

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Date of Meeting: May 26, 2020
Date of Transcription: June 16, 2020
Transcribed by: Cassandra Slaney

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN

2. ROLL CALL

Selectmen Present: Patrick G. Tropeano, Chairman
Mary Bruce, Clerk
Peter W. Teitelbaum
Alan H. Slavin
James M. Munise

Also Present: Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator
Richard Bowen, Town Counsel

Due to the circumstances regarding COVID-19 and the rules and guidelines implemented, this meeting was held remotely.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Selectman Slavin wanted to thank the Wareham Veterans' Council, Wareham Militia, VFW, and American Legion Post for putting on a Memorial Day Event.

Selectman Slavin also asked for a moment of silence for Mary Rose who was the Town of Wareham's oldest citizen. She passed away on May 22nd and she was 105 ½ years old.

Community Preservation grants for Fall Town Meeting are due June 9th.

5. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

6. BOARDS COMMENTS

Selectman Slavin talked about the issue pertaining to the FEMA maps being accepted. He spoke with State Representative, Susan Gifford regarding this as well.

Selectman Teitelbaum stated that restaurants are eager to reopen and Governor Baker is currently planning on a reopening plan for Phase II.

7. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS/INTERVIEWS

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES-5/26/2020 (CONT'D)

a. Community Events Committee

i. Jean Connaughton

MOTION: Selectman Bruce moved to appoint Jean Connaughton to the Community Events Committee for a term to expire no later than June 30, 2023. Selectman Teitelbaum seconded. Roll Call: Selectman Bruce-yes, Selectman Teitelbaum-yes, Selectman Slavin-yes, Selectman Munise-yes, Selectman Tropeano-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

b. Open Space Committee

i. Peter Gold

MOTION: Selectman Bruce moved to appoint Peter Gold to the Open Space Committee for a term to expire no later than June 30, 2023. Selectman Teitelbaum seconded. Roll Call: Selectman Bruce-yes, Selectman Teitelbaum-yes, Selectman Slavin-yes, Selectman Munise-yes, Selectman Tropeano-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

ii. Linda Scharf

MOTION: Selectman Bruce moved to appoint Linda Scharf to the Open Space Committee for a term to expire no later than June 30, 2023. Selectman Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Selectman Bruce-yes, Selectman Slavin-yes, Selectman Teitelbaum-yes, Selectman Munise-yes, Selectman Tropeano-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

8. LICENSES AND PERMITS

9. TOWN BUSINESS

a. Update on COVID-19.

Mr. Sullivan stated that there have been a couple of internal cases of the Coronavirus. This is changing the Town's strategy of the opening process. He also wanted to remind residents that the real estate taxes and personal property taxes are due June 1st. Payments can be made online at no charge from a checking or savings account, debit card and credit card payments can be made and there is a fee associated with using one of those methods. Checks can be put in the drop box in front of the Town Hall as well. If cash payments must be made, residents will need to call the Treasurer/Collector's office to make an appointment to make the payment.

He also wanted to mention that any questions relating to businesses opening or expanding should be directed to the Administration's office.

b. Vote on articles for 2020 Special Spring Town Meeting.

c. Vote on articles for 2020 Annual Spring Town Meeting.

Selectman Teitelbaum stated that the following articles will be presented at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting: Articles 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16. The 2020 Special Spring Town Meeting articles presented will be Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, and 15.

MOTION: Selectman Teitelbaum moved to request the Moderator, at Town Meeting, to take up the above mentioned articles based upon their financial importance to the Town. Selectman Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Selectman Bruce-yes, Selectman

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES-5/26/2020 (CONT'D)

Slavin-yes, Selectman Teitelbaum-yes, Selectman Munise-yes, Selectman Tropeano-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

Discussion ensued regarding the 2020 Special Spring Town Meeting article 16. Selectman Munise stated that this article isn't pertinent to the operation of the Town and it would be more appropriate to include it in the Fall Town Meeting. Selectman Teitelbaum and Selectman Bruce felt that in the middle of the pandemic, the Town has an obligation to help businesses.

MOTION: Selectman Teitelbaum moved to take up article 16, Home Rule Petition to permit issuance of License for Retail Sale of Alcohol, 11 Kendrick Road. Selectman Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Selectman Bruce-yes, Selectman Slavin-yes, Selectman Teitelbaum-yes, Selectman Munise-no, Selectman Tropeano-yes.

VOTE: 4-1-0 (Selectman Munise opposed)

Selectman Tropeano wanted to make clear that the above articles will be the only articles discussed at Town Meeting and another Town Meeting may be rescheduled for August to discuss the other articles or they will be carried into the Fall Town Meeting.

He also stated that at the Town Meeting will be held June 15th in the gymnasium at the high school. The Town Moderator is encouraging social distancing and also requesting anyone in attendance to wear a mask. Those who cannot wear a mask will be directed to the auditorium to participate. There will be a screen and the Deputy Moderator will be present.

- d. Any other Town business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of this meeting.

10. TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Mr. Sullivan and Treasurer John Foster had a conference call with S&P Global regarding the next phase of borrowing for the new elementary school. He stated that this may not be an ideal time due to concerns with the economy, but he is happy to announce that they affirmed the long term rate as a AA+ which is stable and this will save the taxpayers money. The upside scenario, the rating can be raised if the Town improves and maintains reserves at higher levels while improving funding ratios or if some of the economic metrics were to improve. S&P Global felt the Town had a strong economy and praise was given for strong and tough management. Selectman Tropeano congratulated Mr. Sullivan and his team and told him the leadership is amazing.

11. LIAISON REPORTS/INITIATIVE REPORTS

The Finance Committee met to discuss the articles for Town Meeting.

The Zoning Board of Appeals will be meeting for the first time on May 27th.

Selectman Slavin suggested that if anyone wants updates about what is happening in the state, go to the state's website mass.gov or to the MMA website because there are changes everyday.

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES-5/26/2020 (CONT'D)

Summer camp guidelines will be coming up with new rules.

After July 18th, the state is going to allow more liberal rules concerning events. Family groups will be able to stay together but must practice social distancing.

An announcement will be made at the end of the month about education openings for the fall.

There is a Bill in the House regarding restaurants opening for outside service.

There is legislation in the House of Senate which may be passed modifying how Town Meeting is held.

There is a possibility that the Board of Selectmen will be able vote on FEMA instead of being presented at Town Meeting.

Selectman Tropeano had meetings with school unions relevant to trying to balance their budget and accept some terms. There is a possibility 10% of the Chapter 70 funds will be cut. There will be a school committee meeting on June 18th and will be live on Facebook.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

b. Authorization to sign bills and documents, etc.

c. Approval of meeting minutes:

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Selectman Slavin moved to adjourn. Selectman Teitelbaum seconded.

Roll Call: Selectman Slavin-yes, Selectman Munise-yes, Selectman Teitelbaum-yes, Selectman Bruce-yes, Selectman Tropeano-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

14. SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Respectfully submitted

Cassandra Slaney

Senior Department Assistant

The foregoing minutes were submitted to the Board of Selectmen on:

Attest:


Mary Bruce, Clerk/Judith Whiteside(out of necessity)

Date Signed: 6-30-20

Date sent to the Town Clerk: 7-1-20