

**Minutes
Select Board
April 28, 2025
Cotter Room
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Roger Woods, Chairman, Suzanne Djusberg, Kevin Donovan, Paul Bunker, Amanda Zompetti, Scott Lambiase, Town Manager

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A Moment of Silence was held for Betty Ann MacDonald, former lunchroom worker and school crossing guard; Robert Brett, former Abington police officer; and former Abington firefighter Fred Blake, who was also very active in the Abington Lions Club and was instrumental in creating the Massachusetts Lions All State Band.

The Annual Town Election was held on 4/26. Amanda ran unopposed and now has a full three-year term.

Items:

1. Re-organization of the Board. Mr. Donovan stepped down as Chairman. The Town Manager took nominations for Chairman. Ms. Djusberg nominated Mr. Woods for Chairman; there were no other nominations, seconded by Mr. Donovan, unanimous. Mr. Donovan nominated Ms. Djusberg for Vice Chairman; there was no other nominations, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.
2. Police Chief Bonney – report on the Charter Changes as it relates to the Police Department. The Chief had gone through the Ethics Commission. This frees up the ability to hire and promote people. Under Civil Service law, they had to test annually for both hiring and promotions. Under non Civil Service rules, they can have a test every month. They won't have to wait around anymore. They are now at 53% below minimum staffing and are going to be able to have some relief for their officers. He wanted to thank the men and women of the Department because they have turned it into a destination where people want to go. The Abington Police Department is a beacon of light where people want to land and new officers want to come and this is a group effort, not just the department, but also the support from the town, and he wanted to say thank you. They have a long way to go because they have to hire and get people through the academy.

3. Establishment of the Fiscal Advisory Committee and discussion on the date for the 2026 Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Donovan suggested May 4, 2026, to allow the Finance Committee to discuss what is coming up. It's going to be a tough year. The Finance Committee has requested additional time for this coming year. It's going to be a question of what cuts are going to have to be made. Mr. Donovan made the motion to have the 2026 Annual Town Meeting for next year only on the first Monday in May, May 4, 2026, seconded by Mr. Woods, unanimous.

It was asked if there is an override, should the ATM be scheduled before the election? Mr. Donovan – they would prepare two budgets. Option A would be inclusive of all the cuts needed to balance the budget and Option B would be inclusive of Option A plus whatever additional amount, if that is what Town Meeting votes contingent upon a Prop. 21/2 override. Any discussion of an override would be done at Town Meeting, after which Town Meeting votes. Then the Select Board that night can vote, at least four members according to the Statute, to call a special election that evening. That is the way it has been done in the past. The recommendation of the Select Board and the Finance Committee would have two proposals presented so the people can see what cuts to departments would take place if they vote for Option A, and Option B would be contingent upon an override. If the override doesn't pass, it reverts back to the original appropriation.

Mr. Lambiase – the Fiscal Advisory Committee would be helpful to have to work alongside the Select Board and the Finance Committee to help make these decisions and see what these impacts are going to be so we would be better prepared to explain it to the public. He recommended having two members of the Select Board, two members of the Finance Committee, two members of the School Committee, two At Large members. They would be augmented by the Town Manager, Finance Director, Treasurer/Collector, Superintendent of Schools and Business Manager of Schools. Mr. Donovan motioned that the Committee be established with the proviso that the Select Board, Finance Committee and School Committee appoint their own members and that they as a board would appoint the At Large members, seconded by Ms. Zompetti, unanimous. Motion by Mr. Donovan to appoint Ms. Zompetti and Mr. Bunker to the Fiscal Advisory Committee, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.

4. Minutes – Motion by Mr. Donovan to approve April 7, 2025, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous Motion by Mr. Donovan to approve April 17, 2025, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, 3-2-0.
5. Request for the 4th Annual Abington COPES 5K Road Race and Walk, Sunday, September 21st, Melissa Cook. Motion by Mr. Donovan to approve, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.

6. Request for Appointment to Ames Nowell Master Plan Advisory Committee – Soljour Sanders. Motion by Ms. Zompetti to approve, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to adjourn at 6:17 p.m., seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous. The next meeting will be held on May 12, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hurst