

The Board of Selectmen met on Tuesday June 29, 2020 remotely at 7:30 pm. The Following members were present:

James O'Neil
Benjamin Barrett
Nancy Mackenzie
Mark Gallivan
David Salvatore

Also participating
James Johnson, Town Administrator
Elizabeth Gaffey, Town Clerk
Patrick Shield, Assistant Town Administrator

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 That order, which was effective immediately and until it is rescinded or the State of Emergency is terminated.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.

The Chair will call to order at 7:30pm following by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Meeting will be televised on YouTube.

Mr. O'Neil We should start by saying we had an election on Saturday and congratulating Mark Gallivan on being returned to another term of the Board of Selectmen resounding. So congratulations Mark and welcome back.

Mr. Gallivan Thank you.

Mrs. Mackenzie I would like to add 550 votes is very impressive I feel like people really let their voice and thoughts be heard that is an impressive win.

Mr. Barrett Congratulations Mark.

Mr. Salvatore I'm all set.

Mr. O'Neil I also thought the 16-17% turnout was very impressive so I was pleased with that I thought it would be helpful to have our Town Clerk Liz Gaffey come and talk to us a little about the election. For a couple of reasons, one it was a very unusual election considering the circumstances with the pandemic and all that we had to do to prepare and execute on the elections so I wanted to give you an opportunity to step us through that. It's also very important for us to be looking ahead it very possible we will still be in this situation moving ahead into the next two elections one in September and one in November. There were probably lessons learned and see what we can do differently. I think it was a very well run election from what could see I liked that we go the early voting out there like we did and like I said a pretty good turn out all

things considered. So Liz let me just turn it over to you give us your view on how the process went how the day went. And if you do have some things that learned share that as well.

Elizabeth Gaffey It was a successful day I'm very happy with that. I'll tell I think the hours were key for that election having it 8-5, that allowed me to have the worker turnout that we needed to have I really would have been in a bad any other way. As with anything it takes a village and it certainly did, building maintenance to get the acrylic shields the board of health to get me all of the PPEs the gloves, the masks, the sanitizers all of that played an important part in having people wanting to work the election. Some towns have volunteers; we do pay our election workers to work so the fact that they were willing to walk away from a pay check that they really look forward to not work over the COVID 19 was almost insurmountable. I'm glad that we could offer all the protection that we could because I believe that what made them show up on Election Day. That was a very important part of it because they wouldn't have been comfortable. The other thing that helped out was because we had some teams which was great for early voting and absentees, I'll tell you the by mail was at least half of the election, that was a huge piece of it. I seriously think it cut it 50% so the other 50% were the people that came out. I will tell by looking at the voters list and who shows up it is our regulars who show up and the real hearty ones voted by mail they did not want to lose out, we had the others that were stragglers. Between 8-9-10 o'clock it was slow it got busy in the middle of the day because that's also when I pushed through the early voters and absentee ballots for the precincts. And then it went down to 15 between the 4-5 o'clock hour so I think after that it would have been tough and of course after that we got the rain, so I think it would have been tough if it was until 8 o'clock. My office staff was phenomenal that was 1,500 ballots that had to not only go out but had to come back. I feel we are a well-oiled machine to have processed it they go out the next day by law I can give it to you and you have up till noon time on Friday. The mail was good; the post office is aware of those type of envelopes they were awesome in getting back to me we called them all day Saturday we had many postal workers come to the Town Hall on Saturday to drop them all off for us so that was great. I believe 91% of the early ballots asked for where cast, that's almost unheard of so we had a great turn out that way and the other half was made up. We had 17% turned out in a pandemic I can't complain; it was a very good turnout.

Mr. O'Neil Everything seemed to have gone smoothly at the polls, the proper social distancing thing, you had the shields and the plastic up so from everything I heard, I didn't go I acutely voted early, but from others it ran smoothly. Anything you would add to that?

Elizabeth Gaffey I think it's difficult for the machines in the humid weather to perform for us. I did have to switch one out which was a successful switch out the humidity on the ballots makes it tough. I didn't have that issue with the early and absentee because they kept cool.

Mr. O'Neil Well thanks Liz for everything you did you and your team and Jim everyone in the town, building maintenance everyone that had to come together to make this happen. It was a lot of work a lot of good planning, a lot good thinking and that led to really good results so well done.

Jim Johnson If I could just add one thing, Liz has really been a Rock Star these last couple of weeks. We have never done anything like this before to have back to back Town meeting and

the election she's been unbelievable she's been going 24/7 it seems like she's always available when I call. Great job Liz and thank you.

Elizabeth Gaffey Thank you. I didn't finish those results until tonight at 6:00 p.m. that's how many write ins that we got but the results are posted online enjoy!

Mr. O'Neil I would like to open the board up for questions for Liz or Jim, so David I will start with you?

Mr. Salvatore No questions.

Mrs. Mackenzie I don't have any questions but I did want to say for us Chris Jr. got to vote for the first time he turned 18 this June so we went and he still got to have a really great experience. We got to take his picture going in, all of the poll workers were really nice and sweet. It was a different kind of voting but it still was a great experience for him for a first time voter so thank you to everyone there.

Mr. Barrett What Jim said all the work that everyone put into it, I would also add it sounded like as Liz alluded to that the machines there were a couple of issues that cropped up during the day people being able to hear each other through the Plexiglas it was really hearting to me the fixes that could found and people were flexible both the voting residents and the people working the poles everyone kind of worked together to make it reasonable experience and arcuate but also continual I really appreciate that and a big thank you to all the poll workers for that.

Mr. Gallivan I would just like to say thank all of you poll workers and town workers, clerk's office I think they did a great job. You know as you look forward to September and November let Jim know or let us know if there is anything we need to do to help you scale up. It's one thing for 17% turn out but the presidential still living in the world of COVID what needs to change you probably need time to think about it, we are very supportive in anything you need to do to make that work well this Fall.

Elizabeth Gaffey Thank you it will be a challenge this Fall they are mailing out to every registered voter primary an application to vote absentee. They are working on all the legislation for that will fall heavily on the town clerk's office, as of yesterday I have 18,765 voters so they don't need to apply for it because it will just be sent to them so what might come back to me will be huge They will not resend it to people I already have on file for absentee ballots for the rest of the year but the other 15,000 that didn't show up are going to have the opportunity to send me a ballot because they will be mailed to them so I thank you Mark because I think we will looking added to help to push them along.

Jim Johnson Just a follow up that we had clerks from the clerical union pitch in and help out and serve a poll workers Jody C. and Lisa of the treasurer's office also served as workers during the day, the water & sewer guys helped Liz all day, well outside of their job description she had five or six guys just because she needed so much help keeping those areas clean. So this was a good kind of training for the Fall elections we will have all hands on deck and make sure we need to cross train people we have already done it so I think everything worked out that day right Liz with the clerical union pitching in?

Elizabeth Gaffey Oh yes absolutely and it's not a job any of them wouldn't do including all of the custodians help if anyone needed a chair or anything they went well beyond, they weren't moaning about anything they were happy to do it, it was very nice atmosphere.

Mr. O'Neil Very well done Liz thank for being here tonight with us to step us through that and I do think we should follow it somewhere in the next several meetings where we literally lay down here are the lessons learned to Mark's point what it is going to take to scale it up especially when we get into November what are the things we need to be thinking about and what we need to do differently hopefully it won't be a problem but we are in July and it's still going on and November is not that far away so it very well could still be a problem. Again thanks Liz congratulations and well done.

The really only order of business tonight is by our rules following an election and we traditionally do this on the Monday night following the election we hold a reorganization of the board, and in doing that we pick a Chair, a Vice Chair, and a Clerk for the upcoming year. So that's our order of business for tonight. The way I would like to do this is I'm going to enter a nomination into the record and then I'm going to round robin to see if there are any other nominations for each one of the positions so everyone has an opportunity to nominate if that's what they would like to do. And then what we will do is vote them individually and we will land where we land.

Motion made by Mr. O'Neil to nominate Ben Barrett as Chair for the upcoming year, seconded by Mr. Gallivan. Those in favor: Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Gallivan, Mr. Salvatore, Mrs. Mackenzie, Mr. Barrett. Motion Passed (5-0-0)

On motion of Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, voted to nominate Nancy Mackenzie as Vice Chair. Those in favor: Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Barrett, Mr. Gallivan, Mr. Salvatore, Mrs. Mackenzie. Motion Passed (5-0-0)

On motion of Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, voted to nominate Mr. Gallivan as Clerk. Those in favor: Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Barrett, Mrs. Mackenzie, Mr. Gallivan. Those opposed Mr. Salvatore. Motion Passed (4-1-0)

No other business being presented for consideration, on motion of Mrs. Mackenzie, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 7:50 p.m. Those in favor: Mr. Barrett, Mr. Gallivan, Mr. Salvatore, Mrs. Mackenzie, Mr. O'Neil. Motion Passed (5-0-0)