

The Select Board met on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 remotely at 7:00pm. Board member David Salvatore was absent. The following Board members were present:

Benjamin Barrett, Chair
Nancy Mackenzie, Vice Chair
Mark Gallivan, Clerk
James O'Neil

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 That order, which was effective immediately and until it is rescinded or the State of Emergency is terminated.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

7:00pm – Carl Balduf seeking Vote from the Board for taking and Acceptance Documents for Mill Brook Avenue, Lester Gray Drive, Shady Lane, Lady Slipper Drive and High Oaks Court

Town Engineer Carl Balduf was present for this appointment and explained this is the final step to complete the roads that were accepted at Fall Town Meeting.

On Motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to accept the rights and easements related to Mill Brook Avenue, Lester Gray Drive, Shady Lane, Lady Slipper Drive and High Oaks Court and sign the acceptance document. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

On Motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to take the public rights in Mill Brook Avenue and sign the Order of taking document. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

On Motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to take the public rights in Lester Gray Drive and sign the Order of taking documents. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

On Motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to take the public rights in Shady Lane and sign the Order of taking documents. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

On Motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to take the public rights in Lady Slipper Drive and sign the Order of taking documents. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

On Motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to take the public rights in High Oaks Court and sign the Order of taking documents. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

New Business

Vote to approve and authorize Jim Johnson, Town Administrator to sign on the Board's behalf the Chapter 90 reimbursements for Project 19-01 and 20-01

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, vote to approve and authorize Jim Johnson, Town Administrator to sign on the Board's behalf the Chapter 90 reimbursement request for Project 19-01 for \$912,073.28. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, vote to approve and authorize Jim Johnson, Town Administrator to sign on the Board's behalf the Chapter 90 reimbursement request for Project 20-01 for \$845,415. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to close the 2021 Spring Town Meeting Warrant

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to close the 2021 Spring Town Meeting Warrant. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

FY22 Budget Update from the Town Administrator and Possible Vote

Town Administrator Jim Johnson provided an overview to the Board on the FY22 Budget. Mr. Johnson highlighted the following items: Walpole Public Schools Budget, Police Department Budget, Fire Department Budget, New Growth, Overlay, Levey Limit, State Aid and Local Receipts. He informed the Board that the budget is balanced for now but that could change, as things are constantly moving.

The Board discussed the uncertainty and challenges ahead of us, monies the town might be able to recover that are COVID related and OPEB & Stabilization. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted an endorsement of the direction the Town Administrator is taking the budget. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to appoint Shawn McDonald as an associate member to the Pond Management Committee

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to appoint Shawn McDonald as an associate member to the Ponds Management Committee. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to accept resignation of Kathleen Cleary from the MBTA Advisory Board

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to accept the resignation with thanks of Kathleen Cleary from the MBTA Advisory Board. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to declare old furniture as surplus as requested by the Town Administrator

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to declare old furniture as surplus as request by the Town Administrator. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote request to use \$10,500 of PEG Technology & Infrastructure Funds for fiber optic network repairs and costs associated with safeguarding the Town's IT infrastructure

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve request to use \$10,500 of PEG Technology & Infrastructure Funds for fiber optic network repairs and costs associated with safeguarding the Town's IT infrastructure. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Unfinished Business

Vote request of ecoATM LLC for a Junk Collector license located at 550 Providence Highway

Senior Regulatory Affairs Counsel Hunter Bjorkman for ecoATM LLC attended for this item of unfinished business. The Board had some questions in regards to security and personal data and were satisfied with Mr. Bjorkman's responses. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve request with a \$500 limit per individual depositor for the first year. 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

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| 1. Yvette Morrill to Walpole Trails Committee Gift Account | \$100 |
| 2. Jennifer Geosits to Town Administrator Gift Account | \$5,000 |
| 3. Lorraine McCabe to Ambulance Gift Account | \$25 |
| 4. Eugene A. Reilly to COA Gifts | \$25 |
| 5. Susan Cushing to COA Gifts | \$100 |
| 6. Louis & Helene Bier to COA Gifts | \$50 |
| 7. First Day Hike Donations to Walpole Trails Committee Gift Account | \$300 |

On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Town Administrator's Update

COVID

1097 total confirmed cases, 153 active cases; the highest we have had so far. Trish, Rike, Jen and Melissa in the Board of Health are doing a great job and started the public safety personal vaccine this week. I expect the nurses to be vaccinated next week.

Accident on School Street

There was a big accident at KW Steel involving four steel beams, a tractor-trailer and a smaller car. The Building Commissioner has been working on this with the neighbors and myself and dealing with issues at the site since September. The ZBA is currently in the middle of a hearing for a cease and desist order for this business. The business has reached out to us and expressed a desire to move, and I am optimistic we can find an industrial site to move them to within Walpole.

Norfolk County Solar Project

I received word from the County Commissioners through Mike Mullen that they have posted a notice to propose to award an energy management services agreement to Kearsarge on Friday. It seems as though they are moving forward with it.

Master Plan

Two proposals were submitted this week; we are looking for representatives from the Select Board, ZBA and Planning Board to review the proposals along with some of our department heads. Once we have some names we can get them together and have some meeting dates to interview and select a firm.

Burns Ave

This Board dealt with that at the last meeting. The applicant refused to pay peer review by the selective firm so the ZBA voted at the advice of counsel to close the hearing.

Summer Street- 40B Omni Project

Redesign South Walpole Intersection was presented to the ZBA last week. Some residents reached out and provided me with their feedback as the ZBA Chairman asked. It has been explained to me that the residents do not like the traffic signal, generally do not like the proposed t-intersection. I forwarded some of the comments to the traffic engineers, to see if there were any other options. I am encouraging residents to give me any feedback so I can forward it along to the ZBA prior to their meeting next month.

Town Charter

Change went through to formally change Selectmen to Select Board last week, long time coming but finally done

Walpole Mall

There was an ad in the Boston Globe for a foreclosure auction at that site. The attorney representing the mall said that the auction is not moving forward. In fact, they are moving forward with filling the old Office Max site in the near future and coming in to pull a sign permit shortly.

Community Development Director

We continue to look for someone, Ashley continues to help remotely and doing a great job.

MSBA

The Committee has narrowed down the site to three options; the new building on the current Bird Middle School site, renovation of the Bird Middle School and a new building at the Johnson Middle School up on the hill where the police station was proposed. I am concerned with the Johnson Middle School site as it is an Area 1 Zone II of our aquifer protection district. There is a Community Forum next Wednesday at 7pm. I plan to raise these concerns at the January 26th building committee meeting.

The Board expressed their concerns about the Johnson Middle School site as an option. The possibility of scheduling a meeting with the School Building Committee and the Water and Sewer Commissioners and School Committee to talk this through before any vote is taken was discussed. Jim Johnson suggested to the Board the option of having a meeting next Tuesday night to discuss this further and have the Select Board formally weigh in on the project.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:17pm. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).