



Town of Abington
OFFICE OF
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Minutes
Board of Selectmen
January 23, 2023
Cotter Room
6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Alex Bezanson, Chair, Mike Kolodziej, Tim Chapin, Kevin DiMarzio, Alex Hagerty, Scott Lambiase, Town Manager

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A Moment of Silence was held for Thomas J. Couite (attached).

6:40 p.m. Request to transfer commercial license of William Rust dba Abington Automatic Transmission to Gary A. Trenholm dba Abington Automatic Transmission, 1 Oak Street. Motion to open the hearing made by Mr. Kolodziej, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous. Mr. Rust is retiring, and Mr. Trenholm is buying the business. The name of the business will remain the same. Motion to close the hearing made by Mr. Kolodziej, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous. Motion to approve the license transfer from William Rust to Gary Trenholm made by Mr. Koldziej, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.

Action/Discussion Items:

1. Vote to approve the January 10, 2023, minutes – motion made by Mr. Hagerty, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.
2. Request to hold the 42nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 19th, 1 p.m. and to use the parking lots at Center and North Schools for line up and parking of buses. Motion to approve made by Mr. DiMarzio, seconded by Mr. Hagerty, subject to Police and Fire Department approval, unanimous.

There was a discussion with differing opinions on the budget process and whether or not department heads needed to come before the Board of Selectmen as they had already been before the Finance Committee.

3. Veterans' Agent Operational Update, FY24 Budget Overview. Adam Gunn – requesting a level funded budget, creating a new line item for advertising to try to reach younger veterans that they are not currently seeing. His most exciting news is his assistant Martha who has been extremely helpful since she came on board last August. They will be presenting an article at Town Meeting for a work-off program for veterans or spouses of disabled or deceased veterans. They will be eligible for a \$1,500 credit on their real estate tax bill. There are quite a

few projects that would qualify for this. They will be starting a veterans' ride program with a donated vehicle for veterans and their spouses. He explained the Chapter 115 program. Mr. Hagerty asked how having another person on staff has helped. He has been able to increase Ch. 115 outreach. He has been using social media for outreach to attract the younger generation. He would like to do a mass mailing to reach the younger veterans.

4. Board of Health Operational Update, FY24 Budget Overview. Lindsay Wright, Public Health Nurse, Board of Health – They continue to offer the best care they can to residents. They have an open door policy. They offer classes on different subjects, emergency preparedness, information on recycling, hold a blood pressure clinic, do nursing home visits. They attend continuing education classes that are state and federally funded. They started a "Parents Night Out" program focused on adolescent substance abuse. The Board of Health was invited to help launch this program across the country.

There will be more education on recycling. They are going to try to hire someone who is a multi-tasker and can help with recycling education, compliance and enforcement, as well as developing community-based health programs, as opposed to an administrative capacity. This position had previously been filled at \$28 for 35 hours/week. They are looking to reduce their tonnage through this process with an education and compliance officer.

They are working with the Meteorology Center in Taunton and are able to post weather recognition official updates from the National Weather Services and provide education to our residents.

There was a bump in vaccine costs in the budget. They will get the administration costs back. As of March 15th, the COVID vaccine is no longer free, it is \$115.

They are still hoping to get Code Red sign ups. The program announces official Town notifications.

The cost of recycling each month is \$108,000, or \$1.3M annually. COVID test kits are still available from the Board of Health; the expiration dates have been extended through June 2023. Mr. Lambiase – education is our best tool for recycling, as well as for residents to compost.

5. Police Department Operational Update and Announcement of promotions – rescheduled to February 13, 2023.

6. Town Manager Report

- The Finance Committee is meeting with South Shore Vocational Technical High School and the School Department on January 25th.
- Attended the MMA Conference and heard positive messages from the Governor's Office and Division of Local Services, intending to support Chapter 70 and other school reimbursements. Preliminary budget numbers should be out by mid-February.

- Submitted a preliminary budget with a deficit of \$1,864,000, which was reviewed.
- Mr. Bezanson – he and Mr. Chapin attended the MMA meeting with Mr. Lambiase and went to some of the classes. One of the classes was on when flags should be lowered and as to which flag – town, state or federal. Dighton has a good policy, and we'll get a copy from Mike Mullen, Rockland, who has one. The Selectmen will put this on an agenda and vote on a policy.
- Mr. Lambiase attended a cannabis class. There are new laws which will be in effect in November.
- Mr. Kolodziej – had complaints from some of the residents after the last snowstorm. Some of the roads were slick. Is the DPW short staffed? Scott will talk with John Stone.
- Mr. Haggerty – wanted to give a shout-out to the Fire Department. A resident had a heart attack and off-duty Fire Department EMT's were listening to their radios and responded to the scene to do anything they could. They are never off the clock.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. DiMarzio, seconded by Mr. Kolodziej, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy Hurst

Obituary
Thomas J. Couite

Tom Couite died on January 13, 2023, at age 86. He worked almost his entire life as a Master Barber and became a very successful business owner, operating Tom's Barber Shop in Abington for over 52 years, becoming a local institution. His shop had the unique distinction of being located at the point in the road between Wales Street and North Avenue. He was proud of the fact that both of his children followed in his career path.

He had many interests, and leaves behind a very large, loving family. He will be greatly missed.