

TOWN OF NAPLES
Select Board Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2024

6:00 PM – Naples Town Office

This meeting was available for remote connection and could be viewed live on LRTV.

A recording of the meeting can be found here <https://vimeo.com/922441536>

1. Call to Order and Salute the Flag – T. Shane called the meeting to order. Also present were C. Brackett, W. Adams, S. LaPointe, K. Rogers (via Zoom), and J. Rogers (Town Manager).
2. Review of Meeting Minutes from:
 - a. February 26, 2024 – all members may vote – K. Rogers made a motion to approve. Seconded by C. Brackett. All in favor. Motion carried 5-0.
 - b. May 22, and June 12, 2023– S. LaPointe must abstain – C. Brackett made to approve. Seconded by W. Adams. Motion carried 4-0-1. S. LaPointe abstained as he was not a member of the Select Board at that time.
3. Public Participation - none
4. Adjustment to agenda for attendees* - none
5. Approval of Any Licenses or Permits - none
6. Old Business
 - a. Correction to real estate hardship abatement that was approved on 2/26/24 in the amount of \$2,000.00. The applicant notified the Town that the wrong property was used for determination. The abatement amount should be changed to \$660.00. S. LaPointe made a motion to correct as noted. Seconded by C. Brackett. All in favor. Motion carried 5-0.
7. New Business
 - a. Sheriff Joyce – School Resource Officer discussion – Sheriff Joyce first provided an apology for not contacting J. Rogers regarding the shooting on January 15, 2024. They now have each other’s numbers and can be in better contact. The first Sheriff Joyce heard of the end of the SRO position was March 5, 2024. He shared some information about an event that occurred in which a student was threatened, and the father asked the SRO to investigate. It appeared the school administration disagreed with this. Sheriff Joyce is still looking into this, and he supports the SRO’s handling of the issue as a criminal matter. Sheriff Joyce indicated that he will support the decision of the taxpayers. The department will respond to the needs of the school. Having an SRO in place makes for quicker response times. Without the SRO, the school will share 2 deputies that cover 6 towns. C. Brackett asked about response time. Sheriff Joyce stated that there are too many factors to estimate. Concerns were expressed as to how things are changing. T. Shane stated that he will not support a budget that does not include an SRO. He feels that we need to be prepared and without an SRO we are behind. T. Shane stated that the Superintendent told the Town at the Budget Committee meeting, that he has had many conversations with the Sheriff’s Department

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since the fall. However, the Sheriff indicated that they had just heard about this. T. Shane asked if a different deputy could be put in this place. Sheriff Joyce stated that the SRO had received good reviews and suddenly things changed on February 16, 2024. He does not know what changed. The person in the role can certainly change, but there needs to be a review and reason for the change. The Sheriff had never been made aware of a problem. Sheriff Joyce explained the challenges between FERPA and Criminal issues. Communication was noted as a possible problem. P. Kyle spoke positively about the SRO, and believes his presence is valuable for the school and for traffic control. Sheriff Joyce stated that he felt blindsided by this change. M. Witts shared her agreement that more security is better. She is concerned that the school budget will be held hostage over one item and suggested there might be a way to provide the security needed. C. Brackett asked for dates for school budget approval. J. Rogers will provide the dates with the Select Board and Sheriff Joyce.

- b. Cemetery Lot Conveyance – Derosier – W. Adams made a motion to approve. Seconded by C. Brackett. All in favor. Motion carried 5-0.
- c. Personal Property Tax Abatements – both items below were taken together. C. Brackett made a motion to approve. Seconded by K. Rogers. All in favor. Motion carried 5-0.
 - i. Soulful Skin and Beauty - moved out of town / \$14.11 principal and interest
 - ii. MR Riatto Construction, Inc. – retired/closed / \$92.97 principal and interest

8. Town Manager's Report

- a. Foreclosed property report – J. Rogers stated that 48 properties are in automatic foreclosure. Some people are coming forward.
- b. Gym Renovation update – progressing. Roadblock with permitting/Fire Marshall related to office space.
- c. Legion/Polling - We were notified that the chair lift no longer meets ADA requirements. We are making plans to return elections to the Town Office. The postcard notification already went out – so we will provide updates in other ways to let people know of voting locations.
- d. Road Postings – our roads are posted but we are seeing people travel over the roads with heavy loads. The Town Manager asked people to respect the postings.
- e. Budget Committee will be deliberating on Thursday 3/14/24.
- f. Community Center – Update provided by Great Falls. The initial price estimate is \$6.1 million. It would still need to go out to bid.

9. Other Business – Bulky Waste/Transfer Station Council members from Naples were present to answer questions. C. Brackett asked about the plan for renovations as he believes the intended plan is confusing. S. LaPointe provided an explanation as he recalls. Confusion was expressed over who is running the project, lack of leadership, and lack of communication. K. Rogers suggested that improvements be made using the funds obtained, then ask for more after good work has been completed. C. Brackett stated that he feels the Select Board needs

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to give more guidance to the Budget Committee. He also provided a reminder about Earth Day on April 27, 2024. T. Shane asked for the date to be added to following agendas so it can be mentioned again/reminders.

10. Executive Session - MRSA § 405(6)(F) Discussion of Confidential Records – Real Estate Taxes/Potential Hardship Application – C. Brackett made a motion to move to Executive Session according to MRSA § 405(6)(F) Discussion of Confidential Records. Seconded by W. Adams. All in favor. Motion carried.

11. Adjourn – not recorded.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Miller

Assistant to the Town Manager | Town of Naples, ME