



LANCASTER SELECT BOARD
Special Meeting Minutes
of Monday, April 3, 2023
9:30 A.M.

Via ZOOM only | <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88285097344> | Meeting ID: 882 8509 7344

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stephen J. Kerrigan called the meeting to order at 9:30AM via ZOOM. He advised that the meeting was being recorded via ZOOM, and will be broadcast by Sterling Lancaster Community Television. *Additional materials for Select Board meetings are available at <https://www.ci.lancaster.ma.us/administration-select-board> > Meeting Materials.*

Roll call vote taken, Jason A. Allison, present, Alexandra W. Turner, present, Stephen J. Kerrigan, present. Also present, Kate Hodges, Town Administrator.

II. ADMINISTRATION & BUDGET
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1. Information related to Town of Lancaster Voter Information and questions on the Town Ballot

Mr. Kerrigan explained that after closing the Warrant, Ms. Hodges discovered a Special Act of the Legislature voted in some time ago requiring the Select Board to meet within a certain amount of time after an initiative is put on a ballot, to approve language required on the ballot that explains what a 'yes' vote means and what a 'no' vote means. Ms. Hodges added that Lancaster adopted Special Legislation in 2004 governing this, adopted at a Special Town Meeting in 2004. Ideally there would be ballot committees to champion the 'yes' and 'no' stances and to craft a statement of less than 250 words. Because there is no time to form a committee, the Board is meeting today to determine next steps, bearing in mind that the ballot needs to be sent out for printing very soon. Ms. Hodges stated that she could write one explanation and suggested that Ms. Gariepy write the other. Friday April 7 will be the last possible day for the Board to meet to approve the statements in order to send the ballot to the printer.

Mr. Kerrigan asked Ms. Turner if she recalled any additional details, since Ms. Turner was on the Select Board when this was enacted. Ms. Turner stated that she remembers this and had thought that she brought this forward to the Board, but she is not prepared to have a solution today but does not recall details. Ms. Turner stated that she prefers not to use Counsel due to cost, suggesting that the Finance Committee could write the 'no' statement, which would not tie up staff time. She suggested that the Select Board write the

‘yes’ position statement. Ms. Hodges noted that there is not enough time for the Finance Committee to post a meeting. Discussion continued at length, debating who should write the position statements and what timeframe was needed.

Mr. Allison moved to appoint Town Administrator Kate Hodges as the ‘yes’ and Cheryl Gariepy as the ‘no’ for the 2-1/2 Override Question. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. *Vote taken; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Jason A. Allison, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye; Motion passed. [3-0-0]*

Ms. Turner would like the Finance Committee to be included in the review. Ms. Hodges will ask Ms. Gariepy to advise the Finance Committee.

It was determined that the Board will meet on Friday, April 7, 2023 at 9:30AM to review and approve the written statements.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Turner moved to adjourn the meeting of the Select Board. Mr. Allison seconded the motion. *Vote taken; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye; Jason A. Allison, Aye; Stephen J. Kerrigan, Aye; Motion passed. [3-0-0]*

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Rocco
Executive Assistant

APPROVED

Alexandra W. Turner, Clerk
Dated: April 18, 2023