



## **Joint Meeting of the Town Council and the School Committee**

### **DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, March 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.*

**Call to Order – Roll Call – Pledge of Allegiance:** Council President W. Alexopoulos called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call – Council Members Present:** Christos Alexopoulos, William Alexopoulos, Richard Brewer, James Burgess, Natacha Clerger, Kenrick Clifton, Ryan Egan, Jesse Gordon and Katrina Huff-Larmond

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Councillor Huff-Larmond led the pledge of allegiance.

**Moments of Silent Prayer:** A moment of silent prayer held.

**Announcements from the President:**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

#### **1. Meeting Minutes of Town Council Meeting January 14, 2022**

Motion to approve the Minutes of Town Council Meeting on January 14, 2022, made by Councillor Clifton, seconded by Councillor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-1 (Abstention: Burgess)

Motion passes.

#### **2. Meeting minutes of Town Council Meeting January 31, 2022**

Motion to approve the Minutes of Town Council Meeting on January 31, 2022, made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-1 (Abstention: Burgess)

Motion passes.

#### **3. Meeting Minutes of Town Council Meeting February 14, 2022**

Motion to approve the Minutes of Town Council Meeting on February 14, 2022, made by Councillor Gordon, seconded by Councillor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-1 (Abstention: Burgess)

Motion passes.

**Presentations:**

## **1. Community Wellness Project Presentation**

Town Manager Howard provided an introduction to the Community Wellness Project. Additionally present to speak about the Community Wellness Project are Community Wellness Planner Hoai Thuong Tran and Heidi Stucker of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

A presentation was given providing information on the goals of the Community Wellness Plan, the timeline of the Community Wellness Plan, outcomes of the Community Wellness Plan, and some of the key accomplishments of the Community Wellness Plan. For additional information, please reach out to the Community Wellness Planner, Hoai Thuong Tran at [CWP@Randolph-MA.gov](mailto:CWP@Randolph-MA.gov) or visit [www.randolph-ma.gov/health-wellness](http://www.randolph-ma.gov/health-wellness)

### **Public Hearings:**

#### **1. Request for Pole Replacement 136 Canton Street**

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public hearing for the request of a pole replacement at 136 Canton Street. Town Attorney Griffin referenced the legal advertisement which was published in the Patriot Ledger on March 7, 2022. Notification of the public hearing was also mailed to abutting properties within 100 feet of the proposed pole installation.

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public comments portion of the public hearing. There were no public comments.

Council President Alexopoulos: National Grid has requested a continuance on this request until the next meeting so this public hearing will be continued to the Town Council meeting of March 28, 2022 at 6:15 PM.

### **Public Comments/Discussions:**

1. Yvonne Watson, 25 Norfolk Road: 1. I am intrigued by the cross between wellness and the town master plan, because everything in there looks like everything the community needs, and I look forward to seeing the outcomes. Is there anything residents can do to express their interest or encouragement of this? 2. I see further down in the agenda that there is an order addressing Haitian deportation and I want to let the Council know that I stand in affirmation with that and hope that the Council will address it positively.
2. Cheryl Tauntan, 27 Wales Ave: Can I get an update on the \$29M received in ARPA funds and when is the community going to find out which projects are going to be funded with these funds? Would the funding for the Randolph school based health center come out of the \$29M?
3. Sandy Cohen, 63 Bittersweet Lane: There was a recent pediatric vaccine forum hosted by Councillor Clifton on Wednesday night and there were very disruptive anti-vaccination protestors who were very loud. Information is being provided to the residents and if someone chooses not to get vaccinated then that is within their right but you should not dispute another person's right to choose.

### **Motions, Orders, and Resolutions**

#### **1. Council Order 2022-012: Payment of Prior Year Bills Related to General Fund**

Council President Alexopoulos read and introduced Council Order 2022-014. Town Manager Howard provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2022-012 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Brewer.  
Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0  
Motion passes.

## **2. Council Order 2022-013: Transfer from Retained Earnings for Town Flushing Plan**

Council President Alexopoulos read and introduced Council Order 2022-013.

Town Manager Howard provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order. This is the fifth year of the flushing program, however we've collapsed it into two and a half years per the Council's request for a more aggressive approach and it has worked quite well. This is a really successful program, we've seen significant improvements with the water quality issues of discoloration.

Councillor Brewer: Is this work going to be done during the day because a lot of the residents are inconvenienced by it being done at night. Town Manager Howard: A long conversation was had with BETA engineering about this and we've been doing this work in the evening based on the size and scope of the project. We also know that in the evening, use of water is at its lowest point. and so, the recommendation of BETA engineering is to continue doing it in the overnight hours.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: Thank you Town Manager Howard. Since we have been consistent with the flushing, the water has improved.

Additional discussion was held concerning how the budget for the Town's flushing plan is put together.

Motion to approve Council Order 2022-013 made by Councillor Clifton, seconded by Councillor Gordan.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

## **3. Council Order 2022-014: Authorization the Town of Randolph to Enter into a TIF Agreement with Milton Real Properties of Massachusetts, LLC and Milton Rents, Inc.**

Council President Alexopoulos read and introduced Council Order 2022-014. The Council executed a TIF Agreement with this entity last fall and this next step serves to formalize the documents with the state.

Town Attorney Griffon provided additional information regarding the terms of the agreement. In August, the Council voted to grant a TIF Agreement to Milton Rents, Inc. over a six year term so this would run from FY 2023-2028. In the first year the exemption would be 100% of the increased assessed value based on how much investment they've made, and then after that it would drop from 90%, 75%, 50% and 25%. These terms are now just memorialized into a more formal contract.

Councillor Clifton: As chairperson of the negotiation committee of Milton Rents, if everything is as we initially approved last year, I don't see why we should not proceed and agree with what we had already agreed to.

Motion made by Councillor Clifton to approve the contract, seconded by Councillor Gordan.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

## **Town Manager's Report:**

1. Town Manager Howard brought forward the recommendation of Ronald Cassford as Fire Chief for the Town of Randolph's Fire Department. As mentioned previously, this process had thirteen candidates that applied for the position, six were internal, three were from other Massachusetts fire departments, and four were out of state. The selection committee consisted of the Police Chief Morag, Superintendent Stovell, Health Commissioner Cody, Building Commissioner Lum, Code Enforcement Officer Witherspoon, Director of Community Programming LaRosee, Town Councillors Chris Alexopoulos, and Natacha Clerger, and myself. We received the thirteen applications, narrowed them down to five, and sent them to the Fire Chief Assessment Center Process, three were internal and two were external. The Fire Chief Assessment Center went through an extensive process and sent back three finalists to the selection committee for interviews. We conducted the three interviews in one day using a two-tiered process, and Ron Crossford scored the highest on both steps. The Committee also had a lengthy discussion regarding each of the candidates and again, Ronald Crossford was the top choice. A few highlights of Crossford's resume include: 1. He has served the Randolph Community for twenty-eight years, the past five in the role of Chief of Operations, 2. He has his Bachelors of Science from Anna Maria College, 3. Graduate of the Collins Center Fire Chief Program, 4. Member of the local union for over a decade and served many of those years as president, 5. Wrote close to two million dollars worth of grants. The Town Manager believes that he will excel and serve this Community in an exemplary fashion.

Motion to ratify the appointment of Ronald Cassford as the Randolph Fire Chief made by Councillor C. Alexopoulos, seconded by Councillor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

#### **Old/Unfinished Business:**

1. **Resolution 2022-001: Resolution calling on the Biden Administration to Cease Deportation of Haitian Migrants Under Title 42**

Councillor Clerger provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Resolution.

The Councillors shared comments regarding this Resolution.

Motion to approve Resolution 2022-001 as presented made by Councillor Clerger, seconded by Councillor Clifton.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Abstention: Egan)

Motion passes.

#### **Correspondence:**

1. The Massachusetts State Lottery is offering a KENO monitor to existing KENO To Go agent/s in your city/town. The Massachusetts State Lottery Commission intends to install a monitor at the following location: Richdale Food Shops 103 at 1395 North Main Street, Randolph, MA 02368.

#### **Committee Reports:**

1. Councillor Gordon provided an update on the Human Services/Seniors/Recreation Subcommittee. The next meeting will be held on March 30, 2022 at 5:00 PM. We are addressing two issues: 1. open space and recreation plan that we do not have in Randolph which prohibits us from applying for certain grants, and 2. the possibility of reconstituting the Board of Recreation.

## **Council Comments:**

Councillor Burgess: 1. My understanding is we had a pre-application meeting with the new owners of McNeal. Wouldn't that go under the Plan Review Authority process? 2. There is still Graffiti by the public storage, the old burger king building, and a few other locations in Randolph that have not been addressed. I want to make sure we get that taken care of.

Councillor Brewer: 1. On March 30, 2022, the Turner Free Library will host a collection of African American Histories. You can register online to check out the books that are now in stock. 2. The First Congressional Church along with the Turner Free Library will conduct a reading of Valerie Cars Memoir: See No Stranger. Copies of the book will be available at the Turner Free Library and the First Congressional Church. There will be three different book discussion sessions To find out more information, go to the Turner Free Library website. 3. Ms. Marsha of Self-Help Inc. will be at the TFL with various programming options. Please go online at the Turner Free Library to register for these events.

Councillor Gordon: 1. Councillor C. Alexopoulos and I sent a letter to the Massachusetts Department of Transit regarding the Route 24 overpass asking for follow-up. The main questions are: who does the clean up of the area, who does the repainting of the bridge, and could the sidewalk be extended? 2. The neighbors on the corner of Fowler Street and West Street are requesting the same type of signage as the ones that currently exist on the corner of West Street and Lafayette Street.

Councillor Clerger: 1. Thank you Town Manager Howard for promoting and supporting the events I come up with for the community. 2. The Fourth Annual Haitian Flag Day Celebration is coming up on May 18, 2022 at 8:00 AM for a flag-raising ceremony and on May 21, 2022 we will have a parade from Town Hall to the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center. 3. On April 22, 2022, we are having a Randolph Earth Day celebration honoring the health workers at the vaccine clinic at 81 Memorial Parkway in Randolph from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. 4. Seniors Celebration Day will be held on March 25, 2022 at 10 AM to 1:00 PM for all seniors in Randolph and surrounding communities with lots of fun activities. 5. I reached out to the protestors from the vaccination information session. I wanted to remind everyone that all of the Councillors serve as volunteers and we are all doing our best. Everyone is welcome to protest but please do it respectfully.

Councillor Huff-Larmond: 1. I also wanted to say that I agree and stand with those who are speaking their truth and trying to educate the community. As Councillors, our job is to educate the community and it is disheartening when individuals are just disrespectful of others. 2. Thank you to the Randolph Wellness Community. 3. Randolph DEI Coalition continues to go strong and have the best interests of Randolph in mind. 4. On Saturday, there was a wonderful health conference that touched on many subjects. I'm hoping we can get that on Randolph Community Television for people to watch. 5. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Councillor Clifton: On the night of Wednesday, March 9, 2022, while moderating the Town's pediatric vaccine forum held virtually from my home, a crowd of boisterous protestors descended upon my own home. The protestors were armed with whistles and noisy instruments. While I appreciate the First Amendment's freedom of expression, I do not believe protesting efforts are to intimidate and community hateful slurs and it doesn't justify the encroachment on private property. I want to apologize to my neighbors who's quality of life was interrupted. Despite this difficult incident for my family and me, I want to assure the public that I will continue to execute my duties as a Councillor and will continue to represent all of my constituents and fellow residents to the best of my ability.

## **Executive Session:**

Council President read the following: The Town Council may vote to go into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 30A, section 21(a)(3) relative to litigation strategy concerning the Town's claims in its opioid litigation. M.G.L. ch. 30A, section 21(a)(3) permits a public body to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. The Chair so declared.

Council President Alexopoulos requested a vote for the Town Council to enter Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0

The Council President announced that the Council would enter Executive Session and would not be returning to public session after the Executive Session.

The public portion of the Town Council meeting concluded, and the Council entered an executive session at 8:30 PM.