

**Minutes
Joint Meeting
Board of Selectmen &
Board of Assessors
December 11, 2023
Cotter Room
6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Alex Hagerty, Chair, Kevin Donovan, Tim Chapin, Suzanne Djusberg, Scott Lambiase, Town Manager, Larry Keough, Board of Assessors
Absent: Kevin DiMarzio

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence: Paul F. Leavitt, John Walsh (attached)

Public Announcements:

- Mr. Donovan: Saturday at Walmart, members of Abington Police and Fire Departments will be conducting a toy drive.
- Ms. Djusberg: Thursday, 11 a.m. at the Senior Center, there will be an Ugly Sweater Party. Also at the Senior Center, they will be having a Giving Tree if you would like to donate.
- Mr. Hagerty: A presentation of Abington's Best will be awarded to Coach Jim Kelliher on December 22, 2023, 6:45 p.m. at the Abington Middle/High School Gym, in honor of his 50 years of coaching.
Mr. Hagerty read the certificate in recognition from the Executive Office of Veterans Services to Adam Gunn, Abington Veterans' Services Officer. Adam is an asset to the Town.
Abington Celebrates sent a note thanking the Town, its departments and volunteers for their support in making the December festivities such a success.
Mr. Haggerty wished everyone a safe and happy Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Public Appointments:

6:40 p.m. Joint appointment by Board of Selectmen and Board of Assessors to fill vacancy on Board of Assessors until April election – Joseph Shea. Mr. Shea – served as an elected assessor in the past and offered his services to help the Board and has worked in the department for 13 years and doesn't plan to run for election. Roll call vote: Larry Keough, aye; Kevin Donovan, aye; Suzanne Djusberg, aye; Tim Chapin, aye; Alex Hagerty, aye; unanimous.

6:43 p.m. Request for change of manager, Tenth District Brewing LLC, 748 Brockton Avenue, from E. Patrick Eddy to Dana George. Mr. George is the owner and looking to change the

manager from his former partner who is no longer with the company to himself. The Board didn't have any concerns. Motion to close the hearing made by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Chapin, unanimous. Motion to approve made by Mr. Chapin, seconded by Mr. Donovan, unanimous.

6:45 p.m. Request for common victualer license for Harry's Place, 201 N. Quincy Street, Harillaos Thodhori, Manager. Mr. Thodhori – he has lived in Abington for 11 years and owned Aroma Pizza for 11 years. He wants to work shorter hours, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. This would be for breakfast and lunch. The Board didn't have any concerns. Motion to close by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Djusberg, unanimous. Motion to approve made by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.

Action/Discussion Items:

1. **Request for appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals voting member: Robert Manning, Andrew Levrault.** Mr. Levrault withdrew his application. Mr. Manning has been an alternate for four years. Motion by Mr. Donovan to appoint Mr. Manning full voting member on the ZBA, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.
2. **Vote to approve annual license renewals.** Mr. Donovan made a motion to approve the annual license renewals for alcohol, common victualer, entertainment, amusement devices, pool tables, bowling alley, lodging houses livery and class I & II, with the following exceptions: PowerHouse Nutrition, 493 Washington Street; Teffy's Restaurant & Bar, 800 Brockton Ave.; lodging license at 96 Railroad Street, Yaser Saleh; seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.
PowerHouse Nutrition – motion by Mr. Donovan to have the Town Manager and appropriate department heads meet with the owners to renew if they come into compliance. If they fail to respond or come into compliance, schedule them to come to a meeting in January and have the Board consider whether their license should be suspended or revoked, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.
Teffy's Restaurant & Bar – there was an incident on December 2nd and Mr. Donovan referred to the Police report. They were in violation of several factors. There was overcrowding with over 300 people. Police needed to call for mutual aid. Motion by Mr. Donovan to renew the license at the discretion of the Town Manager and have a meeting with Fire, Police, the Building Commissioner and the owner, explaining the seriousness of these violations. If something happens again, there will be a show cause hearing before the Board as to why their license shouldn't be suspended or revoked. Ms. Djusberg seconded the motion, unanimous. Mr. Chapin agreed. There were seven calls to the Police Department this year.
Lodging license, 96 Railroad Street, Yaser Saleh – repairs needed to fire escape. Motion by Mr. Donovan to have the Town Manager at his discretion with Fire Police and Building Commissioner have the owner come in and renew if they come into compliance. If they fail to come in or promise to do the work and don't do it, give them notice to show cause why the Board shouldn't revoke their license. Ms. Djusberg seconded the motion, unanimous. Mr. Hagerty requested the Town Manager to follow-up with license holders.

3. **Vote to update Town of Abington Financial Management Policies and Objectives.** Policies hadn't been updated since 2006. Motion to accept the updated Policies and Objectives made by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.
4. **Vote to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter to the EEA (Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs) supporting the New England Development MEPA (Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act) application.** The three communities have approved the zoning changes for the SRA. Motion by Mr. Donovan to send letter of support, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.
5. **Town Manager Report and submission of FY 2025 Draft Budget:**
 - Town Manager is working on the FY25 Draft Budget and has requested level service budgets from department heads. We don't have revenue or state aid numbers yet. There is a \$1.9M deficit, which will change as we go forward.
 - Waste collection is at 10% increase.
 - DPW is looking for a couple of positions.
 - Police Department is requesting a cadet program.
 - They are holding schools and SSVT at 4% but are not sure where they will come in at.
 - Health insurance is at 7%.
 - Plymouth County Retirement added \$326,000, part of which was the 3% COLA increase.
 - This is the first year we are required to pay our share of the Town's part of the grant towards the Holbrook Regional Emergency Communication Center, which was a five-year grant. The first three years the state was paying 100%. This is the first year we are paying 50% which is going to add \$185,000 to Police and Fire budgets. Next year it will be \$100,000, which will be the final year of the five-year agreement, and we aren't sure where we go from there. It has been a very successful program.
 - We received a lot of other grants, not to mention the \$150,000 generator outside the building, and money that has gone into computers and communication equipment.
 - The next cycle we are negotiating with Holbrook we will be looking for grant money to outfit the new fire station.
 - The capital improvement plan was included. There is about \$1.6M in free cash they hope to spend. They don't anticipate borrowing any more money for projects this year.
 - We may ask the voters to authorize us to borrow for a new fire engine, but he doesn't anticipate we would get it for two years, so it wouldn't effect the FY25 or possibly FY26 budgets.
 - He will be asking the Board to open the warrant on January 8, 2024, and close on February 12, 2024. The Planning Board can then have their hearings.
 - Finance Committee hearings have already begun. March 22nd the recommendations should be to the Town Clerk and the Annual Town Meeting will be on Monday, April 1, 2024. Most of the department heads will be coming to meet with the Board after they have gone to the Finance Committee.
 - Mr. Hagerty asked about the Town Planner position. Mr. Lambiase – position has been posted. He has received a couple of applications. He will go over them with members of the Planning Board and Liz Shea and meet with the candidates.

- Affordable Housing would like to meet with Board and Griffin Dairy Committee re parcel of land for South Shore Habitat for Humanity, which would ultimately be up to the Board. He got the impression that Griffin may not be in favor of it.

6. Set meeting schedule January through April 2024:

January 8 & 22

February 12 & 26

March 11 & 25

April 8 & 22

Motion by Mr. Donovan to adjourn at 7:24 p.m., seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hurst