Tech as presented. Mr. Trindade seconded. No discussion. Mr. Alessandri seconded. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Approval:

a. Contract with Weston and Sampson Engineers, Inc. for Survey and Design for Water Main Replacement on Delmar Road and Priscilla Road - \$66,500

b. Contract with Wright Pierce for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Piloting - \$198,000

The Board reviewed the proposed (1) memos from Peter Pelletier, and (2) contracts.

Mr. Pelletier stated the survey work will include Delmar and Priscilla Road and the Sunset Drive area, but the design will not include the Sunset Drive area. Mr. Alessandri asked where the funding is coming from. Mr. Boynton stated the water enterprise fund noting when the replacement happens, more funding will be needed, and that project will be in FY27. Mr. Crowley asked for confirmation this is included in the five-year budget forecast. Mr. Pelletier confirmed.

Mr. Trindade moved that the Board authorize the Chair to execute the contract with Weston and Sampson Engineers, Inc. as presented. Mr. Crowley seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-0-0.

Mr. Pelletier stated Wright Pierce provided us with an estimate for this pilot study including recommendations of the medium to remove the PFAS. Mr. Boynton stated this was funded at Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Trindade asked for confirmation they will be looking at all the filtering options. Mr. Pelletier confirmed. It was noted Wright Pierce added removable skylights in the water treatment facility so equipment can be dropped down. Mr. Rossi asked if other communities have implemented PFAS filtering. Mr. Pelletier stated Millis has implemented the carbon filtering version. Mr. Boynton stated the Oakland, Village, and Populatic wells are connected to the water treatment facility. He noted we have decisions to make relative to the Industrial Park well. Mr. Alessandri asked if the end date of the contract is appropriate. Mr. Pelletier confirmed.

Mr. Alessandri moved that the Board authorize the Chair to execute the contract with Wright Pierce as presented. Mr. Trindade seconded. Discussion: Mr. Crowley asked if this includes information to go out to bid. Mr. Pelletier stated no. Mr. Crowley stated we will need to go back out to bid for design bid documents. This was confirmed. **VOTE: 4-0-0.**

Action Items from Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the action items dated October 7, 2024.

Street Acceptance Progress & Performance Security: Mr. Boynton stated we are picking through streets that are not accepted and anticipates two more will be presented for acceptance at the next Town Meeting.

Medway Plaza Redevelopment: Mr. Boynton stated there are no plans for major development.

Conservation Restrictions for Town Owned Land: Mr. Boynton stated he is not sure this will ever go away as we cannot find a trust to take over these conservation restrictions. Our Conservation Agent is monitoring these and has been working non-stop on this. Many of the trusts that want to take this on come at a six-figure cost.

13 & 13R Populatic Street--Decision on Home on Property once Treatment Plant is completed: The due date was moved out to June of 2025.

Town Manager's Report

There were no items for the Board to review.

Norfolk County Retirement (NCR) Update: Mr. Boynton stated there was a story on the Franklin Observer. He stated last year our actuary came in and reported on Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) noting our unfunded liability increased. The NCR consultant wanted them to decrease their percentage which increases the contributions from the member communities. He noted all of the drivers of the percentages impacting the funding are assumptions. The NCR Board is not beholden to member communities, they need to make sure there are enough funds to pay the statutorily requirements. There was further discussion about the impacts on communities noting Medway's was \$60,000 which we can manage. In the past they were using a payroll-based formula and now are using an actuarial based formula which resulted in savings to Medway. There was further discussion about the impact on Medway over the future years based on the impact of these assumption changes.

Oak Grove Status: Mr. Boynton stated he is requesting a joint Executive Session meeting with the Medway Redevelopment Authority as we are not getting a lot of cooperation with individuals.

FY26 Budget Process Update (Schools, Health Insurance, Tri-County, etc.): Mr. Boynton stated departments are working on their budgets, we need to work closely with schools, and we had a preliminary meeting with our Health Insurance with a proposed rate increase at 4.7 percent. He noted this is all claims-based, we have been doing well, and this is not the final number. He reported they have had good experience with interest income. Mr. Crowley asked what we have to carry in FY26 to support the debt. Mr. Boynton stated \$750,000 but we plan to put in \$1 million. Mr. Boynton stated we need to look at the snow and ice budget relative to overtime with the change of hours from 40 to 37 in FY26. He stated he anticipates a 10% increase in insurance worker's comp and property & casualty insurance.

Christmas and New Years Week Town Hall Schedule: Mr. Boynton shared the Town Hall schedule for the week of Christmas and New Years.

- Tuesday December 24 – Closing at Noon
- Wednesday, December 25 - Closed
- Tuesday, December 31 – Closing at 2pm
- Wednesday, January 1st - Closed

Town Manager Out of Office: Mr. Boynton stated he will be out of the office as follows:

- December 19 – December 27th – Vacation – Allison Potter Acting Town Manager

NEXT Select Board Meeting – January 6, 2025

Mr. Boynton thanked the Board, the Department Heads, and staff as all our accomplishments are due to our teamwork. He also thanked our residents.

Select Board's Reports

There were no items for the Board to review.

Mr. Crowley stated he heard a rumor that the Broad Street building recently sold. Mr. Trindade stated at a Planning Board meeting, the new owner stated he plans to demolish the existing structure. Mr. Crowley stated John Scott was on Library Board of Trustees for ten years and thanked him for his service. He reported the boys' basketball team played Dover Sherborn and Jacob White scored in the last second to win the game.

Mr. Alessandri said happy holidays to all.

Mr. Crowley gave a shout out to those residents who have decorated their homes.

At 9:15PM, Mr. Trindade moved to adjourn. Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Langley
Executive Assistant
Town Manager's Office