

**Minutes
Select Board
Tuesday, January 27, 2026
5:30 p.m.
Cotter Room**

Members Present: Roger Woods, Chairman, Suzanne Djusberg, Kevin Donovan, Paul Bunker, Nicole Emery, Michael Maresco, Interim Town Manager

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Woods wanted to commend the DPW on the exceptional job they did on this snowstorm, as well as the Police and Fire Departments. He also wanted to recognize the people at the Senior Center – Amy Barrett, Robin Larosi and Chris Schultz from the Board of Health - who manned the Warming Station that thankfully we didn't need, but they were down there through the whole storm in case people needed somewhere to go and wanted to recognize their efforts.

Items:

1. **Vote to approve an extension of hours on the Entertainment License for the Abington Ale House in the outside patio area for acoustical live music from 8 PM to 10 PM on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.** This is an existing license. They just want to expand it. Motion by Mr. Donovan to approve, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.
2. **Vote to pull the additional four (4) new police officers from the override article.** We just appointed seven police officers. It was decided, with the fiscal situation the way it is, and budgetary problems, it should be withdrawn and look to do that in the future. Chief Bonney agreed that in this financial situation, four more officers is more of a want than a need. Now is not the right time. Motion to withdraw the article for four additional police officers made by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.
3. **Approval of minutes** – November 10, 2025 – motion by Mr. Mr. Bunker, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, 4 ayes, 1 abstention (KRD). December 3, 2025 – motion by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Ms. Emery, unanimous. December 17, 2025 – motion by Ms. Emery, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous. January 15, 2026 – motion by Ms. Emery, seconded by Mr. Bunker, 4 ayes, 1 abstention (KRD).

Public Hearing:

5:35 p.m. Request for a Class 11 license transfer from Vito's Auto Center, 135 Bedford Street, to Fox Auto Group, Inc., 135 Bedford Street, Rogerio Kreidtlow, Manager, with 17 vehicles for sale, 2 customer spaces and 1 employee space for a total of 20 spaces. Larissa DaSilveira Rodrigues, owner - they are going to paint the building and make the lot look nicer. Mr. Donovan wanted to emphasize that if the Board approves 17 vehicles for sale, 2 customer spaces and 1 employee space for a total of 20 spaces, she is not allowed to go over that number of spaces. She understood that. Motion to approve by Mr. Donvan per delineated spaces and inspections, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.

Items:

1. **Interview the Finalists for the Position of Town Manager and vote to appoint a Town Manager.** Note: Agenda will be amended as soon as the Search Committee decides on the finalists at its meeting on Saturday, January 24, 2026. The report from the Search Committee was read.

“The Town Manager Search Committee comprised of seven members, which included one member of the Finance Committee and one member of the School Committee, reports the finalists for the position of Town Manager. Each member of the Search Committee had the ability to independently review all the applications, debate the qualifications, and ask all the questions it wanted of the candidates that were interviewed. To recap the position of Town Manager, it was advertised on the MMA Job Opportunities website on December 2nd with the deadline for applications on January 5th.

The Search Committee met on January 5th after the deadline to review applications. The Committee then set two meeting dates and met on Saturday, January 17th for the purpose of reviewing and narrowing the applicants down to five that were voted to be interviewed. Five candidates were invited for the interview confirming their attendance. Prior to the date of the interview on Saturday, January 24th, two of the candidates withdrew from further consideration of the process. The Committee met and interviewed the remaining three candidates. At the January 24, 2026, meeting, the Committee unanimously recommended to the Select Board the following candidates and additionally the Committee decided to unanimously rank the candidates in preferential order as follows: (1) Michael Maresco; (2) Angie Ellison; (3) Joseph Reynolds. The ranking is for the information of the Select Board and obviously doesn't dictate how the Select Board will consider candidates. All the candidates are now properly before the Board for final consideration and having completed the duties as charged by the Town Charter, the Town Manager Search Committee is now dissolved.”

Ms. Emery asked each candidate the following question: Do they have any experience with debt exclusion projects and/or override questions, and if so, explain the process of education of the public, the format of the questions and the results.

Has there ever been a time when their mind has been changed about something after talking to aa resident, and if so, what prompted that shift?

Mr. Bunker: Do they have experience formulating town budgets that required an override, and if so, how would she go about educating the public and what were the results?

If a resident had a dispute with a department or board and they didn't like their results, and they sent an email, how many days would it take to resolve whatever the issue may be?

Mr. Donovan: A department head comes into her/his office first thing Monday morning and informs her that as of Friday the department did not turn over to the treasurer the usual and required collection of checks and money, and that it appears funds may be missing. The department head then tells you that an employee has a known gambling problem. How would you handle the situation?

Ms. Djusberg: What experience does she/he have with hiring, discipline and termination of personnel?

Mr. Woods: What is her/his policy on keeping the Select Board informed of major incidents that happen in town?

Angie Ellison

Ms. Emery thanked Ms. Ellison for her service in the Army National Guard. Ms. Ellison – she has had experience with debt exclusion Prop 2 ½ not only relative to an override but also debt exclusion for a particular project, capital project, big development project like school building. For an actual Prop 2 ½ override, in the last community she served in, they had an extensive process. You have to be able to fully engage the community. It is important for the community to be educated whether the override is approved or not, with the support of the Select Board, the Finance Committee and all of the infrastructure in helping to get the message out and share the information and answer any questions that residents may have. She has done it extensively through media, local papers, campaigns, faith-based institutions; there's a plethora of ways.

What type of override the town goes for will determine how town meeting votes for or against it, because they are required by Mass. Law to present a balanced budget. All the positions she has held, the budget has always been hers, except Blandford where she was the part-time Town Administrator for 20 hours a week. It was a joint effort with the Select Board to develop the budget. She uses a team approach with department heads to see what works with budgets and has asked them where they can cut, rather than saying everyone is taking a 10% cut.

She had an experience with embezzlement. She would get the finance team together and see from the collectors office what needed to be turned in. Look at protocol and processes. Where did the deficiency or lack of take place? What was the circumstance that prevented them from getting it in on time? If there are deficiencies or funds that are missing, she would see where that is and who was responsible for bringing it in. It is important to get the full picture and the facts and not make assumptions because circumstances may dictate something else. If it is embezzlement, then the authorities and proper people would be notified, and an investigation will happen and that person will be dealt with accordingly.

She has had a lot of experience with hiring. She has always been in a position responsible for hiring and discipline and developing staff. She feels her role as a manager is to build and grow a team, that they are reaching their full potential and ability. Terminating people is the hardest. She has done it and it is not the best part, but sometimes you have to. In this case of embezzlement, the person was arrested, charged, indicted and found guilty and is serving time. She had to terminate a few others that were also in that same circle. They failed to execute the system of checks and balances that should have been able to catch some of these things. It is a last resort; they do a lot of training, a lot of development, weekly meetings, something to get you to succeed.

It is important for communication to know what the Select Board's preference is and she would ask them individually, whether it is a phone call, text, email. She would also send out an email to the collective Board with Bcc.

Ms. Emery: On her resume she was Town Manager for 2-3 years each place. For Abington, does she see herself staying longer than that?

Ms. Ellison – Her goal would be to be here for a long time. She would like to be in partnership with the Select Board and move the community to the next level. Her first

position was a part time position, 20 hours a week. She was going through some life changes and needed to find a full time job. The second position was when she discovered the embezzlement and a lot of things came out of that. The third community, she worked for a mayor as chief of staff, and when he decided not to run for reelection, she was out of a job not by choice. In the last community, there was a dislike of the charter and an idea that the Select Board needed to be the hiring entity and have direct report of all of the municipality, and they won and decided they were going to go in a different direction. Her contract was renewed and they were in negotiations for her next term. Elections happened, and they decided to go in a different direction. They mutually agreed on a separation. She was able to turn it around and put infrastructure, systems, and policies that create long-term effects. Prior to her, every town manager was there for two years or less. After her setting up policies and systems, the town manager has been there for seven years.

She would like to be here for a long time and be part of the community. She participates in community events, and festivals; they are important to her.

Mr. Donovan – She was an elected member of a regional school committee and board of selectmen in Sturbridge. She would understand both sides of the table. She also stands on two non-profit boards.

Any complaint from a resident is acknowledged almost immediately. She takes the customer service approach to residents. They are our constituents. She has helped resolve a lot of those situations.

She doesn't make impulsive decisions. She takes a team approach to problem solving. Sometimes she will have a department head meeting and throw out a problem and tackle it from different perspectives.

Closing statement:

Ms. Ellison is dedicated to public service. She has worked in the public sector her entire career, from higher education to her consulting work, as well as her municipal work. Her undergrad and graduate work are in political science and American studies. Higher education was her outlier and that was a full career itself. She is dedicated to seeing municipalities succeed. She thinks Abington is a good fit. She is very particular and wants a stable community and one that wants to move forward. She asked the Board because one of the candidates is the interim, if all the candidates are on the same playing field. Mr. Donovan – everyone is on an even playing field. The interim has only been here for a short period of time. She has been through the process with the Search Committee and now the Select Board will make the determination. Everyone is equal. The Board thanked Ms. Ellison for coming in.

Joseph Reynolds

Ms. Emery thanked him for his service. Mr. Reynolds - He is an elected councilor to the Town of Braintree. They had a new major come into office two years ago. They knew they were having problems from a revenue standpoint. Costs were outgrowing their revenues, particularly in school and two years ago they did a debt override that was earmarked for \$8M. They put that into their schools, police department, and their DPW. With the 2 ½ override, it was obvious that they were not able to keep up with their revenues due to the limits on 2 ½. Working with the Mayor's Office and Finance Director, they looked at ways to cut back costs. They wanted to preserve jobs but had to look at the job force as well. The educational part was a challenge, but they have about four community associations – they

did road trips, zoom calls, meetings at the school, meetings at the School Committee about the override. They were able to convince the public that they were making changes and were willing to make cuts. It gave them a chance to look for programs for further revenues that were more sustainable and to better educate the taxpayers.

He formulated a budget as the chief of staff and director of operations under the Mayor for three years. In some cases, they were able to combine departments, create revenues with rental of properties. They had to understand and clearly communicate where that money was going in the case of the override. They couldn't earmark the \$8M for the override, it went into the levy, but it gave them a boost in subsequent years to build on top for a larger tax levy.

He would work with the Treasurer Collector's office and verify the information if he were notified of missing funds. He would ask the department head again to confirm the information. If confirmed, you would contact the legal authorities.

He has excessive information. As chief of staff and director of operations he played a major role in interviewing for department head positions and other key positions. He enjoyed developing people and outlined what he looked for in people.

Everything starts with communication with your department heads. You have to have situational awareness always and be informed about major incidents that happen in town. He would go directly to the department head to see if there was control of the situation. There should be a risk management procedure in place. Communication would always go to the Board of Selectmen. He would be accountable to the Board.

In the event of changing his mind, he has given a voice to constituents. At first, he was concerned about the override. After listening to concerned parents about school concerns, they convinced him that the override was necessary for the greater good. He was glad he changed his mind. It put them in a much better position.

Ms. Emery – what decision did he make that was unpopular, but necessary, and how did he communicate that decision?

In his town council experience, in his district, there was an old Catholic church, and the Archdiocese made the decision to close it. The parishioners were very upset, and they wanted him to fight it. He knew they weren't going to win. The Archdiocese communicated they were going to sell it. He worked with a couple of developers, and one decided to buy the property. He convinced him to build residential 55 plus condos and people were outraged. He held a number of meetings and spelled out alternative solutions. The project went forward and the neighbors gave him good feedback. The key was communication to address their fears.

Mr. Donovan - was he chief of staff when Joe Sullivan was there – yes. Peter Morin had already left. He was vice chairman of the planning board at that time. The override was successful with the current Mayor. It passed by at least 14%.

When he took over as chief of staff, there was a three week turnaround on resolving resident disputes. He implemented a weekly staff meeting and wanted immediate acknowledgement from the department who is responsible for addressing the issue. At the weekly staff meetings, it was emphasized that they were in the customer service business. It needed to be

addressed with the individual even if they didn't agree with the outcome. Agree to disagree, but in a calm manner.

In closing, as a long time public servant, he feels his experiences parallel those of a town manager. Communication is key. Takes responsibility very seriously.

Michael Maresco

He has experience with overrides and debt exclusion. On debt exclusion he was involved with school roof project in the Town of Marshfield and was involved with a \$49.9M debt exclusion. They built a new police station, a DPW facility, doubled the size of their senior center, and built two sea walls. An override is forever and is added to the levy. Debt exclusion was done in 2019 for the term of the note just before COVID and the overall interest rate for half of it was 1.9%, 2.1% and came down to 2% for 30 years. They worked with private nonprofits. The chair worked on a lot of political campaigns and came up with "build the better Marshfield" and someone stepped up and did all their social media and didn't have to pay anyone. It was important to get the message and facts out. Citizens want to know what this is going to cost me; what are the benefits of the project; and how long will it take to be built? We had to raise money. We had to have yard signs. He is a political person, and he's been involved in many campaigns in his over 40 years in government. Get the message out there. They did radio ads, had weekly and monthly meetings leading up to town meeting and had poll workers at the election and it was hugely successful. They were all built on time and under budget.

In 2007 when he was running for his third term on the Select Board of the Town of Marshfield, there hadn't been a correction to the budget since 1990, but they were faced with a very similar situation to what is here now. Do we make the correction? Do we maintain the level of services? Do we keep the good people we have? If the override doesn't pass, we have to make cuts. We formulated two budgets. You have to have level service, level funded. Then you have to educate people what the difference is. Level funded is what the funding in the previous year was. Level service budget takes into consideration the deficit and that's where you go to the polls and the people will vote to make up that deficit, so you are maintaining those services at that cost.

You identify what the cost is. You can have a menu option which Abington is going to do, or you can have lump sum dollar. Lump sum dollar people don't like because people like the ability to go to the polls and make their own decisions. In Marshfield in 2007 they went with lump sum dollar because that's what the community wanted and worked hard to get it passed, which it did

It's all about getting out and educating people. That's why it is important to maintain the police that are out there to protect our citizens, make sure we have school resource officers, a fire department and make sure we maintain the two ambulances and enough firefighters to maintain the equipment and apparatus. To make sure we have the proper library staff, to make sure we have teachers in the classrooms to teach our children, those are the important characteristics we have to talk about. Usually some of the local unions will step up and help with that campaign apparatus piece. Social media is important to constantly get the message out every single day. It's important to get the people to get out and vote on election day.

Regarding being told there are missing funds on a Monday morning, he would ask the department head why he wasn't informed over the weekend if not on Friday. He likes bad news delivered quickly. That would require an investigation. He would sit down with the

person and the department head immediately and put the person on administrative leave. He would then investigate by interviewing all those individuals that had any knowledge of the subject matter then do a report. Then the person on administrative leave would be brought in, told they could bring in union representation, and tell them they could also bring in an attorney. You want to be very sure; you don't want to violate anyone's rights. You would look at checks which are very traceable, check the financial policies in the treasurer collector's office to ascertain if the person stole funds, was it sloppiness, were policies not followed? If checks were stolen, you can file criminal charges. If it was sloppiness, you can put that person on a PIP (Personal Improvement Plan) and retrain that person on the policies. Everything has to be documented.

Department heads need to stay on top of their employees. He is a firm believer in progressive discipline. The person gets a warning, usually verbal, then follows up with a written warning that dictates that they had the first stage, the letter and he has them sign it, and that goes in the file. The next time it is written and much more formal. If it happens a third time you have the back-up documentation that that person needs to move on.

He has hired lots of people in the course of his career. Before he hires someone, he works with the department head to go over the position, job description, pay scale, what union they are going to belong to, a job posting, professional journals. He always checks out references with interviews. Termination is based on job performance – do they have the skills to do the job, are they a good communicator? We deal with the public every day, and you need to be able to communicate. You want to make sure you get the best person. He wants good communicators and hard workers with good work ethic. You have to terminate with just cause. You have to document on paper. He's had to replace a number of people over the years. There's always an opportunity to improve yourself. They get notification that there's an issue and we address the issue and they get a verbal warning, then they get a second written warning, then they get dismissed. He makes it a point every year to review the department heads and interview them and set objectives, so they have something to work towards. He then expects department heads to meet with their employees once a year to talk about expectations, ways to improve, etc. It's not always money that motivates people. People need to hear they are doing a good job, also.

On keeping the Board informed, they have to know right away. As soon as something happens, he likes to send the information out. The Board needs to be kept informed because they are the top elected officials. His role is to let them know as much as humanly possible.

As to changing his mind about something, a resident had discussed parking issues with him because relatives' cars had been tagged. He talked to the Police Chief, and as long as there were no complaints from the neighbors and they stayed away from hydrants, they wouldn't be tagged.

Ms. Emery - during his career, has he made mistakes and what did he learn from them?

In hiring a department head position, he was on the committee, the references checked out, but he had a gut feeling. He didn't listen to his gut feeling. They hired the person, and unfortunately the person left.

Mr. Donovan – he served as a selectman. When he was Assistant Secretary of the Commonwealth, did he work with the legislature at all on legislative matters? Yes. He helped the Secretary run the office. He was also the lobbyist, he helped to craft a budget,

working to get the budget through the legislative process, working with the House Ways and Means, the Senate Ways and Means, and with the Executive Branch of the government. Once they got their line items through and passed on the budget, it was important the Governor wasn't going to veto anything and had to work with the administration. He drafted legislation and had a lot of close work with various speakers and presidents and legislative leadership. Senator Galvin was very hands on. He dealt with the Congressman and Senators directly himself, but he would attend meetings.

He would respond to a resident within 24 hours on an alleged complaint and look into it, then call the department head, then look into the validity of the complaint. If an employee were rude, he would ask the employee to write a note apologizing to the person. They've had complaints that you can't bring dogs into town hall, which is true, unless it is a service dog, and that is posted on the door. She just wanted to bring in her dog, which is not allowed. Everyone has a bad day; we're all human. The thing is to recognize the mistake and correct it.

Ms. Emery – since he's been here, what does he see as the top challenge for Abington, and does he have any plans for trying to address the challenge?

First of all is finance; without finances we can't do anything. That is going to impede our ability to protect our community as far as police, fire, DPW, educate our students. That is a moral imperative that we will have to work on to get addressed. It will take the community, not just the Select Board. There are challenges for the schools to have paraprofessionals and teachers that speak Portuguese for the large amount of Portuguese-speaking children. We need enough finances to keep the ambulances running. We have a beautiful library. He has met with the Library Trustees and talked about the wonderful things they do for our children. Getting more revenue is the answer, which means an override of Prop 2 ½ in the short term. Long term, we plan to do things. In Marshfield, in 2018, they went out to bid for a solar array on their capped land fill. It would have been \$1.1M a year. They were also going to put photovoltaics on all the municipal roofs. That potentially would have generated another \$1M or the company would replace the roofs on the school, and they would put a membrane down and then the photovoltaics on top of it. Parents read somewhere that photovoltaic units would cause brain damage if they were mounted on the roof. Three years before that the School Superintendent and School Committee voted to put this on their buildings, but this group of parents led the charge, and it didn't happen. But that is something to explore.

If the overrides don't pass, we'll be looking at various cuts in the departments. We have to look at cost savings. Can we look at shared services with other communities?

Closing - He has enjoyed his time here as interim. Everyone has been extremely welcoming. He likes to get involved in the community. He went to the Abington Celebrates activities. Makes himself available for night meetings. He thinks he can bring his years of experience to help overcome the challenges that are here.

Mr. Donovan – thanked the Search Committee for three such qualified candidates. Setting aside the fact that Mr. Maresco has been an interim for a few weeks, you have to look at their experiences in totality. Reviewing the application and looking at the interviews, it falls to experience, not only as a town administrator/manager, but some of the candidates have also been select board members so they understand those intricacies and others have had experience in the mayoral form of government. He is looking for someone who has had

experience in dealing with the legislature and debt exclusion in terms of building facilities. Factoring all that in, Mr. Donovan made the motion to appoint Michael Maresco as Town Manager subject to successful contract negotiations and authorize the Chairman to negotiate a contract and bring it back to the board for ratification at a special meeting on Thursday.

Ms. Djusberg thanked all the incredible applicants. It was challenging to pick three candidates. She had been a department head for 13 years and a Selectmen. She had never been reviewed as a department head and liked the fact that it was brought up by each of the candidates as something they would do. She felt Mr. Maresco would be a better fit for the town. Motion was seconded by Ms. Djusberg.

Ms. Emery – she based her decision on the experience of everyone and what the town would need. Based on answers tonight she felt Mr. Maresco would be the best fit, although this is a difficult decision.

Mr. Bunker – all three applicants were great but felt we need someone with the town administrator experience and liked the answers to his questions. He has seen what he has done in the last month in real time and how he has handled things.

Mr. Woods – the candidates were excellent. We have a strong town manager form of government, and we need someone who is going to fulfill that strong role. There are areas in town that need to be addressed. He wants a strong town manager that will run the town, which will work with the department heads, who isn't afraid to discipline when necessary. He's been screaming for a year and a half that we're in a tough financial position, and we're in a tough financial position, but we also have other situations that need to be addressed.

As a small business owner, he is frustrated by not being able to function as a selectman because of how municipal government works. His position is that we've extended the contract for Chief Bonney for 5 years, for Chief Glynn for 5 years for stability, and right now for bringing the town manager in. All the candidates were excellent. He wants someone who has the experience and who has been through it and that is why he wants Mr. Maresco. The Board pushed to get this done because of the financial problems we have. It owes the town's people to work through these problems, to work with all the departments. We needed to bring someone in who can do that. The interviews went very well, and he thought Mr. Maresco is the best person for the position in town.

Roll call vote: Ms. Emery, yes; Mr. Bunker, yes; Mr. Donovan, yes; Ms. Djusberg, yes; Mr. Woods, yes.

2. **Discussion and vote on the Board of Health proposal to create Animal Licensing Regulations.** Mr. Donovan – gave his history of raising animals for the past 40 years in Abington. From what he understands from the Chairman of the BOH, the State Department of Public Health wanted information concerning the bird flu. He does not have any animals now. Plymouth County Cooperative Extension Service keeps in close contact with the farming community as well as the feed and grain stores in terms of problems and has an abundance of information.

People have been complaining about rats. There have been rat problems for years. He baits his property even though he doesn't have animals. As it relates to the BOH and their proposed regulations, they are elected and can make regulations on a broad spectrum of things. Everyone is entitled to an opinion. He thinks the BOH is wrong in their approach,

too heavy-handed. They have to have a hearing and haven't voted on anything yet. He listed the requirements – name, address, telephone, email, location of where the animals are housed, number of species, feed maintenance plan, manure maintenance plan, and a vaccination maintenance plan, being able to identify chickens. It's overkill. These regulations would create a financial impact on the town. Who is going to administer this? He is opposed to government interfering with people's right to farm. The BOH should be focusing on public education on the rat program and baiting. The Governor has only filed 2.5% for unrestricted local aid which means Abington will only see an increase of about \$50-\$60,000. It's an infringement on your rights. Your kids shouldn't have to go through a town agency to raise a couple of chickens for 4H and submit maintenance plans.

The BOH will have to hold a hearing, and he has sent in his comments to the BOH and put them on Facebook. If anyone is interested, put your comments in writing to the BOH and be respectful. They have not made a decision; they are regulations that are proposed. Mr. Donovan made a motion to have the town manager write to the Board of Health that the Select Board is opposed to the regulations from a financial standpoint. Town counsel would have to enforce the provisions of the fine structure, and the health agent would be charged with administering the program when we have a reduction in staff already because of our financial situation. He has asked the Chairman to see if the Board will submit an article to town meeting to make Abington a right to farm community and let the voters make that determination and ask the BOH to put off any further consideration until the people of the town have had the opportunity to render their decision. These regulations as proposed would take effect immediately according to the posting. Mr. Bunker asked what would happen if the regulations are adopted and we go forward with the right to farm? Mr. Donovan – he doesn't think the BOH should be rushing into this matter; it should be addressing the rat issue in terms of education and baiting and working with the Cooperative Extension Service.

Ms. Emery – she talked to the Chairman and thought 7 pages was too long and didn't agree with a lot that was on it. It is her understanding that this is not the final document and there will be many changes. She hopes there will be changes to it.

Ms. Djusberg – doesn't agree with some of this. Doesn't want government coming into her home but likes the people to come and vote on these decisions.

Mr. Woods – lives in North Abington near the post office and no one around him has animals, but there are rats in the area, so he pays the pest guy to put out bait traps. It's not because there are animals around.

Aaron Christian, Chairman, Board of Health - Disagrees with the regulations that are out there. They sent it to town counsel, and it was redlined. They had a meeting with Joe Kenney on November 17th, and he had a lot of great input on barn animals. They won't ban wild and exotic animals. They have gotten a lot of feedback. This came about from the Public Health Excellence Program, and they determined there were several areas that they were lacking in terms of public health enforcement, one of which was stables, and that dictates what types of grant access they have. They have been working on this for the past two years but have gotten more feedback in the last two weeks. The Board thanked Aaron for coming up.

Mike Lavery, 238 Washington Street – naming or identifying chickens was meant as a joke. Thought BOH was doing a great job, and Chris works hard; another body might help.

Katie VanNest – naming and identifying chickens was a joke. Tense exchange between Ms. VanNest and Mr. Donovan followed.

Krista Manna – had submitted a letter to the Board from her daughter and summarized points on chicken raising; she was against the regulations.

Carol Dolan, 15 Pinecrest Road, BOH – the document hasn't been finalized yet. She would like everyone to give them a chance to work through this. They are doing this for the quality of life and for our community; they are not trying to prevent animal ownership but to look for emergency preparedness issues and viruses jumping from animals to humans. We all vaccinate for rabies and that has kept the public safe.

Meghan Gundal, 106 Rockland Street – fourth generation farmer, an active member of the MA Farm Bureau. There are two chapters of MGL that should be recognized - MGL chapter 40A Sec. 3 re structures for animals and chapter 111 Sec. 125A re nuisance and odors.

Mr. Woods – this is not an attack on the Board of Health. He respects that they came here on their own. It's an attack on the changes. This is nothing personal to anyone on the BOH. He considers it an overreach. It seems as though everyone is entitled to their opinion except if you're a selectman.

Joe Kenney, 172 Russell Lane, Animal Control Officer, and runs an exotic animal business and is well versed in animal laws – state, federal. These laws as written are not done correctly in his opinion. He respects the BOH and has known most of them for a long time and has worked with them. He doesn't think they understand how this bill is written or how it's going to affect people with their animals. It is overreaching. It would allow health agents to walk onto your property unannounced. Wrong. You would need a warrant for that. It would involve the police, enforcement, and health inspector. There are standards for animals through MA Department of Agriculture and exotics through the Division of Fish and Wildlife. This is extensive and overreaching in the way it is written. It would cost the town a significant amount of money to enforce and invade our privacy on our own property.

Chief Bonney – is happy this isn't in effect yet. From a financial standpoint, this would be very taxing for the department. Having a talented Animal Control Officer like Joe is hugely important. We need him, and we only have him for a limited number of hours per week.

Krista Manna – if there are problems with animals, they can already send someone out to inspect without these regulations.

Mr. Donovan's motion was seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous. Mr. Woods requested a letter be sent to the Board of Health asking for the cost implications to this policy before it is voted.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to adjourn at 8:10 p.m., seconded Mr. Bunker, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hurst