

**Select Board Meeting
February 22, 2022 – 7:00 PM
Sanford Hall
155 Village Street**

Present: Maryjane White, Chair; Dennis Crowley, Vice-Chair; Frank Rossi, Clerk; John Foresto, Member; Glenn Trindade, Member.

Staff Present: Michael Boynton, Town Manager; Allison Potter, Assistant Town Manager; Barbara Saint Andre, Community and Economic Development Director; Pete Pelletier, Department of Public Works (DPW) Director; Sean Harrington, DPW Deputy Director; Sandra Johnston, Communications Director; Fire Captain Craig Vinton, Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC) Representative.

Other Participants: Medway Cultural Council: Gail Hachenberg, Co-Chair, Jordan Warnick, Co-Chair, Hazel Warnick, member, Becky Atwood, member, Amy Rochford, member; Michael Cannistraro, artist; Medway Community Farm: Carol Collord, Board of Directors President, Carol Bernstein, Board of Directors Treasurer, Steve & Sue Houde, Board members, Todd Sandstrum, Farm Manager.

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

Public Comments: There were none.

Approval of Minutes: February 7, 2022

The Board reviewed the draft minutes of February 7, 2022.

Mr. Trindade moved that the Board approve the minutes of February 7, 2022. Mr. Rossi seconded. Mr. Crowley requested the following: (1) page 2, line 71 be changed to the percentage of the entire enrolled class, (2) page 2, line 73 be changed to, “Mr. Crowley stated his concern”, and (3) on page 4, line 164 asked for confirmation that only five responses to date was accurate. Mr. Foresto confirmed.
VOTE: 5-0-0.

Discussion/Vote: Painting Art on the Electrical Box on Route 109 in front of Choate Park

The Board reviewed the electrical box art samples.

Ms. Rochford stated the Medway Cultural Council would like to have an artist paint the utility box on Route 109 at the crosswalk in front of Choate Park and passed out a sample art design from Michael Cannistraro, their preferred artist. Ms. White asked if this was the specific planned design. Mr. Cannistraro confirmed. Mr. Trindade reminded all of the mural Mr. Cannistraro painted at the Medway Community Farm. Ms. White referenced the e-mails received today from residents noting that the majority were not in favor of this due to the actual location, as well as their concerns for safety, specifically, distracting drivers at what can be a busy crosswalk. There was discussion about the amount of feedback received. Mr. Rossi shared that this box was already recently hit by a motor vehicle. Ms. Rochford shared her research of other towns on this subject including Walpole, Arlington, and Lexington noting Lexington’s program has been in place for six years with no issues reported. She also referenced Natick’s boxes noting they are in a busy location. She further noted the existing LCD sign as a distraction feeling this is subjective. Ms. White also noted the hill in that area that is also a challenge. There was further discussion about the planned art and its distractibility.

Mr. Foresto stated the Board was approached about this a couple of years ago and he still does not support this noting that we spent \$20 million fixing Main Street, this is a historic site, we rebuilt the park, and he does not feel the design fits in this area. He noted the location is also a problem reiterating the hill was lowered as this is a high traffic incident area and recommended insight from the Police traffic safety staff. Ms. Rochford stated that she contacted both the Police and DPW who did not return her phone call. She further stated that she feels bringing public art to Medway would bring unity to the Town that is becoming more divisive. This could be a pilot project to see if the community supports this effort.

Mr. Crowley thanked the Cultural Council for its efforts and noted he is a friend of Mr. Cannistraro's and commended his art. He stated he cannot support this for not only the issues already discussed but mainly because the intent was for these boxes to blend in and not stand out. He would prefer they remain this way. Ms. Rochford reiterated other towns have implemented this and public art creates a better sense of community. She feels this would be a missed opportunity if we do not even implement a pilot.

Mr. Trindade stated that the LCD sign is a distraction which we put there specifically because of the location so does not feel distraction is an issue. He further stated that art is always going to be controversial but feels that we should try this and if it does not work out we can always paint it back.

Ms. White noted her agreement with Mr. Foresto's prior comments. Mr. Rossi asked about the past opportunity provided to paint a wall within Choate Park. Mr. Trindade stated this wall is located by the Peace Garden and due to the cost to remove it, it has been left as is with the plan to install public art on this at a future date. Ms. Rochford reiterated her belief that this would be a missed opportunity if not implemented as presented.

Laura Rymer of 5 Mallard Drive stated her concerns about the potential for injury due to this being a distraction. Martin Rochford of 11 Spruce Road stated that we should shut off the LCD sign if distraction is a concern and noted his reasons for supporting the painted electrical box. Evan Batcheller of 3 Virginia Road stated the LCD sign provides information and felt that using the word divisiveness moved this subject into the political realm. Leanne Harris of 14 Kings Lane stated the LCD sign is a distraction that should potentially be addressed at another meeting. She stated her concerns about added distraction with this art installation. A resident of Holliston Street, noting that he is also an artist, stated he does not believe that art brings communities together and does not support this art installation. Steve Houde of 184 Main Street stated his support noting his enjoyment of all the painted boxes in Medfield. He stated that he has one of these boxes in front of his home in Rabbit Hill that he would like to have a historical photo placed on. He does not feel they are a distraction but add value. Michael Regan of 10 Lovering Street thanked the Select Board and Cultural Council and noted all of the efforts implemented in the Route 109 project to beautify the area. He stated beauty is in the eye of the beholder and does not support this art installation and requested we do not jeopardize public safety. Gail Hachenburg of 16 Waterview Drive requested an investigation if there is a safety issue noting that perhaps we should look at the LCD sign, as well as anything lit up in the park during the holidays, and any other distracting factors. She voiced her support of this effort.

Ms. Rochford stated she will reach out to the communities she has been in contact with relative to safety data and concerns. Mr. Boynton will reach out to Sergeant Watson our safety officer, as well as Chief Tingley and Lieutenant Kingsbury. There was discussion about tabling this until the safety concerns can be further investigated. Mike Cannistraro, 133 Main Street, stated his support of the safety investigation, but noted that many cities and towns around the country have implemented this

and safety issues would already be known. Mr. Crowley reiterated that his major issue is that these continue to blend in as originally designed. There was further discussion about the implementation of this and the feedback received from the residents.

Michael Regan of 10 Lovering Street stated that he feels comparing Medway to other towns is irrelevant as he does not want to live there but in Medway. The Board agreed to vote on this at this meeting. There was further discussion on a possible alternative location. Ms. Rochford will contact Ms. Harrington about an art installation on the wall at Choate Park. Jessica Latosek of 10 Robin Circle asked how the art is chosen and the process for who is selected, as well as noting her preference to not implement this art installation. Mr. Boynton reminded all about the length of time it took to decide the content of the Route 109 banners noting this evokes strong opinions. He stated he will obtain the answers about safety. He mentioned that the banner process involved input from other groups including the Design Review Committee (DRC). He suggested that the Cultural Council seek input from the DRC and provide multiple art options noting art is very subjective. He suggested moving forward on the Peace Garden wall at the same time as investigating options for this project. Mr. Crowley stated that if the majority of the Select Board does not support this, doing any further work is moot. He requested a motion from the Board to see if moving forward is efficacious. There was further discussion about whether to make a decision about this project at this meeting.

Mr. Trindade moved that the Board support painting the electrical box in front of Choate as presented. The motion was not seconded.

Mr. Crowley moved that Board deny the request to paint the electrical box in front of Choate Park. Ms. White seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-1-1. Mr. Trindade voted against; Mr. Rossi abstained.

Mr. Foresto reiterated his reasons for voting to not implement this and recommended Mr. Boynton's suggestion of seeking input and requested further time for the Board to think more about this and obtain more information.

Presentation: Medway Community Farm

The Board reviewed the (1) financial update document, (2) Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 and 2020 Profit and Loss Comparison, and (3) FY2021 and 2020 Balance Sheet Comparison.

Ms. Collord introduced the new farmer, Todd Sandstrum, and reviewed his extensive background. She noted his efforts during his first five weeks of getting the green house up and going with electricity and heat and his reworking of an irrigation grant. She then highlighted their grant funding for farm infrastructure including: (1) solar installation (in process), (2) irrigation upgrade, (3) new refrigerator and freezer for the store, and (4) the greenhouse (which allowed the project to be completed). They were also the recipient of a Cultural Council grant which funded the mural done by Mr. Cannistraro to represent the common man and bring farming into the community. Ms. Collord then reviewed their operational focus including developing a strategic plan including how they will get a barn. She noted that they learned a lot in the strategic planning process by looking at negative community feedback, visiting other farms, and looking at the farm shares. They have implemented a lot of changes. She stated her hope that the community will give them another chance.

Ms. Bernstein then reviewed the financials. She stated their primary goal was to "right the ship" noting that the grants have played a key role towards reaching that goal. She reported they were able to obtain a bridge loan to manage the cash flow from the grants also allowing them to move forward with grants that were not funded at one hundred percent. She noted that they ended the year with \$2,500 in

net income and \$28,000 in cash including residual COVID Economy Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) funds, grant funds, and cashflow. The furniture and equipment grew over the year, and they anticipate this growth to continue this year. Mr. Rossi asked if direct public support of \$47,500 was the farm share revenue, which was down \$15,000 from the prior year. Ms. Bernstein stated this includes grants and donations noting that key donors decreased their donations due to COVID. Ms. Collord stated Exelon was unable to support them as much for their food security program this past year. Mr. Trindade stated that these funds are used to purchase fresh food to go to the food pantries. Ms. Bernstein stated that one of the farm's primary missions is to support both food pantries, as well as the shelter in town. Ms. Collord stated this amounted to over 4,000 pounds of donations this past year; they maintained the same level as the year before. Mr. Crowley stated this is the best financial report that has been provided by the farm. Mr. Crowley asked about the sales income, which was down slightly. The prior year was \$105,000 and last year was \$104,000. He asked if this reflects selling all of the available shares. Ms. Bernstein stated they do have capacity to sell more shares and that this income was impacted due to the positive impact of their participation in the Canton Farmer's Market. She stated farm shares are the primary sales income source. They are expanding the Medway Farmer's Market, but it has not been as lucrative as Canton's. Mr. Crowley noted that all Board members are volunteers with a stipend only for the farmer and commended their efforts stating that this has been the best group of volunteers to date.

Mr. Sandstrum explained the plans moving forward including regrouping and balancing out the ship in looking at the strategic plan and initiating those steps to continue forward progress. They have restructured the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) to be eighteen weeks this year to provide more diversity resulting from community feedback. They are also focusing on rebuilding relationships, inclusive of the schools. They are looking to hire a new educator position and to beautify the site, including repainting the house. Mr. Crowley suggested that the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office (NCSO) be contacted to potentially paint the house. Mr. Sandstrum stated he has spoken with Norfolk Agricultural High School relative to a satellite and cooperative program for their senior class and has had conversations with the Department of Agriculture to have the farm certified under the Commonwealth Quality GAP Program. Mr. Trindade noted the paint on the outside of the house contains lead and will require remediation. Mr. Foresto shared the great work done by NCSO at Thayer noting that they can also do clean up as well. Mr. Houde shared the details of the events at the farm each year which include the Earth Day event in June, barbeque and cornhole event in the fall, and fall fest and beer tasting in November. It was noted that shares are still available, and this week is national CSA week. Mr. Boynton reported that two weeks ago he submitted a \$125,000 earmark request to the state for the farm as part of the state budget process. He also stated that DPW and Parks assist as needed. Ms. Collord thanked Mr. Boynton and the departments for that support.

Discussion/Vote: 39 Main Street Request to Approve Increase in Initial Rents for Affordable Units

The Board reviewed the (1) memo from Barbara Saint Andre, (2) request for rental increase letter from David Cashman of SEB Housing, (3) regulatory agreement, (4) 39 Main Street DHCD 2021 rental rates document, (5) Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) rent guidance, (6) U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development South Middlesex Opportunity Council utility allowance schedule, and (7) U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Walpole utility allowance schedule.

Ms. Saint Andre stated 39 Main Street is a 40B comprehensive permit development and was approved back in 2019. When approved, a regulatory agreement for the twenty-five percent affordable housing component based on the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2019 formula was required. Since then, rents and incomes have increased and each year HUD adjusts their numbers, so

they are asking that they be allowed to charge these updated rents for the one, two, and three bedroom units listed in the memo provided. A one bedroom would be \$1,889, a two bedroom would be \$2080, and a three bedroom would be \$2,262. She noted both herself and Mr. Havens double checked the math and those are the correct figures. Ms. White asked if these rents can be raised yearly. Ms. Saint Andre stated it is dependent upon if HUD increases these yearly. She noted they would like this to be approved before they begin their marketing. Mr. Crowley asked if DHCD has approved this yet. Ms. Saint Andre stated their approval is after that of the Select Board. Mr. Crowley asked if we are still in the thirty-day window for approval as the date on the letter was February 7th. Ms. Saint Andre confirmed. Mr. Crowley stated his concern on the cost truly being affordable. He asked if they are unable to sell the affordable units if they can convert them to market rate and the Town would lose the affordable unit. He also asked if there is a kick back to the Town like there is if it is a condo. Ms. Saint Andre stated they cannot convert it to a market rate unit as they must maintain twenty-five percent affordable units under their comprehensive permit. Mr. Trindade stated the developer is incentivized to assist renters in obtaining support, i.e., Section 8 housing, to afford these units. Ms. Saint Andre reminded the Board that these rents are at the eighty percent of the median income level unlike Glen Brook, which is at the sixty percent median income level, which is why they are so high.

Mr. Crowley moved that the Board approve the increase in initial rents for the affordable units at 39 Main Street as discussed. Mr. Trindade seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Redgate Estates Street Acceptances: Utility and Drainage Easements on 11, 16, and 18 Field Road (Order of Taking)

The Board reviewed the (1) order of taking, and (2) roadway layout.

Mr. Crowley asked if there is any new information that they have not heard to date. Ms. Saint Andre stated nothing has changed.

Mr. Foresto moved that the Board vote to adopt the Order of Taking for permanent utility and drainage easements over 11, 16, and 18 Field Road as presented; and further to determine that no persons will sustain damages in their property by reason of the taking; and further to authorize the Chair of the Board to execute all documents related to such taking, including notices to be sent to affected landowners and mortgagees. Mr. Rossi seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Approval: Comment Letter on the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Guidelines for MBTA Communities

The Board reviewed the proposed letter.

Mr. Crowley stated that the Select Board has looked at this and sent it to the Planning and Economic Development Board (PEDB) for review and asked if they made any changes. Ms. Saint Andre stated they did not.

Mr. Trindade moved that the Board approve and sign the letter as presented. Mr. Rossi seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Mr. Boynton noted this was sent to surrounding towns. Mr. Crowley asked if we received any feedback. Mr. Boynton stated no.

Approval: Housing Production Plan

The Board reviewed the housing production plan.

Ms. Saint Andre stated we have been looking at this with a consultant, as our current plan expired in 2021. Having this plan helps the Town when applying for state grants. This was presented to the Board previously and those comments have been incorporated into the draft. She stated most of the redlines in the draft are technical changes, e.g., correction of names. At this point, it is in final form and the Board must approve this before it is sent to the DHCD.

Mr. Foresto moved that the Board approve the Housing Production Plan as presented. Mr. Trindade seconded. Mr. Crowley referenced page 36, item 12, read the portion about Colonial Park Estate, and asked for clarification. Ms. Saint Andre stated we want to make sure that the older developments with affordable units that expire in thirty years will be picked up upon their expiration. Mr. Crowley referenced the last bullet on page 38, read the portion about declining school enrollment, and pointed out that at the last meeting he stated enrollment is actually increasing and should continue based on the new development. He believes this is wrong and needs to be corrected or removed entirely. Mr. Crowley referenced page 39 and feels that the graph showing an increase of 123 people over ten years is too small a number based on the new development. There was further discussion about the increase in this number, the impact of increasing this number, and what the number should be. Mr. Crowley requested that this number be reviewed. It was noted that these were derived from the federal census.

Mr. Trindade moved that the Board approve the Housing Production Plan with the changes discussed as presented. Mr. Rossi seconded. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Presentation: Capital Budget Recommendations - Capital Improvement Planning Committee

The Board reviewed the proposed capital expenditures spreadsheet.

This agenda item was not addressed.

Discussion: Road and Sidewalk Plan

The Board reviewed the (1) Fiscal Year (FY) 23-29 road and sidewalk plan, and (2) FY22-23 roadway paving projects.

Mr. Boynton noted that the plan's financial forms were changed and the reasoning for moving this agenda item ahead of the next one. He noted there will be changes to this document as this is a living document. For example, some of the roads not on the list are getting severely damaged due to the winter weather and may need to be redone sooner than anticipated. He noted that both Mr. Pelletier and Mr. Harrington worked diligently with Ms. Pratt on this. He explained the prior process of determining this plan and the new process including showing where the current revenue is, coming year projections, and what we should be able to accomplish for road projects with the main revenue sources. He noted the funding sources include \$750,000 free cash, \$800,000 from Exelon, and \$400,000 in Chapter 90 funds. This translates to \$1.9-\$2 million per year for roadwork not including carry over from the prior year. He noted the Governor proposed additional Chapter 90 funding just for this coming fiscal year, as well as funding for winter road repairs. He noted that we estimate the project costs and historically come in lower, as we don't want to come up short.

Mr. Pelletier reviewed the roadway paving project list noting the fiscal year 2022 of \$4.5 million of available funding. We have spent \$2.8 million to date, which included a lot of the Brentwood roads relative to the water main project. He stated they expect to spend an additional \$150,000 prior to the end of the fiscal year to complete those roads. He stated there will be carry over work at the West Street bridge area. He then reviewed fiscal year 2023 with available funding of \$4.4 million with the expectation to spend \$2.5 million. This includes \$194,000 to complete the four Brentwood roads,

\$64,000 on the West Street Bridge work, and Main Street sidewalks as previously discussed, noting they are still working through the design including the type of material for the sidewalk: asphalt or concrete. Mr. Pelletier then reviewed the larger roads and sidewalks projects in the FY23-29 road and sidewalk plan and provided clarification to the Select Board for specific locations and included work. He noted that he carried \$2 million total cost for each fiscal year. Larger streets are coming up post FY23 so there will be fewer projects as these larger streets will cost more to address. Mr. Pelletier reported that he reached out to an engineering firm to complete a comprehensive road review town wide which will provide direction on how to address some roads more efficiently. Mr. Boynton commented that he cannot find a better community with a better collection of main roads in such good condition.

Mr. Crowley reiterated where the money comes from for funding as previously explained by Mr. Boynton and applauded the Board specifically relative to applying the \$800,000 of Exelon funds to these projects. He asked Mr. Pelletier to label each year of the plan as was done previously. Mr. Crowley stated that we took out a bond to complete the Brentwood area and noted that Maple Street is on this list which is not part of Brentwood and asked if this was listed in the bond. Mr. Pelletier confirmed. Mr. Crowley asked if all of the roads listed for FY22 on the roadway paving project list are completed and this reflects actual costs. Mr. Pelletier confirmed. Mr. Crowley stated that \$150,000 remains and asked if that is all that will be completed in the spring until the FY23 funding is available. Mr. Pelletier confirmed. Mr. Rossi asked why the FY22 carry over of \$1,492,000 was so high. Mr. Pelletier explained that was partly due to the estimates being lower than anticipated and we did not need as much police detail work in the Brentwood neighborhood during that project. Mr. Boynton further explained that the flow of funds via Chapter 90 is not timely and results in the need to catch up.

Mr. Trindade moved that the Board approve the road plan as presented. Mr. Foresto seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Approval: Contract with Sunshine Paving Corporation for Paving, Milling, Reclamation, and Casting Adjustments – Not to Exceed \$1,481,000

The Board reviewed the (1) memo from Pete Pelletier, (2) bid results, and (3) contract

Mr. Pelletier stated normally we have a paving contractor and then a milling and reclaiming contractor and then an adjustment contractor. This year we combined them all into one contract due to coordination of all the different contractors proving to be a challenge. He noted their references were very good and the highway staff even checked some of their past local work. It was confirmed this is the first time they are being used. Mr. Trindade asked if there is an impact on pricing relative to current global conditions and if this price can be impacted. Mr. Pelletier stated the amount is based on the bid price noting there is an adjustment for the liquid asphalt that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation updates monthly.

Mr. Foresto moved that the Board authorize the Chair to execute the contract with Sunshine Paving Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$1,481,000 as presented. Mr. Trindade seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Discussion/Vote: Recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day and Native American Heritage Day

The Board reviewed the residents' e-mails requesting recognition of Native American Heritage Day.

Mr. Trindade stated we are not cancelling Columbus Day. He noted that there are some that want to do away with Columbus Day but, realistically, although we could name it Indigenous Peoples Day, it is still Columbus Day until the government changes is as an official holiday. He noted it is a time to look at the

impact of imperialism on our country. The idea is to take the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend and look at our history back to when people first started living here and use this as an opportunity to encourage learning and reflection on our history over time. Mr. Foresto noted that if we do this, we need a group of people willing to step up and put this together as a worthwhile activity. Mr. Trindade stated that having this the Friday after Thanksgiving associates it with a negative holiday for indigenous people, the weather would be an issue for an outside event, and it is Black Friday. Ms. White stated that Native American Heritage Day is federally recognized as the day after Thanksgiving. She asked if the schools do anything to recognize this day. Mr. Trindade stated no. Mr. Crowley stated that he supports Mr. Trindade's idea but is not sure why we would not do this in November as, in 1990, President Bush declared November as Native American Heritage Month. In 2009, President Obama assigned Native American Heritage Day as the day after Thanksgiving. He feels that both the day after Thanksgiving and close to Columbus Day would have negative connotations for Native Americans so would suggest avoiding both. He suggested that we select a day in November. There was further discussion on the most appropriate time/month to recognize this day. Mr. Foresto shared the efforts relative to the Medway 300 celebration and suggested that we first find a group willing to step up to take this on and they determine the day. The Board agreed. Joanne Applebaum of 1 Wild Turkey Run asked why it has to be the actual weekend of Columbus Day and agreed with the November timeframe. Leanne Harris of 14 Kings Lane explained her preference of Native American Heritage Day as that makes it specific to Medway. She noted her researched showed it as celebrated at many different times in other states and as it being controversial to have it the day after Thanksgiving, so she does not want it on that date. She agreed with it being in November since it is Native American Heritage month. There was discussion on who should be involved with this project. The Board requested that multiple groups be involved in this effort. Ms. Harris stated that she would like the Select Board to, at a minimum, approve this holiday, not necessarily a date. Mr. Boynton stated that he will develop a draft committee charge and composition to be presented to the Board at their next meeting.

Mr. Trindade moved that the Board direct the Town Manager to prepare a draft committee charge to recognize an observation of Indigenous Peoples and Native American Heritage Day in Medway. Mr. Rossi seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Vote: Add Planning and Economic Development Board Vacancy to May 17, 2022 Town Election Ballot
The Board reviewed the memo from Stefany Ohannesian.

Mr. Boynton stated Mr. Rodenhiser's vacancy needs to be voted by the Select Board to be placed on the town election ballot to complete his term.

Mr. Foresto moved that the Board vote to add the Planning and Economic Development Board vacancy to May 17, 2022 Town Election Ballot as discussed. Mr. Rossi seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Vote: Close May 9, 2022 Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants
There were no materials for the Board's review.

Mr. Crowley moved that the Board vote to close the May 9, 2022 Annual and Special Town Meeting warrants. Mr. Foresto seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Vote: Approval of Membership in the Massachusetts Strategic Health Group (MSHG)
The Board reviewed the (1) MSHG proposal, and (2) health benefit comparison

Mr. Boynton stated we have a great opportunity to become part of the MSHG made up of the towns of Webster, Douglas, Dudley-Charlton School District, and the retirees in city of Fall River and town of Stoughton. It is an opportunity to get off the rollercoaster in terms of being fully insured. We have seen near double digits health insurance increases over the past two years. This gives us the opportunity to take some control and have a zero percent increase for FY23. Mr. Foresto recognized the amount of effort it took to make this happen. Mr. Boynton stated that obviously this is a risk, but when putting the budget together, we were looking at a ten percent or higher increase in costs. MIIA told us we should be looking at a seventeen percent increase. He stated the budget was balanced with a ten percent increase with unpleasant reductions in order to make that happen. He is proposing to reduce the increase to seven percent noting the rates are staying flat. Building the seven percent budget increase provides \$300,000 in capacity that will close out and become free cash or can be used for handling any unforeseen high cost claim hit and already builds in a seven percent rate increase into the FY24 budget. This provides us the ability to have a solid plan for health insurance for the next two to five years. Mr. Crowley stated this discussion would be addressed at the budget workshop in March. Mr. Rossi stated the numbers in the health benefit comparison look the same. Mr. Boynton confirmed but the additional benefit is that now we are strictly in the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHC) network and the employee is responsible for out of network costs if they are out of state and need treatment. This is a national program with HPHC and United Healthcare. Mr. Boynton noted the IAC voted unanimously last Thursday to go with this plan.

Mr. Foresto moved that the Board vote to approve the Town's membership in the Massachusetts Strategic Health Group as of July 1, 2022. Mr. Trindade seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

The Select Board commended Mr. Boynton on his efforts. Mr. Boynton commended Ms. Potter and Ms. Bird on their efforts as well.

Action Items from Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the action items dated December 6, 2021

Updated Road and Sidewalk plan: Mr. Crowley stated this can be moved to 2023.

Town Manager's Report

There were no items for the Board to review.

Mask Policy: Mr. Boynton stated that as of next Monday, we are dropping our mandatory mask policy but still encourage it for those whose needs still require them or those who prefer to wear them, and he encourages residents to take direction from their medical provider. The signs are coming down, but the protective plexiglass will remain in place for a bit longer. He commended Ms. Hallal and the public safety team on their efforts.

Snow & Ice Update – Deficit Spending Authorization Needed: Mr. Boynton stated we are in the red as we have budgeted \$475,000 but have spent \$476,287 to date. He stated that he wanted to make the Board aware of this and would need the Board to vote to allow for deficit spending in that account. He noted most of the recent storms being over the weekend has resulted in overtime costs and the need for contractors. He commended DPW on keeping the roads safe. He also noted that these storms and temperature fluctuations have caused much road damage.

Mr. Foresto moved that the Board authorize deficit spending in the Snow and Ice account. Mr. Trindade seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Able Grid – Environmental (ENF) Filing and EFSB Filing: Mr. Boynton stated Able Grid has made their Environmental Notice Filing (ENF) with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Ms. Saint Andre, Ms. Graziano, and Ms. Affleck-Childs have already spoken with the EPA to provide their input on the ENF and they will follow up with written comments in the next week. We anticipate that Able Grid will file with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) on February 25th. Negotiations with the attorneys are ongoing. He noted that we will follow up on the questions that arose during the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) discussions last week. Mr. Boynton stated his recommendation that the Board file for intervenor status with the EFSB when the timing is appropriate. Mr. Foresto asked if the EFSB is authorized to do this yet. Mr. Boynton stated this is one of the items for Counsel to address as the question arose that if EFSB takes jurisdiction, do they actually have the legal authority to do so. The only way to determine this is in the courts. Mr. Boynton stated we are attempting to protect the Town noting that the EFSB has not lost one of these cases and asked if we want to be in a contrarian position with the EFSB when that could potentially jeopardize our position with respect to the Host Community Agreement (HCAs) and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). There was further discussion on the potential challenges to the EFSB. Mr. Boynton stated when we are ready to have that discussion it will be in Executive Session. Mr. Foresto encouraged residents who were not able to attend last week's BESS presentation to access the livestream via Medway Cable Access.

Holliston Dispatch – Medway Performing EMD – IMA needed: Mr. Boynton stated while he was away on vacation, we were notified by the state 911 that there was a problem with Holliston Public Safety Dispatch. They were not authorized for an interim period to perform Emergency Management Dispatch (EMD). He noted EMD is a specialized service and communities that have Public Safety Dispatch must have a mechanism to provide this. Some utilize private ambulance services, but most are able to provide this themselves. Medway's Public Safety Dispatch is trained in EMD and is excellent at this. State 911 reached out to Lieutenant Reardon and the Police and asked if Medway could assist Holliston, which we agreed to do and have been providing EMD for the past two weeks. After speaking with Town Counsel, we have drafted an Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) mostly for liability protection but noting there is a financial component, as there is a cost related to providing this service. He noted we are not incurring additional overtime or staffing costs but wants to ensure that other additional costs are addressed. He noted that this may need to be signed by the Select Board prior to the next meeting. Ms. White asked for the specifics that we are providing to Holliston. Mr. Boynton stated if Holliston receives a medical 911 call, it is transferred to Medway. Holliston Fire listens in and will then dispatch their ambulance. Mr. Crowley noted that he wants this to be temporary so that we can serve the Medway residents first.

Select Board's Reports

There were no items for the Board to review.

Mr. Rossi reported that the High School's Boys Hockey Team ended their regular season at 17 and 3. The tournament seedings will be out later this week and the tournament will begin next week. He noted that, generally, the earlier games are located at Franklin at Pirelli or Framingham at Loring Arena. He explained how enjoyable they are to watch.

Mr. Crowley gave a shout out to the High School's Girls Basketball Team noting they are currently in the Westborough Tournament and have won their first two games. The finals are tomorrow night. Mr. Crowley asked the Board about inviting Zack DiGregorio, an Olympian in luge, to an upcoming meeting to have him explain his experience as well as presenting him with a proclamation from the Board. The Board agreed.

Mr. Trindade explained how Zack DiGregorio first became interested in luge via USA luge that was also brought to Medway last year. He stated that he would like to make the USA luge event bigger this year. He noted that Zack was at the event last year.

Town Manager's Report - Continued

Future Ambulance Order – Timing Concerns: Ms. Potter stated that due to supply chain issues, you have to order them well in advance so we would like to put an order in now. Mr. Boynton stated in reference to the Holliston IMA that the priority to Medway residents is addressed in the IMA. He then gave a shout out to two of the Medway dispatchers, Drew Harris, and Bill Tagliaferri, both with lifesaving activities in getting the ambulance dispatched in the last month. Mr. Boynton stated relative to the supply chain impact on the purchase of the ambulance, there is a twenty-two month lead time. The dealer we use placed an order with Ford for eighteen chassis last April none of which have hit the assembly line. The challenge is our replacement cycle based on usage is every four years, we now have three ambulances. Four years are as front line vehicle, four years as a secondary vehicle, and the final four as a mechanical spare. He noted that the mechanical spare gets put into service when the other two are in use. He stated based on the call volume moving forward, the life span of these will be nine versus twelve years at a three year front line, three year secondary use, and three year mechanical spare. He stated that we may have an issue with this schedule as the most recent purchase was put in service last July and if the supply chain worsens that will impact our replacement cycle. He would like, with the Board's authorization, to move forward now to get a new ambulance on order. Mr. Boynton said the costs of a new ambulance is between \$340,000 to \$400,000 fully equipped. We will have funding of \$440,000 as of July 1st and an additional \$100,000 by the following July 1st. Mr. Crowley asked if this is a reserve account. Mr. Boynton stated this is the ambulance revenue account. Mr. Crowley stated it is not coming out of the general fund but this specific reserve fund. Mr. Boynton confirmed.

Mr. Boynton made one further comment that he is passionate about what he does and local government. He noted what separates out local versus all other types of government is that people have direct access, we get more done, and are more successful with all that we do. The reason for the success is that people come together and recognize the most important things: (1) savings someone's life through EMD, (2) having the proper ambulance available, (3) having the appropriately trained public safety and public works staff and having a system that works, and (4) having a top notch education system. He noted that while those things discussed tonight to some are important, in his opinion, he never wants to lose sight of the fact that we are really good at doing the important things. The other stuff is nice to talk about and do regardless of what side of the issue we are on, but if we forget what we are really good at and spend too much time on the other stuff, then we are not as successful across the board.

Town Manager Out of Office: Mr. Boynton stated he has nothing planned.

NEXT Select Board Meeting – Saturday, March 5, 2022 – Budget Workshop and Monday, March 7, 2022, regularly scheduled meeting.

At 9:32PM, Mr. Trindade moved to adjourn. Mr. Rossi seconded. VOTE: 5-0-0

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