



SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 5, 2025
5:30 PM

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM 123N (FACULTY DINING
ROOM)
36 CHARTER ROAD

Present: Fran Arsenault, Dean Charter, Alissa Nicol, David Martin, Jim Snyder-Grant

Additional Attendees: Town Manager John Mangiaratti, Assistant Town Manager Thom Begin, Executive Assistant Lisa Tomyl and Mina Markarious, Town Counsel

I. New/Special Business

1. Discuss Next Steps for Department of Public Works Building Project

Mr. Charter noted that he intends to provide an abbreviated presentation on the project, and not ask Town Meeting to vote on the original article language tonight. He explained that the Moderator will present a number of questions to Town Meeting focused on getting feedback from attendees on their opinions of the DPW project and how they voted at the ballot. The intent is to receive feedback from voters that could potentially provide guidance on how to move forward. He also mentioned that during the goal setting meeting in June, he hopes to confirm continuation of the project. Mr. Martin agrees with the approach, suggesting an appropriation for a small amount for a redesign. If the board waits more than a year, the design could become stale. He indicated the Board should propose an alternative motion that would appropriate funding to continue a review effort that focuses on potential alternatives and provides a feasibility study of those options. Mr. Charter spoke with Mr. Begin about reaching out to Weston and Sampson about a potential redesign – Mr. Begin noted that the cost would be \$520K for 40% design with the availability to negotiate for a lower amount and scope. Mr. Snyder-Grant suggested making a motion that the Select Board take no action, then requested to withdraw the motion. Ms. Nicol asked if Mr. Charter would speak about the proposition 2 ½ process, citing the new Minuteman Tech borrowing was voted at Town Meeting in 2016, but the borrowing was not voted to be exempt from Prop 2 ½ until 2019. Mr. Charter noted wanting the project to continue and would like to construct a motion today. Mr. Mangiaratti suggested

proposing a 25% design phase at \$265K instead of 40% or appropriating \$150K to continue the effort for a period of time.

Mr. Snyder-Grant suggested requesting a vote to borrow money at Town Meeting could set the project back even further, and to consider offering better education and communication with the public first. Mr. Martin suggested exploring alternative options with a small amount of borrowing and exploring the structural integrity of the current building with studies with the idea that the current facility could be repurposed to support a portion of operations in the future. He indicated this could potentially go to a fall town meeting with an exact amount of design cost. Mr. Begin and town counsel drafted a motion for Board consideration.

The Board discussed a potential request for appropriation, mentioning funding could come from free cash and agreed to propose a motion to appropriate \$150K from free cash.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder-Grant, to direct the Assistant Town Manager and Town Counsel draft a motion to appropriate \$150K to be expended by the Town Manager for design and engineering costs, including the investigation of possible alternatives, for a public works facility as set forth in the Article, with the appropriation coming from free cash and approved 5-0.

2. Discuss Warrant Articles and Final Preparation and Consider Recommendations for Town Meeting

Mr. Mangiaratti noted that the 3 union contracts listed as Articles 14, 15 and 16 warrant have been agreed upon. He discussed the changes that were included in the agreements with a focus on recruitment and retention. Mr. Mangiaratti further discussed the financial impacts of each agreement and the collective benefits of each.

Ms. Nicol moved, seconded by Mr Martin, to recommend Articles 14, 15, and 16 and approved 5-0.

Documents Used

- May 5, 2025 Agenda