



## **Town Council**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 14, 2022 6:00 p.m. via Zoom**

*The public is invited to attend this meeting remotely only, via phone or computer. In order to maintain safe social distancing guidelines, no physical presence will be allowed at this time. The Town website will be updated on the day of the meeting with the phone and computer access instructions.*

**A. Call to Order – Roll Call – Pledge of Allegiance:** President W. Alexopoulos called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance led by Councillor Clifton.

**B. Roll Call - Members Present:** Christos Alexopoulos, William Alexopoulos, Richard Brewer, Natacha Clerger, Kenrick Clifton, Ryan Egan, Jesse Gordon and Katrina Huff-Larmond (Absent: James Burgess)

#### **C. Approval of Minutes**

1. January 24, 2022

Motion made by Councillor Huff-Larmond to accept the minutes of January 24, 2022. Seconded by Councillor Clifton. Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0

2. January 24, 2022 – Joint Meeting with Stetson Trustees

Motion made by Councillor C. Alexopoulos to accept the minutes of January 24, 2002 of the Joint Meeting with the Stetson Trustees. Seconded by Councillor Gordon. Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0.

3. January 27, 2022 – Joint Meeting with School Committee

Motion made by Councillor Gordon to accept the minutes of January 27, 2022, of the Joint Meeting with the School Committee to appointed Randolph's representative on the Blue Hills School Committee. Seconded by Councillor Brewer. Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0.

#### **D. Announcement from the President**

1. Update on compilation of comments from Council regarding priorities for ARPA Funds: The Town Manager has created a Google Document so that Councillors can add their comments. The deadline for the Council to respond is Friday, February 18. The deadline for the residents is February 28. As many residents per household that would like to respond would be welcome.
2. Update on hiring progress for Town Council Clerk: Interviews were set up a few weeks ago, only one individual was interviewed. It has been reposted, and we have received more interest. We will interview the two new applicants next week.

## **E. Public Comments**

Joseph Burke, Hills Street. Legislature voted to open the State House to the public again – hopes that the Council will meet in person. DPW did a great job handling the storms. He wants to recognize that the Board of Health and Gerry Cody and his staff – the whole state is talking about what a great job they are doing over here.

## **F. Appointments**

### **1. Appointment of 2 Councillors to the Fire Chief Resume Review Committee**

President W. Alexopoulos appointed Councillor C. Alexopoulos and Councillor Clerger. Town Manager Howard said that the Committee met last week. There were 13 applicants. Each committee member was given a scoring sheet. The top 5 go to the assessment scoring center this Friday, and then the committee will meet again once that process is complete. A recommendation will be brought forward at an upcoming Town Council Meeting.

### **2. Appointment of Replacement Member to the PRA for the 502 South Main Street Project.**

Vacancy (McDermott) for a Councillor on the Permit Review Authority for 502 South Main Street. President Alexopoulos appointed Councillor Brewer to serve.

## **G. Town Manager's Report**

Shared the Covid Numbers for the Town of Randolph – Randolph has rebounded quite well. Vaccines are still available next door to Shaw's. Test Kits are available at Town Hall Monday-Friday, and we are working with the School Department to make sure that every student in the RPS has a test kit before they return from February Vacation. Councillor Clifton stated that it would be helpful for the community to get more meaningful information from the schools, such as who is vaccinated, to ensure that all our kids are safe and secure.

Councillor Brewer asked the Town Manager to have Ron Lum look at the project on Highland Ave. It is a big project, and there is no safety lighting. They need to have temporary lighting in order for our public safety officials to be able to respond if and when necessary.

Councillor Huff-Larmond. The Lt. Governor is coming tomorrow to talk about the fact that we have received a DHCD grant. Councillor Huff-Larmond asked if there would be a Q&A portion. Mr. Howard stated that the event is being run by the Governor's Office and DHCD. This is more of an announcement of this year's winners, but it is not open to the general public. They chose Randolph as this is the first time that Randolph has been awarded. A press release will be issued after that point.

## **H. New Business**

1. Council Order 2022-09: Approval of Transfer of General Fund Free Cash for Software Training and Upgrade. There is some software training that we need to do, but by purchasing it the way we are, we will get bulk pricing. Finance Director Janine Smith added that in terms of the conversion, our current version of our software will be out of use as of October, 2022, so this isn't just a small upgrade, this is a major conversion. Motion to approve Council Order 2022-09 made by Councillor Brewer. Seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos. Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0.

2. Council Order 2022-10: Order Authorizing Additional Borrowing for Water Treatment Plant. This is a first reading, introductory order. Town Manager Howard stated that in order to be part of the drinking water trust fund and the mass DEP project approval certificate program (which is necessary to get the funding that we want for this project), but you have to have the money in the bank. This is a procedural process to show the Drinking Water Trust Fund that the money is accounted for and available should we need to go that route. We were at 90% design in October of 2021, and we will be at 100% design either later this week or next week. The three main drivers are supply chain issues, material costs and labor rate increases. Braintree pays 50%, Randolph pays 34%, and Holbrook pays 16%. Mr. Howard does not anticipate the funds, but they are required. Councillor Gordon said his understanding is that 3.8 million is getting added to the total, and asked the Town Manager what the grand total is; as well as how much has been allocated. It was determined that Randolph's portion of the cost would be approximately \$32M.

## **I. Council Comments**

Councillor Gordon: Attended Mass DOT session re: Canton Street overpass. Upcoming MPIC Meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m., as well as a tour of the Braintree Water Plant and Randolph Water Plant with Holbrook Selectboard Member William Watkins. He will report back at the next meeting.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: Wanted to say hello, stay warm and continue to be safe. She will announce an upcoming Youth Council project soon. Excited about the 800,000 for home repairs and child care – \$800,000 isn't a lot of money, but the fact that we are getting it today means next year, the hope is that we will receive more and will be able to do more work. She thanked Town Planner Michelle Tyler and Town Manager Howard for hiring a consultant and making sure this grant was possible.

Councillor C. Alexopoulos: Met with the Town Manager and County Commissioner Richard Staiti to discuss ARPA Funds from the County perspective, and the County's role.

Councillor Clifton: Wished all residents a Happy Valentine's Day. Thanked Town Manager Howard and DPW Director Chris Pellitteri for an issue at the Lyons School and Snow Removal. Echoed Councillor Huff-Larmond's sentiments on ARPA Funds.

Councillor Brewer: Recalled that when the track was done at the High School, there was a Gator that was used to plow the High School and the Middle School sidewalks. That would definitely help the sidewalk issues at the Lyons School.

Councillor Clerger: Thanked the President for the opportunity to serve on the Fire Chief Resume Review Committee. She stated that she will be meeting with Attorney Griffin with regard to a Resolution.

## **J. Adjournment**

Councillor Clerger made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councillor C. Alexopoulos.  
Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Burgess, Egan absent).