



**Town of West Newbury  
Select Board**

**Monday, October 24, 2022 @ 6:00pm**

First Floor Hearing Room, 381 Main Street, Town Office Building

[www.wnewbury.org](http://www.wnewbury.org)

**Open Session Meeting Minutes**

**Open Session:** Open session was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairperson Archibald

**Participation at the Meeting:**

David Archibald, Richard Parker, and Wendy Reed; *Select Board Members*

Angus Jennings, *Town Manager*

James Blatchford, *Town Clerk*

Wayne Amaral, *DPW Director*

**Regular Business**

**A. Review and make recommendations, if any, based on any new information received regarding proposed Town Meeting warrant articles**

Jennings stated the new tax rate had not been determined as the new valuations had not yet been certified by the state (see exhibit A page 2-6 for details). Jennings stated a rough figure could be given for increases in valuation but it would not be concrete or reflect no change in valuation. **No motion was made at this time.**

**B. Designate Board member to read Select Board Motions at Town Meeting**

Archibald agreed to read the Select Board Motions as the other members were scheduled to read motions for the Boards/Committees they represented. **No motion was made at this time.**

**C. Cont'd review of signage proposed by MassDOT regarding height limits on Rocks Village Bridge**

The Select Board discussed the feedback received from various residents (see exhibit C page 7-25 for details). Parker discussed various overhead signage with sensors used across the country and stated that if a ban of trucks would not be possible the town should look into other options used in other places. The Select Board discussed the potential new placement for the crash bar signage and how it did not appear that it would be a nuisance for the property owners.

Wayne Amaral, DPW Director, appeared before the Select Board in person and stated the overhead signage on the bridge had chains that a motorist would hear if struck. The crash bar signage before the bridge would be made of a PVC type material that would move once struck. Amaral stated the addition of the signage would reduce the number of instances more than having no signage at all. Amaral and the Select Board discussed the two potential locations for the crash bar signage before River Street. **Parker made a motion to authorize MassDOT and Town Staff to consider the area Amaral described and determine the best location for the sign. Reed seconded. Motion unanimously passed (3 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain).** The Select Board and Amaral briefly discussed the removal of the large electronic signs used to inform motorists of the bridge closure. Amaral to follow up on the removal with MassDOT.

**D. Request for authorization of volunteer work day to remove invasive plants from Town-owned land at the corner of Cherry Hill Street and Moulton Street (1 Cherry Hill Street) on Sunday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm**

See exhibit D page 26 for details. **Parker made a motion to authorize the removal of invasive plants on November 6, 2022 from 1-3pm on the town owned land at the intersection of Cherry Hill Street and Moulton Street. Archibald seconded. Motion unanimously passed (3 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain).** Parker informed the Select Board members there would be a separate event in the spring to burn the brush removed.

**E. Review employee requests for carry-over of unused FY22 vacation time until December 31, 2022**

Jennings stated a number of employees had not used all of their earned vacation time that had built over the year (see exhibit E page 27-28 for details). The Select Board discussed if allowing the carry-over would compound the problem the following year. The Select Board asked Jennings to review the previous year vacation carryover and the current proposed carryover to see if it contained the same employees. **Parker made a motion to extend the vacation carry over to the end of the current calendar year. Reed seconded.** The Select Board discussed separating out the people that had large balances from the employees that would carry over small amounts of hours. **Archibald made a motion amend the original motion and to revisit the carry-over of unused vacation at the following Select Board meeting in 2 weeks. Parker accepted the amendment to the original motion. Motion unanimously passed (3 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain).**

**F. Decide whether to authorize closure of Town Offices, Library and DPW on Friday after Thanksgiving**

Jennings stated the Library had historically been open the Friday after Thanksgiving, but had closed the previous year and treated the day as a “snow day” (see exhibit F page 29-32 for details). Jennings explained if an employee was ready and willing to come to work and the employer closed the building, such as in a “snow day”, the employee would still be paid for hours normally scheduled. Jennings stated the closure would not affect the majority of the Town Offices employees as the only employees that work on Fridays were full-time. Jennings stated the Library employees have different schedules so it would be more relevant to them. Jennings saw no problem to move forward with the closure of the public buildings on the Friday after Thanksgiving. **Archibald made a motion to make the day after Thanksgiving a “snow day” this year. Reed seconded. Motion unanimously passed (3 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain).**

**Special Town Meeting:** 7pm in the Annex

**G. Select Board attendance at Special Town Meeting**  
(See Special Town Meeting Minutes for details)