



MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

SELECT BOARD • TOWN HALL

Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts 01944-1399

Telephone (978) 526-2000 FAX (978) 526-2001

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD

March 27, 2025

5:30pm

Hybrid Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting, Meeting: ID 29 5310 5560 Passcode: 285694 Mobile: 1.646.558.8656

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Harrison – Chair, Mr. Round – Vice-Chair, Ms. Bilotta, Mr. Delaney, Mr. Sollosy

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Town Administrator Mr. Federspiel (remote), Executive Assistant Debbie Powers, Town Moderator Alan Wilson

Ms. Harrison called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:30pm with five members present in person and stated the meeting is being recorded.

1. Finalize and Sign Town Meeting Warrant:

The Select Board discussed finalizing and signing the town meeting warrant. Ms. Harrison noted that the copy they received already included their projected opinions on the warrant articles. There was some confusion about whether there was a new version, but it was clarified that the updates were from a few hours prior to the meeting.

2. Board Recommendations on Warrant Articles:

The Board proceeded to discuss and make recommendations on the warrant articles for Town Meeting. Also, who will move and second the motions.

Article 1 - Ms. Bilotta would move and Mr. Round would second.

Article 2 – Ms. Harrison would move and Mr. Delaney would second.

Article 3 – Mr. Delaney would move, and Mr. Sollosy would second.

Article 4 – Ms. Harrison would move, and Ms. Mellish, Chair of the Finance Committee would second.

Article 5 – Ms. Harrison raised a question about item 20, the shellfish study, coming out of harbor funds and why fund balance was paying for boat ramp replacements. Mr. Federspiel explained that there was a desire to keep money in the waterway fund for dredging, and the shellfish study was a relatively small amount that they felt was okay to come from the waterway fund. After some

discussion, it was agreed to move the shellfish study funding to come out of the fund balance instead of the harbor funds. Ms. Harrison would move, and Ms. Mellish, Chair of the Finance Committee would second.

Article 6 - It was noted that the school budget article would consist of several motions. The Board noted that the School Committee Chair would move, and Ms. Harrison would second.

Article 7 to 13 - It was noted that Sarah Creighton, Chair of the Planning Board, would likely move these articles, but confirmation was still needed. The Board would not be speaking on any Planning Board articles. The Board agrees to recommend approval of Planning Board articles.

Article 14 - The Board discussed the proposed water use restrictions, which were based on state-recommended language. Concerns were raised about the restrictions on drip irrigation for private homeowners and the need for clarification on certain business exemptions. The Board decided that Mr. Round and Ms. Bilotta would work on alternative wording for this article before the next meeting on April 7th. It was agreed that the warrant could be signed with the current language, but a different motion would be presented on the town meeting floor. Mr. Round would move, and Ms. Bilotta would second.

Article 15 - The Board briefly discussed the Community Preservation article, including a clarification about the mobility mat for Singing Beach being an extension of the existing one. Mr. Sollosy would move, and Mr. Delaney would second.

Article 16 - The Board noted that there were 2.5 more years of payments left for OPEB. Ms. Bilotta would move, and Ms. Harrison would second.

Article 17 - The Board discussed the HERO Act, which allows certain veterans to reduce the property taxes. It was clarified that this applies mainly to disabled veterans and veterans of specific conflicts. Mr. Delaney would move, and Mr. Round would second.

Article 18 - The Board briefly mentioned the revolving funds for Parks and Recreation and the Board of Health. Mr. Sollosy would move, Ms. Harrison would second.

Article 19 - It was noted that this citizens' petition is advisory only and does not have the authority to repeal the Board of Health regulation. Mr. Sollosy would move, and Ms. Bilotta would second.

Article 20 – Ms. Harrison, who started this citizens' petition, expressed a desire to speak briefly on the article at the town meeting. Mr. Wilson noted that town counsel had provided a motion that was within the scope but different from the article as written. Ms. Harrison would move, and Mr. Delaney would second.

Article 21 – Mr. Wilson mentioned that the original petitioner might agree to withdraw or pass over this article due to limitations in state law regarding penalties.

Article 22 - The Board discussed this standard article that allows for moving funds around to affect the tax rate if needed. Mr. Round would move, and Ms. Bilotta would second.

Ms. Bilotta moved to recommend approval of all warrant articles except Article 21, with the recommendation for Article 22 to be made from the floor; Mr. Delaney seconded. Mr. Delaney – yes, Mr. Sollosy – yes, Ms. Bilotta – yes, Ms. Harrison – yes, Mr. Round - yes

6:01pm Ms. Bilotta moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Sollosy seconded. Mr. Delaney – yes, Mr. Sollosy – yes, Ms. Bilotta – yes, Ms. Harrison – yes, Mr. Round - yes