

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

MEETING DATE: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
6:00 PM

MEETING PLACE: ZOOM ONLINE MEETING

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Special Session

First Selectwoman Lyons called the Special Session of Tuesday, September 21, 2021 to order at 6:04 p.m. Also in attendance were Selectwoman Duques, Selectman Goldberg, Selectman Murphy and Selectman Wilson.

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
First Selectwoman Lyons led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Discuss and take action to approve a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the parcel known as the Janssen Property; and the allow the First Selectwoman to sign the same.

First Selectwoman Lyons provided an overview of the need for this purchase and how this purchase plays into the overall Schools Plan moving to referendum. Town Attorney Matt Ray also provided an overview of the provisions by which the Town could cancel the agreement (during a 120 period beginning on the date that the seller delivers some due diligence items or the latest date that the agreement is signed by all parties). The agreement also dictates that the Town must close by April 15th and at that time the sellers can back out of the agreement (barring any extension by the seller). Selectman Wilson stated that the Town should ensure that this cost to purchase is included in the analysis of the cost of the entire School Renewal Plan.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Goldberg to approve the above Proclamations.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

3. Discuss with the Board of Police Commissioners, Police matters relating to public safety, including vehicle thefts and traffic concerns.

The Board asked the Police Commission and Police Department representatives to speak on ways to make improvements and provide assistance to ensure the safety of our residents. The Board and the Police Department are working together on these matters; with the Police Department taking the lead as they fall under their expertise. The Police Commissioners and the Police Department representatives all agreed that this a real concern in Madison. The Commission and Department are evaluating their needs and considering budget requests for operations and equipment that will help the Department meet the core needs of the residents. There are four key areas to consider: dealing with car thefts and burglaries, speeding safety concerns, other traffic safety issues, and ground work for evaluating budget requests going forward.

Chief Drumm, Lieutenant Mulhern, and Captain Harkins all provided overviews of certain initiatives they have researched and tried to implement over the years. Chief Drumm also noted the increase in concerns as impacted by COVID and the Police Accountability and Transparency Act and how this impacts the need for resources and staffing. Commissioner Thom Cartledge provided an overview of the traffic log and concerns tracking.

Overall, the need for additional officers and resources was discussed; Chief Drumm stated that at a minimum two more officers were needed (barring any future retirements). There was also discussion of this need in a time when there is a stigma surrounding being a Police Officer. The needs of the department need to be balanced with the budgeting requests to the Taxpayers and now is the time to request the additional officers. The Board agreed that this was a discussion for the budget process and there may also be a need for additional funding during this current fiscal year.

4. Citizen Comments.

James Ferency of Seaview thanked the Police Commissioners and Police Department for their leadership. He stated that there is a big group of attendees on the meeting, and within the community, that are concerned about the safety of residents. Mr. Ferency stated that he does not feel safe in Madison at 5:00 a.m. when leaving for the airport, sleeping the backyard with his daughter, or at 3:00 a.m. when his wife needs to walk their dog. He stated that the most recent activity on the shoreline should be a wake-up call. Action should be taken now to address the needs of the Police Department.

Joan Walker of Stepping Stone Lane stated that the progress for the school plan is wonderful. Also, she stated that the impression was given that the number of Police staff has not changed over the last 20 years but this was inaccurate. She stated that the Department might need more now, but there were changes made over the years.

Chris Tear of Grove Street stated that he appreciated learning of the steps that are currently being taken by the Police Department. He also echoed comments to fund what the Police Department needs now.

5. Adjournment.

There being no objection the Board adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Rhines
Town Coordinator / Risk Manager

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