

**STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, March 21, 2024**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**ZOOM MEETING - TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET**

**Present:**

Chuck Cardillo, Jamie Minacci, Patrick White and Mike Canales

**Call to Order:**

Chuck opened the meeting and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SBSC appointments**

Following discussion on six submissions of interest, Chuck made a motion to Appoint Tom Fynan, Laurie Richman and Daniel Pincus as voting members and Rachel Rivest and Louis Korman as non-voting members. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

**Take action on Minutes for February 15th and March 7th.**

Chuck made a motion to accept the minutes. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

**FY 2025 Budget (Operational & Capital)**

Mike said that he has set up meeting next Wednesday at 6PM as a joint meeting with Finance to review Highway, Police and DPW capital requests. OPEB will also be discussed. Finance brought up that we have \$580,000 total equipment ask in the Highway Department and questioned what would a five-year note would cost. With a 5.5% State House note, the Town would have to pay back \$95,150 of interest bringing the total to \$675,150. The question would be if it is more of an advantage to spread the payments out over 5 years, bringing on the interest; or to fund all four or half this year and half next year. With the General budget there has been increased pay for the electrical inspector and the consideration of an increase to the permit fees. The Building Commissioner will be looking at where our building fees are in comparison to other towns.

**FY 2025 Town Warrant - Town Clerk & Tree Warden Appointed**

Next the Board discussed a proposal for the Town Warrant that would make two local government positions, town clerk and tree warden, be appointed by the Select Board instead of elected by voters. Chuck felt that the Town Clerk job is important enough, especially with elections, to become appointed instead of elected and that tonight was for discussion and at their next meeting following town input, they will make a decision. By appointing the town clerk, he said the Select Board and Town Administrator would have a little more authority over the position. If the position remains elected, Patrick said that only a Stockbridge resident can hold the job but, if the position is an appointed

one, the person filling it is able to be hired from anywhere and be the most qualified candidate. Jamie said the town clerk should be a regular position and not an elected position as it's too specialized. She explained that Highway Superintendent is doing most of the work of the tree warden because he is in the office every day of the week and felt it should also be shifted and not an elected position. Chuck said that concerning this year's elections, the town clerk position is not up for election and votes for tree warden candidates would be void should the voters approve moving the position from being elected to being appointed by the Select Board.

FY 2025 Town Warrant - Chapter 90 Section 17C - Townwide 25mph speed limit

Mike proposed that with ongoing concerns over speeds in town, on side roads and on main roads, should the Town consider a state regulation to essentially create a speed limit of 25 miles per hour across the town, unless the roads are already posted through a speed study or are state highways. Mike said that roads that do not fall under the proposed 25-mile-per-hour speed limit by virtue of having had a study establishing their speed limits include: Glendale Middle Road, Prospect Hill Road, Mahkeenac Road, West Hawthorne, Yale Hill, and Lee Road, as well as state routes, including Route 183, Route 102, and Route 7. Those wouldn't be affected by this, but all other streets in the town would go to 25 mph. The new speed limits, if approved by voters, wouldn't go into effect immediately as with the town needing to post signage on the entrance to the jurisdiction. The slated date to begin ticketing would be January 1, 2025, giving residents an opportunity to be informed about the speed limit through a town campaign to notify the public. He felt it was something to consider while it will be Town meeting to decide it. Patrick made a motion to add it to the Warrant, Chapter 90 Section 17C as worded. Chuck seconded; all were in approval.

Chuck motioned to enter: Executive Session - Under MGL Chapter 30A, section 21(a)(3) for the following purpose: To discuss strategy with respect to litigation, Housatonic Water Works Company rate increase petition to the Department of Public Utilities, DPU no. 23-65, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares the board will not return to open session. Aye Patrick, Aye Chuck Aye Jamie.

Please see <https://ctsbtv.org/government-channel-1303/> to view the full meeting.