

**Town of Petersham Massachusetts
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Town Hall Main Floor
1 South Main Street**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023
5:30PM**

Selectboard Members

Nancy Allen, Chair; Annette Ermini, Clerk; Susan Dougherty, Selectboard-Elect

Officials Present

Petersham Advisory Finance Committee Members—

Rich Cavanaugh, Chair; Mark Bishop, Vice Chair; Jim Dowd; Tally Lent; and Rachael Shea

Petersham Police Chief, Peter Buck

Others Present

Stephanie Selden

Meeting Called to Order

Chair Nancy Allen called the meeting to order at 5:30pm at the Town Hall Main Floor.

New Business

Reorganization – Review and Reorganize the Board Post March 6 Election.

Nancy Allen and Annette Ermini welcomed newly elected member Susan Dougherty to the Selectboard and thanked her for coming forward to serve the town. Nancy explained that Sue is not able to vote this evening until she is sworn in by Town Clerk on Monday, March 13, therefore reorganization will occur at the next meeting.

General Review of ARPA Report and Projects Status.

The Board reviewed the most recent overview of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Report dated July 2021-January 1, 2023, as well as the status of the various funded projects. For Sue's information, Nancy and Annette explained how the ARPA process works and all reviewed where funding stands as of March 2023 with 13 phases of approved funding and the ongoing "Wish List" of projects. Nancy included an ARPA expenditure report developed from the Town Accountant's detail sheets so the Board could see where the account stands at this time and going into Spring 2023 during budget planning season.

6:00PM JOINT MEETING WITH ADVISORY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joint meeting with Advisory Finance Committee to continue review of Fiscal Year 2024 individual departments and committee budgets; general budget matters; and schedule.

The Selectboard and Advisory Finance Committee continued their review of the FY2024 individual department and committee budgets and schedule. This week's schedule included a presentation by Police Chief, Peter Buck, to review the Police Department's budget, as well as the budget for Emergency Management services. Nancy provided an update regarding the departments & committees who have submitted their budgets and who is still outstanding; some are requesting flat funding and therefore do not require an in-person meeting.

Review and Approve Local Business Permit Applications and Renewals, as Available.

No business applications were available.

Other

The Selectboard received a recommendation from the Petersham Conservation Commission to appoint David Lockesmith, 327 East Street, to fill an open seat. David has served on the Conservation Commission in the past.

Annette Ermini motioned to appoint David Lockesmith of 327 East Street to fill the open position with an expiration of June 2024. Nancy seconded. All in favor, 2-0 votes, 1 abstention.

The Selectboard received the Town of Petersham All Departments Expenditure Report (July 1, 2022-March 4, 2023), and the Treasurer's Cash Book (February 2023).

Correspondence

Nancy summarized aloud the following items in the Selectboard correspondence folder:

- Letter from Conservation Commission with a recommendation for the Selectboard to appoint David Lockesmith, 327 East Street, to fill the unexpired term of Anne Cavanaugh.
- Letter from Board of Assessors asking to place an Article on the FY2024 Town Meeting Warrant to raise and appropriate from available funds the sum of \$5,000 for year four of five years for the Full Measure and List of all Real Estate and Personal Property.
- Copy of Public Hearing Notice from Zoning Board of Appeals re Hearing on March 22, Lower Town Hall, on the petition for a variance to permit a residential solar installation at 337 Monson Turnpike Road.
- Email from William Cantell, Building Commissioner, with a response to recent letter from the Selectboard and Planning Board re procedures for plot reviews.
- Email adjuster Berkshire Claims LLC for town's insurer stating a payment is being made in the amount of \$57,618.05 for costs for the Center School generator replacement purchase and installation.
- Letter from Gov. Healey and Lt. Gov. Driscoll stating Petersham's Chapter 90 road work apportionment for FY2024 is \$248,218.21.
- Letter from MassDOT (Dept. of Transportation) re approval of a culvert replacement project involving culverts along New Salem Road, and MassDOT has begun the project development.

- Email from MassDOT re the Complete Streets Program grant funding program.
- Notice of Grant Opportunity from MA Dept. of Fish and Game, stating the agency is accepting applications for single stream crossing replacements.
- Email from Office of Sen. Jo Comerford, with a request to schedule a visit to speak with the community at a Selectboard meeting in the months ahead.
- Email from Sen. Jo Comerford re Joint Committee on Ways and Means holding a FY2024 budget hearing on Education and Local Aid on Monday, March 13 at UMass Amherst.
- Email from Rep. Jim McGovern re: a FY2024 Member Directed Community Project Funding Guide.
- Email from MA Municipal Association (MMA) stating Gov. Healey has filed the Governor's budget for FY2024, with proposed increases of Chapter 70 school aid, regional and vocational school transportation, special education reimbursements, and rural school aid.
- Email from MMA re Western & Rural MA Conference on April 1 in Holyoke, MA.
- Email from MMA re MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings on Friday, March 17 & 24.
- Email from Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) announcing their monthly meeting on March 9.
- Email from Franklin Regional Transit Authority, announcing the agency's Advisory Board meeting on March 16,
- Copy of the March 2023 edition of *The Beacon*, A Publication of the MA Municipal Association.
- Copy of the March 2, 2023 edition of *City & Town* newsletter.

Questions from the Public

No questions were asked.

Meeting Minutes

Review meeting minutes, as available.

Nancy motioned for the Selectboard to review the minutes from the Selectboard meeting of Thursday, March 2, 2023. Annette seconded. Nancy motioned to accept the minutes of Thursday, March 2, 2023, as written. Annette seconded. All in favor, 2-0 votes, 1 abstention.

Nancy motioned for the Selectboard to review the minutes from the Selectboard Executive Session of Friday, March 3, 2023. Annette seconded. Nancy motioned to accept the minutes of Friday, March 3, 2023, as written. Annette seconded. All in favor, 2-0 votes, 1 abstention.

Next Meeting

The next regular Selectboard meeting date Thursday, March 16, 2023, 5:30pm; and at the call of the Chair, as needed.

Executive Session

At the conclusion of all regular business the Selectboard will take roll call vote to enter into Executive Session. Purpose per MGL Chapter 30A, Sec.21(a): To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares. There will be no business conducted after the close of Executive Session, the Selectboard will adjourn.

The Board voted to enter into Executive Session via Roll Call vote with Nancy and Annette in the affirmative and Sue abstaining. Nancy stated the Board would exit from Executive Session with no further business and adjourn the regular meeting.

Adjourn

Annette motioned to adjourn. Nancy seconded. All in favor, 2-0 votes, 1 abstention. The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Annette Ermini
Petersham Selectboard Clerk

AGENDA
Petersham Selectboard Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023
5:30 PM

Petersham Town Hall, main floor
1 South Main Street

1. 5:30 PM Call to order.

2. New Business

6:00 PM Joint Meeting

RE: Joint meeting with Advisory Finance Committee to continue review of Fiscal Year 2024 individual dept. & committee budgets; general budget matters; and schedule.

RE: Reorganization – review and reorganize the Board post March 6 election.

RE: General review of ARPA Report and projects status.

RE: Review approve local Business Permit applications and renewals, as available.

3. Executive Session

RE: At the conclusion of all regular business the Selectboard will take roll call vote to enter into Executive Session. Purpose per MGL Chapter 30A, Sec.21(a): To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares. There will be no business conducted after the close of Executive Session, the Selectboard will adjourn.

4. Correspondence

5. Questions from the public

6. Meeting Minutes

Review prior Meeting Minutes, as available.

7. Next Meeting

Next regular Selectboard meeting date Thursday, March 16, 2023, 5:30 PM; and at the call of the Chair as needed.

8. Adjourn