

**Agenda
Select Board
Monday, July 20, 2026
Cotter Room
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Paul Bunker, Chairman, Ken Coyle, Daniel Eddy, William Cormier, Michael Maresco, Town Manager

Absent: Nicole Emery

The meeting opened with the **Pledge of Allegiance**

Announcements:

- Mr. Eddy – Veterans Services is looking for veterans interested in sharing their military experiences as part of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. Please contact the Veterans Office if you are interested in participating.
- Veterans Transportation Program – free transportation is currently available for eligible Abington veterans and surviving spouses to VA medical centers and local medical appointments.
- Mr. Coyle – thanked our Town Manager for driving the COA van for the Summer Concert last night. It was a great show; the next one is Studio Two.
- Mr. Bunker – there will be a Purple Heart Town ceremony on Sunday, August 9th at 1 p.m. at the Legion.
- Yesterday, the Little League 9B baseball team won the Machado Baseball Tournament in their division in Braintree.
- Both Abington Youth Soccer and Abington Youth Adaptive Sports fall soccer registration are currently open.
- Today over at the Fire Station/DPW complex, there was a huge crane in the air placing the new generator on the pad.
- Shawn Reilly – on behalf of the Fire Station/DPW Building Committee, he wanted to thank Hallamore on 139 in Holbrook. They had been very generous in the past in donating their crane services, and once again they came to our aid by placing the new generator on the pad, which helped us save money quite a bit. He publicly wanted to thank Brendan Barry and Paul Barry and Dennis Barry for once again being a very generous corporate donor to the town of Abington. The Committee is trying to save money wherever they can and are negotiating with a company now that has an office building in Andover that is relocating and is looking at about 30 desk chairs that are almost brand new and some other furniture up there free of charge and it kind of helps to keep everything within our budget. They are looking for volunteers to go up there in a couple of U-Haul trucks and take as much as they can get for them and some of the other buildings. Project is going great. DPW is hopefully moving into their building in early December to be ready for the winter. The fire station is still targeted for late spring, May or June.

Items:

1. **Vote on Minutes: June 22, 2026** – motion by Mr. Cormier to approve, seconded by Mr. Eddy, unanimous.
2. **Joint meeting with Abington Water Commissioner and Select Board to vote and appoint Water Commissioners.** There are two vacant seats to be voting on tonight. Amanda Hunter, Abington Water Commissioner, called the Abington Water Commission meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. There are five applicants. The Abington/Rockland Joint Water Commission is made up of three members from each town. Currently there is only one member from Abington. They meet once a month and the first or second item on the agenda is to schedule the next meeting. The meetings are held at 4 p.m. Commissioners usually go into the office once a week to sign warrants or handle any issues that may come up. They familiarize themselves with the department, how they can be supportive.

There were five applicants, three in attendance.

- Zachary McGovern, 57 Pearl Street, has lived in the town for 16 years and wanted to get involved in the town. His wife is involved. He is in engineering, analytical. He would seek re-election in April if he is appointed. How would he increase water coming into the town? He would find out what the issues are, hold the right people accountable, come up with an action plan. It has been talked about getting more water from MWRA, Brockton Water Desalinization Plant. Zachary thought the Desalinization Plant was a good idea.
- Cory Dalton, 279 N. Quincy Street, wants to get involved in the town he lives in. Currently a licensed master plumber for six years, plumbing for 12 years. He works a lot with water systems to make sure they are safe. He is interested in learning and wants to learn and serve the town of Abington. Same questions: he would seek election in April if he is appointed. He isn't an expert, but MWRA sounds good, but expensive. Is the water due to drought?
- Richard Mullen, 707 Plymouth Street, gave his extensive background in utilities, which he thought would be a benefit to the Commission, and his military service. He would look forward to working with the management to make sure it is run efficiently and in compliance with the appropriate rules. He would probably run for re-election, depending on how the activity went. Thoughts and ideas on how to get more water into the system – look at what the utilizations are now, what the projections are for population and industrial growth in the area. We wouldn't have the water for a data center. Brockton Desalinization or MWRA? He would have to study the issues carefully and find out the possibility and ramifications.

Board thanked the candidates for coming.

Ms. Hunter wrote a letter recommending Mr. Dalton because she felt someone in the plumbing trade would be helpful re maintenance and best practices. Motion by Ms. Casey to nominate Mr. Dalton, seconded Mr. Cormier, 4 aye, 1 opposed (Mr. Coyle). Motion by Mr. Cormier to nominate Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mr. Eddy, unanimous. Ms. Hunter told them they are making really good progress with PFAS treatment plant.

Discussion and Vote on Licensing Agreement for the First Baptist Church. Originally there was a ninety-nine year lease to use a portion of town-owned land for parking. The Church would like to put in a playground and use a little of the town property and put a fence around it. It was asked if the playground would be opened to the public, but it is going to be fenced off. Motion to approve made by Mr. Coyle, seconded by Mr. Eddy, unanimous.

3. **Discussion and Vote on Licensing Agreement on Arnold Park Street Hockey Rink with the Bruins Foundation.** Alex Bezanson is here with an update on the project. The Bruins Foundation donated \$50,000 for the project and their insignia will be in the center of that rink. To comply with procurement laws, we had to do a licensing agreement. The Bruins approved doing it and Mr. Bezanson was very helpful in bringing this together. Mr. Bezanson – the Bruins Foundation has built rinks in numerous communities. Bob Sweeney told him he would give Abington \$50,000 once we were shovel ready. Once it's open, the Bruins will come down and do a grand opening and bring blades and probably some equipment. Community Preservation and Park and Rec and the town have helped. Rachel Collins, Chairman, Park & Rec., and Community Preservation – there are a lot of people that have been involved in this project, but they are super grateful to Alex for working with the town and the Bruins Foundation.

Motion by Mr. Bunker to approve, seconded by Mr. Cormier. Mr. Coyle ad questions about the logos. Rachel Collins – in her park & rec reading she has found that the more you update resources and keep them neat and tidy, the more folks in town are to follow along. They are taking a not so great space and sprucing up a new playground, resurfacing the existing basketball court, putting in a new rink, updating through CPA the Little League field, and hopes people will step up and follow the trends across the country. Mr. Bunker asked about a fence between the ballfield and the playground. There is a temporary one, but she's not sure about a permanent one. She will check on it and get back to the board. The vote was unanimous.

4. **Town Manager's Update.**

- Hosted meeting with Shawn Reilly for potential bidders through the RFP process at Memorial Field for the two bathrooms that will be added. Several interested GC and subs showed up for the meeting. The deadline to file the RFP is July 22, 2026, by 2 PM.
- I interviewed the two candidates recommended to me by the Preliminary Screening Committee for the Health Agent. Unfortunately, we will be re-posting the position and adjusting the salary to be more competitive with our surrounding communities.
- Working on putting together an RFP for the JV Baseball Field for netting, and pole installation to protect the residents and doing some tree cutting.
- Signed the new Trash and Recycling Committee contract with All State.
- Met with Nick Jenks our Building Commissioner regarding 201 North Quincy Street issue which has been resolved.
- Working on a few Public Record Requests including Executive Session meeting minutes, Center and North School RFP/Causeway Development and Mia Regazza Restaurant.
- Working with TruNorth Bank on a potential donation to the Arnold Street Park project, maybe paying for some picnic tables and benches for the park and will get some prices for that.
- Working on posting a few employment ads for a Payroll Clerk, an Administrative Clerk in the Treasurer's Office and the BOH Office.
- Beginning the process to inventory all town property, both real and personal.
- Working with Andrew on the FY28 Budget and FY28 Capital Budget. We are also working on a three year look-ahead to see the direction we are heading to make sure we are prepared for whatever comes our way.

6:20 p.m. Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(7), to comply with the requirements of G.L. c. 30A, §22(g)(2), to review minutes from past executive sessions to determine whether any or all of such minutes may be made public, for the following meetings:

Set 1: 8/13/01, 9/10/01, 10/9/01, 9/24/01, 10/09/01, 10/22/01, 6/12/06, 6/9/08, 7/14/08, 8/18/08, 9/22/08, 1/26/09, 2/23/09, 3/9/09, 4/27/09;

Set 2: May 26, 2009, July 13, 2009, September 14, 2009, August 24, 2009, September 14, 2009 (second set of minutes), November 9, 2009, December 14, 2009, November 8, 2010, November 22, 2010, April 25, 2011;

Set 3: January 24, 2000, February 14, 2000, February 28, 2000, March 27, 2000, April 24, 2000, May 8, 2000, May 25, 2000, June 6, 200, June 26, 2000, July 10, 2000;

Set 4: July 18, 2000, July 24, 2000, August 4, 2000, September 25, 2000, November 21, 2000, November 27, 2000, November 29, 2000, December 5, 2000, December 19, 2000.

Executive Session pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, §21(a)(1), to discuss an Open Meeting Law complaint about the Board's review and release of executive session minutes and not returning to open session.

Gregg Corbo, Town Counsel – this will be on the agenda for the foreseeable future. In 2011 the Open Meeting Law was substantially changed and included the requirement that minutes from executive sessions be periodically reviewed to determine if the purpose of the executive session is still applicable, and if not, requiring the board to release those minutes to the public in the same manner as the open session minutes. The board recently received a public records request seeking copies of all executive session minutes going back to 1975, most of which never had a requirement to review before and released. This is something that is relatively new. They will be making recommendations to the board on a rolling basis going forward until they are done. There is nothing nefarious or being withheld here that shouldn't be, it's just that it is something new that we need to get caught up on. The vast majority of these issues have been cleared up, although there may be issues of privacy and that's why they need to be gone through one set of minutes at a time to see if they should be released. Mr. Coyle thanked him for his guidance.

Motion by Mr. Coyle to go into Executive Session at 6:44 p.m., seconded by Mr. Eddy, roll call vote: Mr. Cormier, aye; Mr. Eddy, aye; Mr. Coyle, aye; Mr. Bunker, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hurst