

The Board of Selectmen met on June 9, 2020 remotely at 7:00pm. Mrs. Mackenzie was absent. The following members were present.

James O'Neil, Chair
Benjamin Barrett, Clerk
Mark Gallivan
David Salvatore

Also participating
James Johnson, Town Administrator
Ashley Clark, Economic Development Officer
Police Chief John Carmichael

Executive Order on Remote Participation

Thursday March 12, 2020 governor Baker issue and "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting G.L. c 30A Section 20. That order, which was effective immediately and until it is rescinded or the State of Emergency is terminated.

Chairman to announce that all members will be participating remotely during the meeting due to unprecedented time in history of the Commonwealth. The Governor has authorized remote Participation for all public boards due to the Emergency declaration order that was issued on March 12, 2020. Every vote taken will be taken by roll call vote.

Mr. O'Neil called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. We will do roll call votes.

New Business

Mr. O'Neil she is with us tonight to waive the application and lease fees for restaurants and bars for six months in November to November 2020. Ashley if I could just turn it to you to step us through this.

Ashley as I'm sure everyone's is very well aware businesses especially you know all businesses are struggling right now with the closures. Restaurants are starting to figure out how to reopen and sometimes that includes coming into a lease agreement with the town. There are also sometimes fees that come up for like one day permits and you know just kind of miscellaneous fees that restaurants might encounter and doing business with the town. So I'm asking the Select Board to consider those fees until November 1st of this year just to make it a little bit easier on the restaurants as they start to reopen.

Mr. O'Neil great and I think it's a good idea to do that. Anything that we can do to help get the particularly the restaurants downtown back up and running. I think it is a good thing for us to do. So let me open it up for discussion. Mark I'll start with you anything for Ashley. Mark no I think it's a great idea anything we can do to help the restaurants all over town if they can find a space to expand into and go outdoors I think that's a great thing and I like the idea that this has a finite date on it but we can help people get through the end of the year and then see what next year brings so I think it's a great idea great work Ashley.

David exactly what fees are we talking about and how much is it going to amount to? Ashley so just as an estimate the lease agreement with Jalapenos is for about \$100 dollars a month so we are talking about \$600 or so for the term of that. Right now there are three lease agreements that were asking you to approve tonight so \$1,800 for some Quick math and in there are miscellaneous fees. I don't know that is going to be the case but some restaurants may decide to do like one day liquor license and that would be \$65 a day so I mean certainly not fees like the building department sees or like we get for the special permits and what not. It's hard to say I just don't know how many restaurants are going to move forward with like one day permits to give you a better estimate but about \$1,800 on the leases.

David are the leases for more than 6 months? Ashley the leases are temporary there for Six months leases and they're for temporary outdoor seating David I just didn't understand why break the lease up for \$100 in that week to release like why not just write the lease up for a lower number.

Mr. Johnson I can chime in on that one. The original attorney who wrote it for one of the restaurants filled in \$100 and Ashley caught it when she was checking everything. David Okay that's fine.

Ben I don't have anything to add.

Mr. O'Neil Ashley I think this is good work on your part thanks for everything you're doing to try to get things going in the downtown. We need the help so Ben Ill turn to you for a motion.

Motion moved by Mr. Barrett to approve the request of Ashley Clark to waive of application and Lease fees for Restaurants and Bars for 6 Months November 1, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Gallivan VOTED by roll call vote Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye, Mr. Salvatore-Aye, and Mr. O'Neil-Aye. (4-0-0)

Mr. O'Neil I want to mention that Nancy Mackenzie is not able to join us tonight she got called into an emergency situation in the hospital tonight and isn't going to be able to join us.

Mr. O'Neil read the list of the restaurants the are looking to be able to expand their premises to the outdoors so that they can seat more people while properly socially distancing those customers. So Ashley what would you add to this one?

Ashley so basically we're asking the Select Board to let us be nimble in a way that I think is really necessary right now. Normally these applications would go through all the departments and then they would come before you and say we've got the all-clear from Police , we've got the all-clear from fire so we're kind of asking you to be okay with flipping that script a little bit that we're asking you approve these subject to the final review and approval of these different departments and that's when we see that we can roll these out these approvals as quickly as possible. So that's not to say that these aren't going to be looked at by the different departments. We've gotten a bevy of emails from me over the last few days so things are being looked at for safety. They are being looked at you know for compliance on walking behind the blocks and what not. So that will all happen. We just want to be able to get approvals out without having to

bring them back before you. There's another portion of that that's asking the Select board to approve and give the authority for the Chair to sign any agreements for folks that might come in over the next few days or weeks. That's all I really have to add. I can answer any questions you might have or try to answer any questions.

Mr. O'Neil so the real point of this is that we're trying to be as nimble so that we can get the approvals to these businesses as quickly as we can and not be dependent upon them and every two week meeting with the Board of Selectmen. So that's really at the crux of it to your point we are just flipping the entire process a little bit the entire process will be followed. Chief Carmichael I know you're with us tonight is there anything that you'd want to add to this?

Chief Carmichael Ashley is so thorough. So everything that I have looked at so far you should be very safe. You know it's been very open for us to make comments on any of the you know the applications in the process of what we've seen so far so I'm pretty confident that going forward that we're just going to be able to find a nice safe accommodating way to get this done. So I think a lot of people are looking forward to it as well with everything that is going on and I think we're chopping at the bit to be able to go there and sit down at some of our restaurants.

Mr. O'Neil Jim anything that you'd like to add before we go to discussion. Mr. Johnson I kind of kept you all updated on this one and Ashley's done a great job. She's stayed on top of this with us. We've been working on this for a month plus now everything's pretty much lined up. I expect we will probably get a couple more of these as these restaurants get up and running when people see how it works.

Ben Thanks again Ashley for doing this. It's a great program to pursue and I think it's a great idea. All the planning and the groundwork have really been laid in a thoughtful manner. So that no that's been the Governor's made his decision it can be rolled out in a reasonable way.

Mark As I said earlier I think it's a great idea and I would encourage any other restaurant in town that's thinking of doing this to come forward and start the process. I think this will help the restaurants get off to a good start before they can start seating people indoors. This is a beautiful time of year so it will be nice to sit outdoors at a restaurant real soon.

David that's excellent and I are glad this is all working out. I have talked to a couple of Business owners and they said they are very happy. I do have the concern with giving seating over the authority of the Board to the Chairman or the Vice chairman. If that is to happen I would like to have a system where you know that kind of email go out with all the information that the chairman is receiving would be careful that we are not deliberating during this process but that all the information gets out and that there be a process that if there's something that we don't like that you know you have a special meeting or go to the next scheduled meeting to get that approval in. I'm not prepared to see the authority to the chairman at this time.

Mr. O'Neil there are two votes we have to take here.

Vote requests , subject to the review and approval of Police Fire, Health and Building

Departments , alteration of premises submitted pursuant to Governor Baker's COVID 19 Order No 35

- Outdoor use permit-99 Restaurant
- Outdoor use permit-Bristol Square
- Outdoor use permit-Beacon's
- Outdoor use permit-The Ravens nest
- Outdoor use permit-Tessie's Bard and Kitchen
- Outdoor use permit-Sapore Vero
- Outdoor use permit-Clyde's Bar and Grill
- Outdoor use permit-Farmer in the Dell
- Outdoor use permit-Jalapeno's
- Outdoor use permit-Finnegan's Wake

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to approve the request from the following Restaurants for Outdoor seating and serving of alcohol subject to the review and approval of Police, Fire, health and Building Department, for Alteration of premises submitted pursuant to Governor Baker's COVID-19 order No. 35

- 99 Restaurant
- Bristol Square
- Beacon's
- The Ravens nest
- Tessie's Bar and Kitchen
- Sapore Vero
- Clyde's Bar and Grill
- Farmer in the Dell
- Jalapeno's
- Finnegan's Wake

Seconded by Mr. Gallivan VOTE by roll call Mr. Salvatore-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye, Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. O'Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

Vote to authorize Chair to sign all future applications submitted pursuant to COVID-19 Order No. 35

Mr. O'Neil I am fine with you know having the email thing that David talked about as long as we don't get ourselves and get balled up with any open meeting violations, I have no issue with what David suggested. So David let me just hand it back to you for a second and see if you're good with what I just said. David that find just you know all the information that you're receiving that we receive and then your response and then we'll just you know not deliberate but if there's something that you know that I have an issue. I'll just contact you separately or contact the Town Administrator and we can just go that way. Mr. O'Neil no problem.

Mark I think that's a good process.
Ben no additional comments

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to authorize the Chairman to sign all future applications submitted pursuant to Covid-19 order number 35 with the documentation being transmitted to the board as well, seconded by Mr. Gallivan VOTED roll call vote Mr. Salvatore-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye, Mr. Gallivan –Aye and Mr. O’Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

Vote request of Jalapenos restaurant for temporary alteration of premises for outdoor seating

Mr. O’Neil what this and the next couple actually have to do that’s a little bit different than what we’ve been talking about is we just voted to issue the permits to a bunch of restaurants to be able to have the outdoor use. A lot of the restaurants on that list are going to use their own property in order to have the outdoor seating. There are some that were going to talk about as we go through this list. Jalapenos being one that that wants to be able to use the town property out on route 1A and so that ‘s what this is all about. Ashley have I said that correctly. Ashley yes we are talking about alteration of premises and I just want to be clear that this is a temporary alteration under the Governors order until November 1st. This is also about a lease agreement for using public space.

Mr. Johnson I know for Raven’s nest and Tessie’s these are definitely temporary. I know long-Term kind of would like to pursue something in the back there at Mimi’s investing in a tent we’ve talked about that two years ago so when it gets to that point and we’re there I’ll bring it forward and return to probably join us.

David I was really looking at the documents took me a second to flip over. I saw the insurance rider for one of them but I assume that they are there for everybody. And if jalapenos can come in during the winter rather than I know they came in another time and they tried to do it in the spring. They want to talk about a long-term solution with that with the property in the back. But for this is temporary I think and I’m glad Ashley point out again that it is a temporary situation. I like it.

Mark I’m good with this.

Ben no additional comments.

Jim O’Neil none for me either

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to approve the request of Jalapenos for temporary alteration of premises for outdoor seating on town property seconded by Mr. Gallivan Voted by roll call vote Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Salvatore-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye and Mr. O’Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

Mr. O’Neil asked Ashley if she could just touch on those agreements. Ashley with Raven’s Nest and Tessie’s to use the four parking spaces along 1A and a little bit of space on the sidewalk. We’re working through the details still of exactly how we’re going to block that off so there are some logistical things that still need to be worked out with that. I’M confident that we will be able to do that or DPW and fire to make sure that all the egress is met. We did a site visit with Building department to look kind of how it would make sense. We’re still finalizing those details. Then Jalapenos I think we talked about pretty thoroughly so if there’s any questions about what they’re doing and I’m happy to answer those.

Jim Johnson we are meeting at 10o'clock tomorrow right Ashley with building, fire , Police, Melissa and I think Rick and Drew are going to come too just to review all of these especially this Ravens Nest and test these ones though. We'll have everything lined up by tomorrow.

David Certainly we need some kind of protection for the public for the parking spaces but I think that also look at whether or not the Tessie's would need some king of protection from a vehicle leaving the roadway in that area. Certainly you can see a collision intersection collision that could send a car into that area and might be worthwhile to put some protection on the sidewalk itself.

Mr. Johnson if I could just David add a block by the corner. Mr. Johnson the reason why we're having to Drew and Rick sit in is we're talking about seeing what types and how many jersey barriers we have available and I'M worried about that too David. That is such a dangerous spot there but whatever is there we'll make sure it's strong it's dirty.

Mr. O'Neil chief anything you'd like to add to that. Chief Carmichael we share the same concerns as Mr. Salvatore we and like I said Ashley's been so thorough and doing a lot of the legwork here so I know even like the 99 is looking at something similar so . We'll make sure just securing that perimeter is secure and everything so . Make sure everyone can dine safely. It would be very easy for us to do this as well on this location just tomorrow we'll look at it and come up with some good ideas.

Mark sounds like a good plan.

Ben I think it sounds like a good plan I would echo everyone's comments on safety and also I think it'll be interesting to see what the restaurants say at the conclusion of this and what patrons and town residents say on the conclusion of this . You know if those two parking spaces are worth more than the businesses as sidewalk they can utilize permanently . I think we should all kind of take this as a dry run to see hot it works to utilize the front and back of these premises for when we do possibly consider something more permanent as we've all said. You know way down the road from today.

Mr. O'Neil I think it's a really good point . Ashley maybe I could ask you to take back to the Economic Development Commission that point that Ben just made so that we capture that and perhaps they could look into that and see if they come back with a recommendation you know obviously with your help so that would be great. I think this is a wonderful idea and you know obviously echo the safety concerns everyone has raised and as long as we've got that covered it will work good. So time for a vote so all in favor say aye opposed

Vote to approve and sign license agreement with Jalapenos Restaurant

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to approve and sign the license agreement with Jalapenos Restaurant seconded by Mr. Gallivan vote roll call Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Salvatore-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye and Mr. O'Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

Vote to approve and sign license agreement with Ravens Nest and Tessie's Bar and Kitchen

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to approve and sign the license agreement with Raven's Nest and Tessie's Bar and Kitchen seconded by Mr. Gallivan vote roll call Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Salvatore-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye and Mr. O'Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

Vote request of Ashley Clark to approve the Walpole Center Open space Pilot Program

Ashley I'll try to be brief I could probably talk about this for a very long time because it makes my pointer heart sing a little bit. So this is a proposal to pilot so for the last three weekends in June we are asking you to consider allowing for the street closures of portions that kind of cut through the common so Front Street as its bounded by West and 1a and Elm Street as it is bounded by West 1A and the idea is that those streets would be closed from Friday about 6pm through Sunday evening and that would just allow for families to kind of have a more relaxed environment. The tables out there are wonderful but if you go out there and you have a kid under the age of like 7 your going to think about the kin running out into the road so it could be an interesting thing to see how it turns out . Maybe no one will take advantage of it but I think a lot of people will and I think people will really enjoy having open without cars going through it. A big part of this was we did a site visit with police , fire and Jim and kind of talked about what is something that would be sustainable that we could realistically do and this is kind of what we came up with together. I kind of get the fun part through all of these bringing these things to you but all of the departments involved will have been so wonderful at helping me get these things through and so I just wanted to thank them and kind of say DPW has been great, police, fire, health everyone has really worked well together.

Jim Johnson I think it's a great idea we walked the area with the chief the deputy one of the Sergeants, chief Baily was also out there. Again we're all looking forward to getting people back downtown and out and I think this will help with it. It's a good pilot we'll see if it works and if it does maybe we'll make it long term.

Chief Carmichael we're actually looking forward to this . I know Ashley originally to look at the possibility of doing something more along the lines of Main Street Live. You Know maybe even you know shutting down the center somehow. Unfortunately when we looked at that that obviously just causes a lot of logistical problems as far as us how we divert traffic and resource to try to get that done. We went out there and looked at it and we were able to come up with an event plan that's similar to what you see for a concert on the common. Where we block off that segment between on Front Street and then also over in between the two commons where the flagpole is on Elm Street. We think that we could get that all barricaded in during the more busy times I think what we would do is probably assign a bicycle officer or an officer down there for like a four hour time frame probably just to help with people that might be crossing or just to make sure the traffic is staying out of there and they know where to go and that sort of thing but I think it will work really well and Like I said if you if your just envision what you've seen down there for concerts on the common. I would look something similar to that.

David It looks like a good idea one of the things you know they did a study in one of the northern European countries about traffic and what they did was recreate the traffic flow so that people knew that there would be pedestrians around and slowed the traffic. And much like the cross streets at Patriot Place you know how those are. When you go through those cross streets you definitely know that this is an area where people are going to be passing through. So when it comes to redesign or look at these in the future we ought to be looking at some of those traffic signals that say hey it's going to be people walking through here for those particular spots so that the pedestrians and the cars can more equally share the space but definitely a good idea. Certainly blocking off completely it's good signaling but perhaps in the future maybe we can use it as an opportunity to educate people that these parks are in use and they're the proximity to the park to the roadway and just somehow say you know to calm the traffic in that area for the future.

Mark I think it's a good idea to run the pilot program. I saw that you might bring in an ice cream truck at some point. I'd ask if you thought about maybe do a little music sometime.

Ashley so right now the goal is to not create crowds but certain areas out to Dianne who has the ice cream truck about maybe coming out. I know it's like a couple of weeks ago it's was so hot come on an ice cream so bad. When I spoke with her she takes sanitizing and social distancing all of these things very seriously. She was king of talking through with me. This would be important that would be in an area where we can people spread the right distance. I think it would be a great addition and then in terms of you think and what not so if it goes well and I'll certainly be out there and see what people are doing but you know maybe we could talk about an extension for summer and as things start to open up maybe we could talk about other things to put into the common. So baby steps I think is the game plan.

Ben it's a great idea and I appreciate all the legwork that you put into it Ashley and everyone in the town departments as well. I did have a couple of questions one of which was I had heard from folks even prior to this idea but certainly since this idea has been past around town about the possibility of having take-out alcohol consumption as a part of this. Now I know that's not a part of this plan but how would that work or how would that be incorporated or considered.

Jim just from my perspective Glen reached out and he was one and I think Joann was asking about it too right now the state it has not passed hard alcohol sales to go. It's still pending with the State. The house passed it so I was more or less waiting and seeing it if passed and allowed you could take your alcohol and drink it on the common. The Chief and I and Ashley kicked around some ideas if people want to pursue that. Maybe they could throw a wristband around someone's wrist something. The big concern is we don't want to have people taking their alcohol from liquor stores and consuming it on the common there. So we need to be mindful. We reached out to Needham to see how they're handling it because I think they recently allowed it or about to allow it so we're still exploring it but we figured this would be the first step and see where the alcohol to go sales goes. Chief or Ashley did I miss anything. They replied no.

Ben I think that people will utilize this and if we allowed that and I think they would utilize it even more certainly in the summer months and with people's interest and then we can see how it goes for Needham as well certainly all of these ideas are temporary to

the extent that if it doesn't go well or if there are issues and they can be removed immediately. So I would definitely encourage us to look at that and head down that path if we think it is viable in the future. The second comment I had and I mentioned this a little bit before. Ashley but not to get ahead of ourselves yet again. But we had been back in January this board had been discussing the master plan to the town. Certainly a portion of that would be a serious traffic study for the downtown area and particularly given the new construction downtown and what streets are used most heavily and what traffic patterns would most benefit the residents particularly with the lights and the new folks downtown. So I think it would be interesting to see how this shapes up if we do it a little more often and see how the traffic patterns go because certainly having the streets closed even on a permanent or semi-permanent basis would have the purpose of not only expanding the green space downtown with increasing foot traffic it just seems like a lot of good could come from that. So again kind of looking toward the future but something we might want to consider on a permanent basis based on obviously a lot more research. But thank you again Ashley for putting this together.

Mr. O'Neil Ben I agree with you and would add that you know all those apartments are coming online shortly. There's going to be a lot more people in the downtown so probably do need to be thinking about how we best use the space that we've got downtown so you're idea is really a good one to be thinking ahead to what do we learn from this particular trial if you will and then how do we see that play out in the future. So that's a really good idea. Maybe that's another thing Ashley could bring to the EDC and have them at least you know put on the list of things to be thinking about longer term. I like the idea and support it. We'll move to a vote.

MOTION moved by to approve the request of Ashley Clark for the Walpole Center Open Space Pilot Program, seconded by Mr. Gallivan Vote by Roll call Mr. Salvatore-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye, Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. O'Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

Mr. Salvatore something that Ben Said about committing take out alcohol on the town common and I am not in favor of the serving of alcohol on the town common and nor the consumption of alcohol on the Town Common.

Mr. O'Neil thanked Ashley for all her great work.

Vote to be reconsidered and referred back to Petitioner for STM Articles
2,3,4,5,7,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25

Mr. O'Neil we're going to move on to our next order of business. So with Town Meeting coming up on June 20th. We are trying very hard to minimize the warrant for that Town Meeting because of the need to social distance and our concern about the vulnerability of the population and the RTMS and so forth. So after having gone through a whole lot of work on this we've got a list of articles that we want to reconsider and refer back to the Petitioner and that's what our vote and discussion will be about right now. So Jim let me send to you to embellish on what I just said.

Mr. Johnson so just prior to Covid-19 taking over our lives it seems like the Board had considered seven articles so and my recommendation at this time. Let me back up a little bit. So the Moderator has informed and Fincom that he is only going to take up

three articles. The operating budget, the Sewer and Water budgets and all other articles are going to be referred back to petitioner. So the Finance Committee took it upon themselves to refer back 22 of the 25 articles that that are set to be considered. So they referred all of those articles back. Then we can revisit them in the future if people would like. If your Board would like to do the same you would need to do is reconsider the seven articles that you have voted on back in March and February which were Articles 2, 3,4, 13, 18, 21 and 22. So you would move to reconsider and then if you would like to you could refer those back to the petitioner.

Discussion:

Mark I'm in favor of reconsidering those articles and postponing them to the Fall.

David the Same

Ben no additional comment

Jim I don't have any either this is very straightforward and smart

Ben let's have a motion to first reconsider the articles that we have already voted and followed to a vote to refer back to petitioner

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to reconsider Spring Town Meeting Articles 2,3,4,13,18,21 and 22 seconded by Mr. Gallivan VOTE by roll call Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Salvatore-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye, and Mr. O'Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to refer Articles 2,3,4,5,7,10,11,12,13,14, 15, 16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25 back to petitioner, seconded by Mr. Gallivan Vote by roll call Mr. Salvatore-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye, Mr. Gallivan-Aye and Mr. O'Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

Mr. O'Neil asked the Board members if they had any discussion on this? Mr. Gallivan No, Ben no comments,

David I agree with this solution. I know there are some people that have filed petitions that are not completely happy with this but under the circumstances I think a November consideration of their petitions is not ending their petitions and by reconsidering them and by reconsidering them or referring them back we have made no permanent changes to the status so that they're free to bring them up an look in November and that's an important thing. Well we're not doing anything we're just recommending. But I think the Finance Committee and the Town Meeting will be officially doing it and I think this is a good way to get this meeting through and get the budgets done that's a good accomplishment for Spring Town Meeting.

Mr. O'Neil and I agree.

Vote on STM Articles 6,8,9

Mr. Johnson so six is the operating budget which totals 95,902.million and we're raising an appropriating 92 million from taxation \$761.000 from ambulance \$13,000 from sale of lots indirect costs or water 1.2 million sewer 440 and overlay 350. So this is as I've mentioned before we've reduced this budget down it's only about a 1.5 percent increase Over the FY2020 budget. We cut about 2.5 over what was proposed back in March. 2.5 million that is and we're moving forward it's lean but we're going to get things done. It doesn't use reserves we're holding on to the reserves from 22 and 23 if necessary and it's ready to go.

Discussion

David So this is I believe you just said but I wanted to reiterate it and make clear that this budget is 2.5 million less than the budget you proposed in February and March. Mr. Johnson yes it is. Were we able to for some reason pass the budget at the new Town Meeting? The 112th budget would actually be a higher budget than the budget you are seeking at Town Meeting is that correct?

Mr. Johnson no not necessarily because the budget that is being proposed is 1.5 percent higher than the FY2020 budget so it's a little bit higher. There's challenges associated with the 112 budget first of all the accountant and I aren't crazy about it. You have to submit to the division of local services a budget each month to be approved until Town Meeting can meet. The first month's budget is way out of whack always because it always includes our retirement assessment in there and I just go the bill that's do July 1st and it's five point four million dollars. So it throws things off they've made exceptions for things like that. I think in the police and fire departments we used to have education paid at the beginning of the year. We've changed that but there's little our property and casualty budget that paid at the beginning for the year. July throws everything off it can be done but I really feel more comfortable going to the town meeting and having vote it who were elected to vote it.

Mr. Salvatore absolutely I agree. My thinking was off but I do appreciate the fact that you were able to take 2.5 million dollars off the part of the budget and I think the fact that we don't have to go into reserves right now is certainly water bowl and we see what the next year brings and I appreciate that work thanks.

Ben I would agree with David on the fact that it's good that we don't have to dip into our funds. I agree with that idea to speak a little bit on the 112th budget. You could say that to talk about the 112 it's a really interesting idea it seems like it would be something that would be very easy to do and very practical but I urge those who have heard about it to read up on it more. To read the legislation on it and what is required and I know that Jim explained a little bit about what it means to him and the finance folks at the town and the requirements that it puts on them but they're rather onerous and it is definitely not the way that we want to proceed if we are able to make a choice and I believe we will be able to have this town meeting in a fair fashion and have the RTM's decide on it and the way it was meant to be. Thanks Jim for all the work that you put into this.

Mr. Gallivan I agree with Ben I'd like to thank Jim and the Finance Team and all the department heads. I think you have done a good job tightening up the budget. Not needing to dip into reserves and sort of saving those for future year if we need them depending on how you know the economy recovers. I think this is a good solution. It's important to vote the budget now at Town Meeting. I don't really like the 112th idea. So I think this is a good solution.

Mr. O'Neil I agree with the comments that have been made just to add my own spin on it the 112 budget I actually think is a dangerous way to manage a town. I would much rather have our hands on the wheel rather than be depending upon what we're hearing from the state. I'm also fearful that we could end up having a front loading effect of the spend and then have the revenues not show up and we'd end up with a real problem on the back end. So my preference is it's the same as the rest of the Board. Which is to say we should own our own budget. We've done a really good job. Jim you and your team

have done an outstanding job of tightening down the budget. You have good strong assumptions that we will be paying attention to by month, by month by month and if need be we'll make adjustments to the budget. I feel much more comfortable with us actually controlling our own destiny on this and feel that it's very important that we actually get this budget passed at Town Meeting. Jim thank you for all the great work and leadership that you've shown. Thanks to the Finance team and all the department heads for all the cooperation in this. It is really a difficult time. I know a lot of hard choices had to be made and those choices will have to be thought about in the future but right now it is absolutely the right thing to do. So Jim thank you.

Mr. Johnson I would like to thank Jody and Marilyn, Dennis too Chief Carmichael who's on the line with us still, Chief Bailey, Patrick and everybody. The school departments Bridget and Mike. We've all come together and kind of agreed that. Yeah Bridget would like to see something more than one point sixty six percent increase for her budget but she's going to make it work and the kids in Walpole are still going to be educated. So people are still going to be protected. We are going to make it work.

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to recommend favorable Action on Article 6 seconded by Mr. Gallivan voted by roll call Mr. Barrett-Aye, Mr. Salvatore-Aye, Mr. Gallivan-Aye and Mr. O'Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to recommend favorable Action on Article 8 seconded by Mr. Gallivan voted by roll call Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Salvatore-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye and Mr. O'Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to recommend favorable Action on Article 9 seconded by Mr. Gallivan voted by roll call Mr. Salvatore-Aye Mr. Barrett-Aye, Mr. Gallivan-Aye and Mr. O'Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

June 20th town Meeting quorum discussion (Vote may occur)

No motion suggested at this time. Discussion can occur but this matter and the discussion/vote need to be considered on June 15th at 6:30 because 7 days posted notice is required.

Mr. O'Neil because of the way the final rules were written we will do that next week following a seven-day posting period and the town moderator will join us for that conversation. So next Tuesday we will have the discussion and make a decision on that. Jim let me hand it over to you to elaborate further on the process that you saw you know at the statehouse.

Mr. Johnson so we've been waiting for this to come for a couple of weeks we thought it might come back in May but it didn't happen we heard it was going to happen next week. So Jim and I talked we put it on the agenda. On Thursday legislation was signed into law at 5:40 Friday afternoon to allow cities and towns to reduce their quorum requirements down to 10% and I'm not suggesting you guys can vote if you want to reduce it you can work with the moderator as to how much. So part of the legislation that I didn't know was going to be in there was a seven-day requirement notice to anyone in the town and obviously we didn't meet it on Friday. We talked with Lauren and we ended up posting it today late in the day. The meeting requirement we're going to be posted online with the Clerk. We're also going to advertise on a couple other spots at the post office and everything for next Tuesday night at 6:30pm for you this board

and the Moderator to get together. The requirement is the Select Board and the Moderator Vote yes to change the quorum requirement and agree to a reduction. So if this board votes three to two to change it would pass but Dan could basically have veto power on that one. If this Board voted two to three to change it no change it goes nowhere. So it's going to be up to you to work with the Moderator to figure out if you do want to change it and if you want to change to how much. So we've met the requirements it's been out there and obviously we will have it televised and everything next week so that's really where we are at. I'll take any questions you may have but I encourage the Board I'll get you some more information over the next week about it and have the discussion on Tuesday night as it's going to be only four days before Town Meeting.

Ben I don't have any additional questions at this time but I do look forward to getting that additional information from Jim as you just described.

David have any towns having trouble getting quorums? Mr. Johnson I don't know I talked to Westwood town manager and they voted they actually had a court order to reduce their quorum down to 44 people. He's the only one I've recently talked to about this. I'll reach out to Norwood. Before next week I'll do a little survey. David and it was down to 44 from what? They are an open town meeting. David We have any idea whether it would be useful to poll the town meeting members to see if they intend to show up or if there are people that are looking at the traffic on the roadways and people aren't making their way out. I'm sure that knowing town meeting members and the responsibilities that they are responsible I've never been to a meeting that hasn't had a quorum people show up people study people are very responsible. I really don't think right now that a quorum is going to be an issue. Is there any way to email people and just say if there are some people that aren't wanting to come and if they want to somehow remotely participate instead? I don't know if we can do that but instead of being there in person. I know Liz has a master list I can see if she can do an informal survey and ask them if they plan on showing up. I know we cannot do the remote participation because that's the moderators it's kind of his call and he's not interested in pursuing that he wants it in person. David I'm not sure but I think like I said looking at the roads people are not staying home. So I think the responsible crew that is the representative town meeting. I'm sure they're not going to stay home for quick one hour or hour and a half meeting at this important time. I suspect unless you have some health issues. Most people are going to show up.

Mr. Gallivan on one hand I would say that I'm going to encourage all the RTMS to come and I know most of them will come. I wouldn't want anybody who has health issues to feel pressure. On the other hand I probably would be in favor of lowering the quorum somewhat kind of just in case you know it should be a good discussion next week.

Mr. O'Neil I agree I think it's going to be a good conversation when we need to have going into Town meeting so we'll hold off on further discussion here tonight until next Tuesday and have the Moderator coming and as a group we'll figure this out.

Vote to award Designer service contract bid/ Contract 2020-27

Mr. Johnson this is for Tappe Architects they are the firm that was chosen by the review committee the MSBA and myself and Bridgette and the chairman of the committee chose Tappe to serve as our architect for the middle school project that's proceeding

forward and total fee proposal is \$833,000 that is actually below what they proposed close to about \$850.00 and we got them down a little bit and it's below our budget of \$870.00. This article was appropriated for free cash last Fall and sorry two fall town meetings ago we're ready to go on it now. I know you may ask why not wait on this one the MSBA is really pushing us on this one. They're kind of in the driver's seat so they want to see us proceed since we were accepted into the program and the funds are available so right now if we were to award this contract the total amount appropriated for this was 1.5 million we would still have three hundred and seventeen thousand left over when you consider compasses contracts and a Tap A contract for \$833,000.

Discussion

David no questions sounds good

Ben I don't have any additional questions the presentation and other information that was included that will go out in their meeting minutes where this was very comprehensive it was nice to see the attention that this architect in particular it took to the size of the middle school the way that the middle school would be contracted constructed with the consideration of the possibility of merging two schools it seems like they were really open to considering a variety of ideas in that regard so I think that's encouraging and I'd also highlight that not only was the school building committee which is comprised of residents folks on various committees in town currently but the school administration and the MSBA designer selection panel all recommended this and the DSP through the State is I believe ten or twelve independent members within the architecture and construction fields. So they have also reviewed this. Certainly no one can accuse the MSBA process of not being thorough. I feel good about it it's a solid choice.

Mr. O'Neil I agree and this is why this is a rigorous process and David you can even attest to that even more than I was given that you are our representative on that committee this really is an exhaustive process and I've been please with the work that's been done so far and yet another step down the path so I'll be supporting this as well.

Motion moved by Mr. Barrett to award bid contract 2020-27 to Tappe Architect in the amount of \$833,00, seconded by Mr. Gallivan Vote by roll call Mr. Salvatore-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye, Mr. Gallivan-Aye and Mr. O'Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

VOTE to allow the chairperson or vice chairperson t approve year-end transfers

Mr. Johnson this is one of those pretty standard ones last week the finance committee took this up this is just for. We've never had town meeting this close usually we're doing this right after town meeting in May but this is just if any departments had any shortfalls. Any transfers up to ten thousand could be approved by the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. So they have given Mark the authorization to do it for Finance Committee just asking the same for the Board of Selectmen. At this time we don't see anything we're keeping a close eye on police on legal Fire looks okay and John Cogan looks okay unless he has any transfer in so it's looking okay. But might be tight in a couple of spots if we need anything I will let you know.

Discussion

Mark None

David so how long would this authority last until. Jim Johnson only until the end of this fiscal year. We're having a meeting next week and the week after. Mr. Johnson yes. David I personally see no reason to give the Chairman Authority. There have been some incidents with the Chairman changing the Agenda and leaving someone off the EDC renewal. I wouldn't feel much more comfortable if we had a meeting and I'd be happy to appear for a special at the last week of July if necessary but since we're having a weekly meeting I don't think there's any reason to see that Authority.

Ben given the dollar value requirements put on that I don't see any issue with it.
Mark I don't see any issue with it I think this is pretty standard process for us. It's a good idea to do.

Mr. O'Neil and I feel the same way.

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to allow the Chairperson or in his absence the Vice Chairperson to approve year-end transfers up to \$10,000 value seconded by Mr. Gallivan Vote by Roll call Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Salvatore-Nay, Mr. Barrett-Aye, and Mr. O'Neil-Aye (3-1-0) Mr. Salvatore opposed

VOTE to renew the Animal Control officer warrant

Mr. Johnson this is something that the Board considers every year around time this is a warrant that's authorized under Mass General laws chapter 140 Section 151A. This basically charges the Animal Control officer to grant permission to do what he does which includes. Seek out catch and confine all dogs within the town which are not licensed collard or tagged as required by this Chapter.

Discussion

Ben I have no additional comment

David no discussion

Mark I'M good with this

Jim O'Neil I'm good with this as well

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to renew and sign the Animal Control Officer Warrant seconded by Mr. Gallivan Vote by roll call Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye, Mr. Salvatore-Aye and Mr. O'Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

Mr. Salvatore the following items will be voted as one item

MOTION moved by Mr. Salvatore to accept the following donations

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Gary and Debra Riggott donation to Veteran's Committee Account | \$50.00 |
| 2. Ravens Nest donation of 10 coupons \$10 each to community/Marketing program | \$100.00 |
| 3. Napper Tandy, 24 coupons \$10 each community /Marketing Program | \$240.00 |

Seconded by Mr. Gallivan voted by roll call Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye, Mr. Salvatore-Aye and Mr. O'Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

Town Administrators Update

Update on Corona at this time there are 247 total confirmed cases in Walpole 244 cases have completed monitoring that leaves us with just three undergoing monitoring that's

the lowest in a long time. That's great and Trish Fisher continues to do some great work following up on everything with Melissa.

Finance Committee their public hearing is set for Monday the 15th at 7:30pm I think they are going to start at 7:00pm but there's no new business to take up so they all might log in about 7:20pm their recommendations are ready and set to go.

Town Meeting is set and ready to go for Saturday June 20th with the rain date of the 21st Sunday. Members can start checking in at 9:00am. We are going to set up and get ready to start around 10:00 am. We did a sound check into the last week and everything sounds okay, we're probably going to do a walk-through with Dan, Liz and a couple of the sound people midweek next week just to make sure he's comfortable. The setup is going to be facing the bleacher that all the audience. Dan will be in the middle on trailer that's elevated like a stage. Myself the chairman and Lauren would be off closer to the scoreboard with department heads over there. So we kind of have it all planned out. Recreation Brendan and Ariel have pitched in and helped out we're going to have goodie bags for each town meeting member that has a bottle of water, sunscreen, and I think Melissa had one other item in there. Maybe some bug spray or something. The packets are going out the end of this week and I just finalized everything. I'm just waiting for Dan he might have some protocols that he wants to include in the packet. We're not going to hand out any paperwork at town meeting so I'm making sure that everybody gets an extra copy of the warrant in the Town Meeting Packet. The warrant is set to be delivered to all the residents. It's suppose to get to the Post office I think on Thursday or Friday of this week so it'll be in their hands well before town meeting there and that's it for town meeting.

I've started thinking about reopening the public buildings working with Melissa and Don to make sure we have safeguards in place. I'm eyeballing, Town Hall, Blackburn, Fire station, Police Station to open within the next few weeks and for the most part the department heads have been accommodating to meet residents outside if necessary. I think Liz has done one or two weddings and we've tried o help people out. Melissa is out there with Rica doing the Septic inspections. The building department they're going full speed ahead we've got plenty of pools going in around town, private pools. So we try to be accommodating but it's getting close to us getting open we've made some changes in here we put up some glass in the Town Clerk's office put some counter space in areas to keep social distance. So we are going to be ready pretty soon. That leads me to the COA and the Library we are not going to be ready with them. I want to make sure that there are plenty of safeguards in with both of those buildings. Especially the COA the library we have to bring back the staff so we are waiting for the State to give us some guidance on those two buildings. Really sensitive about those. The Board meetings in person. Sewer and Water have their rate meeting last week. The commissioners would like to meet you in person soon. I told them there's nothing really preventing them at this time unless. If they really want to they can. I suggested meeting potentially up at Jarvis Farm outdoors where the air can get to them. So very soon I'd like to propose that this Board start to meet in person if you'd like. The Finance Committee meeting room is just about done. Just waiting for the chairs to come in. That room is a lot bigger than the Select Board meeting room but we have nice tables in there. You guys can spread out. So I think maybe the beginning of July we are going to be ready for you guys to start meeting in person again. It's your call though. But we are ready to go.

Mr. O'Neil any questions for Jim?

Mr. Salvatore I think July for meeting in person is fine. I think probably could start even sooner if anybody wants to if it works and it's good that Jim you've planned for town meeting is coming through. I think that should work out fine. I think like I think people are going to show up.

Ben just one question Jim you had mentioned in one of the preparatory emails about Walpole Town Charter revision and it's making its way through the legislation. Did you ever hear back on that? Mr. Johnson yes Senator Feeny's chief of staff Teno reached out today and he was personally reaching out to the Chairman. I forgot what committee it is going in front off. It's going for the third reading because I'm calling everyone the Selectboard. Now I'm getting used to it. I think pretty much everyone is used to it now. . So we just need to make it happen and he promised me that he'd get it done. It's taking a backseat obviously with Covid but we are ready.

Mark I do like the idea of Boards being able to meet in person. I just to make sure that if anybody felt uncomfortable with that we can still do the zoom thing that we've done before. We're somewhere in person and you know just in case we don't really know what is going to happen with the virus over time. I think it is a good idea to get back together. I really like the idea of the Finance Committee room were we can really spread out.

Mr. O'Neil I agree with that and also the idea of the Fin Com room. The Zoom thing is fine and it's working well for us but it's far better to be in person and to have the opportunity for the public to actually attend with us. So I think that's something we should be working towards and July sounds about the right time frame.

Mr. Johnson you just reminded me ZBA and Planning Board obviously are the two ones where I'm really mindful because the ZBA has five or four cased it's going to be five 40B's before them. Ashley has gone ahead and asked me to reserve the auditorium at the high school for them to have their meetings and I've booked it through mike for some of the Wednesdays in the summer so those meetings where I think it's going to be well attended we are going to have a bit of a much bigger space. I don't think we should do the Senior Center but maybe the High School Auditorium was the first spot that came to mind. We booked it.

David the library is there any activity there now or is it completely closed. Mr. Johnson it is limited activity but Sal and the remaining staff which is the assistant director and his clerk and the children's librarian I think. They are doing curbside pickup and he's pretty busy he told me it's off today. David I had heard about the curbside pickup. I didn't hear anything further so it's good at least the curbside pickup is going on.

MINUTES

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to approve of Minutes of May 26, 2020 seconded by Mr. Gallivan vote by roll call Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye, Mr. Salvatore-Aye and Mr. O'Neil-Aye (4-0-0)

That concludes our agenda for this week we will be together Tuesday to take up the item we discussed earlier around the quorum for the town meeting. Patrick from Walpole

Media thank you for taking good care of us tonight and getting this streamed out onto YouTube and all that so people can see what we're talking about.

Motion moved by Mr. O'Neil to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gallivan voted roll call Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye, Mr. Salvatore-Aye and Mr. O'Neil-Aye (4-0-0)