

The Board of Selectmen met on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 remotely at 6:30 pm. The following Board members were present:

Benjamin Barrett, Chair  
Nancy Mackenzie, Vice Chair joined meeting at 7:15pm  
Mark Gallivan, Clerk  
James O'Neil  
David Salvatore joined meeting at 7pm

Also participating  
James Johnson, Town Administrator  
Patrick Shield, Assistant Town Administrator  
Aoife Kelly, Executive Assistant

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 That order, which was effective immediately and until it is rescinded or the State of Emergency is terminated.

Chair 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.

Chair Barrett called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Appointments

##### 6:30pm – Joint meeting with the Finance Committee – OPEB Actuarial Audit review

Parker Elmore, Odyssey Advisors and members of the Finance Committee were present for the meeting. Jim Johnson provided an overview of when this process started. Parker Elmore prepared and presented on the Town of Walpole Government Account Standards Board 75 results. Jim Johnson outlined how this year was different to others and have not been able to contribute as much as they would have liked. Currently working on a program to find out which retired employees that are on active plan and moved over to Medicare. Right now, the town is still on track to be fully funded by 2029 as long as the 7% increase year over year can be maintained. The Board thanked Parker for being here tonight and were pleased with the update he provided.

##### 7:15pm – Police Chief Carmichael Quarterly Update

Chief Carmichael provided the Board with his quarterly update. The Chief wished to recognize the department and how it has worked so well during this pandemic. Police Department is now up to forty-four sworn officers, with five members of the command staff. The Chief offered his appreciation to numerous members of the department that were involved in critical incidents during this past quarter. This quarter the department received approx. four thousand calls for service, twenty-five arrests and about five hundred and fifty citations issued. Mental health calls stand at four hundred and twenty-one so far this year. The department now has the ability to place people in protective custody that could be helping with the overall overdose statistics. The Chief outlined the recent policy implementations including but not limited to the new detail and overtime policy for accountability. The Board discussed the ongoing issue at Longview Farm and the dialogue the Chief is having

with various State agencies involved with the care for the children there. The department is at one hundred and ten standards out of the one hundred and fifty standards required for certification.

Chief Carmichael introduced Officer Dolan to the Board and provided some background on Officer Dolan's experience. Officer Dolan introduced himself and expressed his delight at the opportunity being presented to him. The Board conveyed their congratulations to Officer Dolan on his new position and thanked him for his years of service to the Town. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Board member Salvatore, voted to approve request to appoint Officer James Dolan to the position of Sergeant. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

#### 7:30pm – Fire Chief Bailey Quarterly Update

Chief Bailey provided his quarterly update to the Board. The Chief spoke about the current COVID situation and that both stations continue to operate. Norwood Hospital continues to not be operational and has continue to add a strain to all fire departments in the area with long response times and an increased amount of mutual aid. The Chief wished to thank the department staff for their continued hard work during this time. Call volume for 2020 has been very high, currently at the same pace as last year in terms of emergency calls. The department had to deal with several major storms, for example one on August 4 that produced thirty-three runs in a four-hour period. The current ambulance balance is \$1.6 million, fire prevention is extremely busy and the Deputy is doing a great job staying on top of it. The Chief outlined to the Board the various grants for PPE and cleaning service that they have applied for and been awarded. The department has carried out several new building familiarizations within the town. On the personnel side, the department as one member who graduated in September and two members who are currently at the academy. The department has had five injuries since July, only one remains out with a recent injury. Burning season will begin on January 15 with applications already available. The Board thanked the fire and police departments for everything they do on a daily basis.

#### 7:45pm – School Building Committee update to the Board

Board member Salvatore provided an update as the Select Board's representative on the school building committee. Board member Salvatore outlined the tasks of the committee including the hiring of a project manager, which was Compass, hiring of an architect. The consultants have put together a document that lays out the education plan, current conditions are and different options for addressing those needs. Board member Salvatore requested that the slideshows that were provided to the committee be added to the website for the public to view. The current issue is whether the educational plan shall be to combine the populations or continue with the current system of two middle schools and that is a big next step in terms of what the school committee want to do. Maybe a January update to the Board would be appropriate that this time for the next steps. The Board thanked David for the update and reminded the public that you can go to Walpole Media Corp and view the previous meetings and presentations. Jim Johnson informed the Board that the school committee would be coming before them in the coming months for the Select Board to endorse the project, which is a requirement of the MSBA once they narrow down the options.

#### New Business

#### Vote to approve Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy and add to Town of Walpole policies and procedures manual

Cara Goodman, Metropolitan Area Planning Council was present for this agenda item. Jim Johnson went over the five criteria necessary in order to become at Green Community. Criteria four is what we are focusing on

now. School Committee has not adopted it yet and waiting to see what the Select Board do tonight. Their main concern was the added cost per vehicle. Vehicles that respond to emergencies will be exempt from the policy. The Board discussed the School Department's current vehicle replacement policy and how many vans they replace yearly. Cara outlined how there is no requirement to purchase hybrid or electric cars they would just need to be a vehicle that hit a certain miles per gallon standard depending on the class of vehicle. The Board outlined their support for this policy but would like some additional information in regards to a spreadsheet outlining all current vehicles and the replacement costs associated. The Board agreed to add this item to the agenda again for December 8, 2020 after they have had a chance to review the vehicle cost analysis spreadsheet. Cara informed the Board that the Energy Reduction Plan would be in front of them at that same meeting next month.

Vote to award McMahon Associates contract for a traffic signal design at Washington Street, Short Street and Polley Lane intersection

Carl Balduf, Town Engineer was present for this agenda item; he outlined what the contract would entail. On motion of Clerk Gallivan, seconded by Board member O'Neil voted to award McMahon Associates contract for a traffic signal design at Washington Street, Short Street and Polley Lane intersection. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Ponds Management Committee

On motion of Clerk Gallivan, seconded by Board member O'Neill, voted to accept the resignation of Paul Stelmash from the Ponds Management Committee. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0). On motion of Clerk Gallivan, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to appoint Daniel Ryan to the Ponds Management Committee. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0). On motion of Clerk Gallivan, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to appoint Laura Garrity to the Ponds Management Committee. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to accept resignation of Liz Barrows from the Housing Partnership Committee

The Board thanked Liz for the time she put into the Housing Partnership Committee. On motion of Clerk Gallivan, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to accept the resignation of Liz Barrows from the Housing Partnership Committee. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

South Walpole Community Athletic Complex update

Jim Johnson provided the Board with a compressive update on the status of the South Walpole Community Athletic Complex. The project closeout punch list is being developed this week. Approaching a milestone this month with the handover of the synthetic turf fields and the front parking area to the town. Looking to add more capacity to the water detention basins. The course layer of asphalt throughout the main entrance has been laid down. RAD Sports continue to finish the rear parking lot areas for the installation of the concrete benches and picnic table pads and the dumpster enclosure over the coming weeks. RAD will be back in the spring to oversee the reseeding and the successful grow in the grass turf areas and complete some final changes. Walpole Youth Soccer has already asked to book the fields starting this weekend to run some weekend programs for in town kids. Really impressed with RAD and Weston & Sampson on how they have approached this project. The Board thanked Jim and his team, were impressed with this accomplishment for the town, and are thrilled that people will begin to use it this weekend. Walpole families with get great used out of it over the coming years.

### Vote request for Change of Officers/Directors for Texas Roadhouse Holdings LLC

On motion of Clerk Gallivan, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to approve request for change of Officers/Directors for Texas Roadhouse Holding LLC. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

### Adams Farm Requests

On motion of Clerk Gallivan, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to approve request of Yvette Morrill to use Adams Farm on May 22, June 19, August 14 and September 11, 2021 from 9am-12pm for a free nature talk/walk subject to them complying with any COVID 19 protocols that are in place at the time of the event. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

On motion of Clerk Gallivan, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to approve request of Yvette Morrill to use Adams Farm on July 17, 2021 from 6pm-9pm for a free evening nature talk/walk subject to them complying with any COVID 19 protocols that are in place at the time of the event. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

## CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to accept with gratitude the following donations

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|---|--------|
| 1. Friends of St. Patrick to Recreation Dept Smiling Eyes Scholarship | \$3000 |
| 2. Tyler Forgeron to Veteran's Gifts                                  | \$400  |

On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-1) Board Member O'Neil abstained.

## Town Administrator's Update

### COVID

471 total confirmed cases, 38 active cases undergoing monitoring. Board of Health staff continue to do a great job. Trish was such a good hire and the timing was perfect. School Department is having the 1<sup>st</sup> graders the week of the 14<sup>th</sup> start four days a week by expanding into some of the gym areas. The School Department is ready to pivot and change course if necessary.

### Solid Waste

Melissa and I want to start working on the next contract early and get a group together with members from the Board of Health, Select Board, Solid Waste Committee and Jodi to start to look at some options. So I'm looking for one or two members of the Select Board to let me know if you are interested in helping, not right now but probably in the very near future.

### Veteran's Agent

Jon Cogan is going to be retiring in December, I have reached out to Medfield as I would like to continue partnership with the regional veteran's agent as would they. I'm waiting to hear back from Dover Town Administrator to see if they are interested in joining with Walpole and Medfield. I will keep the Board updated on the posting but obviously, the person has to be a veteran. Council on Aging staff have really stepped up with Jon out on medical leave and done a great job.

#### Norfolk County Solar Project

There was a lot of people signed in at that meeting, I counted 294 at one point. I did reach out to Mike Mullen to ask him about the status, Mike responded that they are still taking all the public comment into consideration and as soon as they had something he would let me know.

#### Tree Lighting

Due to COVID there won't be a tree lighting ceremony this year, but the tree will be lit this coming Saturday. The DPW, Highway, Parks, Building Maintenance stepped up today, pitched in to get it done.

#### Town Offices

Town offices will be closed on Friday the day after Thanksgiving.

Board member O'Neil requested adding the discussion of the 300 Committee to the next agenda, committee appointments and starting to think about funding.

On motion of Board member O'Neil seconded by Vice Chair Mackenzie, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 9pm. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).