

The Select Board met on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 remotely at 7:00pm. The following Board members were present:

Benjamin Barrett, Chair
Nancy Mackenzie, Vice Chair joined at 7:05pm
Mark Gallivan, Clerk
James O'Neil
David Salvatore

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 That order, which was effective immediately and until it is rescinded or the State of Emergency is terminated.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

Police Chief Carmichael Quarterly Report

Present was Chief Carmichael and Deputy Chief Kelleher to provide the Police Department quarterly report. The Chief began with a personnel update and informed the Board on the 2021 WPD medal recipients that were honored at a recently held ceremony. The Chief touched on biased based policing in reference to Long Hearings and how the department has set up a data tracking system for motor vehicle stops. The Chief informed the Board that they are holding steady in terms of drug overdoses, with twelve overdoses since the beginning of the year with three fatalities and mental health calls continuing on the same trend with three hundred and fourteen calls so far this year. Looking to have the entire department trained in crisis intervention training by the end of this year. The Chief outlined to the Board a new tracking on de-escalation when it comes to use of force situations.

Chief Carmichael thanked the Board for all their support during his time in Walpole. He is proud of how the officers have worked through this last year and the challenging times. Deputy Chief Kelleher will do a great job stepping up and has good command presence, understands the mission and vision of the Department. Feels good knowing my town and this department is going to thrive going forward. The Board thanked Chief Carmichael for the great job he has done with the Department, how fortunate the Town has been to have him as a Chief and wished him all the best in his new position in Newton.

Jim Johnson, commented on how great it has been to work with John, really great sad to see him go and he has done a good job managing the department, great command staff in place and thank him for his years of service to the town of Walpole.

Constable Interview and Vote for appointment

Present was applicant Kelli Ann Murphy. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to appoint Kelli Ann Murphy to the position of Constable for a three year term and she is a perfect asset to the constables. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

New Business

Vote to authorize the Town Administrator to carry out Reserve Fund and/or Interdepartmental Transfers up to \$10,000

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to authorize the Town Administrator to carry out Reserve Fund and/or Interdepartmental Transfers up to \$10,000 up to and including July 15, 2021. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Discussion and Vote to approve Employment Contract Policy and add to Town of Walpole Policies and Procedures Manual

Jim Johnson gave some background to the Board on this item. Jim outlined that this matter was discussed by the Personnel Board in 2015, 2016, 2017 and at that time the Personnel Board voted 2-3 to table it and no action was taken. There are currently seven contracts and what we are trying to do is formalize this.

A discussion took place among the Board members on this proposed policy, in particular the possibly of a future bylaw being brought to Town Meeting for review and approval. The Board discussed the importance of having some sort of policy in writing and adding a policy to the Town of Walpole Policies and Procedures Manual is a good start but still leaves it open for the research to be done to perhaps having a bylaw in the future. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, vote to approve the Employment Contract Policy and add to the Town of Walpole Policies and Procedures Manual and that this motion is not sending a message that the Select Board is overstepping the power of the Moderator and at any time he would like to look into a bylaw we would support that. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-1-0). Board member Salvatore opposed.

Vote request of Andrew Flowers for a one day entertainment permit at 20 Front Street for live music from 6pm-9pm on June 05, 2021

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve request of Andrew Flowers for a one day entertainment permit at 20 Front Street for live music from 6pm-9pm on June 05, 2021. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Update on the lifting of all COVID-19 Emergency Measures

Jim Johnson provided an update to the Board on the current situation regarding the COVID-19 emergency measures. The Board discussed the rolling back of restrictions and what that will mean for boards and committees meeting in person and also restaurants availing of the temporary extension of premise. A discussion took place among the Board members in regards to the Select Board meeting in person at their meeting of June 7 or June 15. It was decided to meet remotely on June 7 and give the new Board members a chance to discuss the location of the June 15 meeting.

Master Plan Steering Committee Update

Clerk Gallivan updated the Board on the discussion that occurred at the recent Planning Board meeting pertaining to the Master Plan Steering Committee. Mark informed the Board that the Planning Board did have some discussion around the number of members on the Committee. The Planning Board Chair said that at their June meeting they will have follow up discussion and the intent was to vote on the makeup of the Committee then.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Georgiana Brown to COA Gifts \$50

2. Barbara Kelly to COA Gifts	\$300
3. Charles & Penelope Cassese for Nancy Hurd to COA Gifts	\$25
4. Lauren & Joseph Silvia for Nancy Hurd to COA Gifts	\$25
On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).	

Town Administrator's Update

COVID

Pleased to report we only have 19 active cases with a total of 2,105 total cases. I can't say enough about Trish, Melissa, Rike, Jen and the Board of Health. Nice to see case numbers so low.

June Election

Just a reminder the Town Election is set to be held Saturday June 5th. The Town Clerk has advised me that her team are all set and ready to go.

Memorial Day Observance

Veterans Agent Mark Bryson has been working hard getting everything ready. It is going to be held at noon on Monday on the Common. First in person gathering so nice to see everyone getting together for that.

Route 1A Roadworks

Roadwork continues as it has for the last few weeks. Construction warning signs have just about been completed, vegetation removal will continue. Eversource continues to transfer the lines and they are on track to be completed by the end of June. June 1 excavation is expected to start on Hoover Road and later that week in the North Street vicinity. The North Street underground utility work is preparing for the installation of a temporary bridge over the Neponset River which will go in sometime in July. We should hopefully start seeing some activity on June 1.

Minutes

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan voted to approve Minutes of May 11, 2021 as presented in our packet. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vice Chair Mackenzie, wished to congratulate the Walpole High graduating class of 2021. Good luck and congratulations.

Executive Session

Chair Barrett stated that the Board's intention to go into Executive Session for Purpose 2: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel:

- To negotiate with non-union personnel Deputy Chief Richard Kelleher

On motion of Chair Barrett, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to enter into Executive Session for the purpose stated, with the Board returning to open session at the conclusion. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

The Board moved out of Executive Session at 8:40pm

Possible Vote to approve and sign the contract for Deputy Chief Richard Kelleher to serve as Acting Police Chief after exiting Executive Session

On motion of Board member Salvatore, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve the contract for Richard Kelleher as the Interim Police Chief. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-1). Vice Chair Mackenzie abstained.

Clerk Gallivan, thanked Board member Salvatore for the time he has put in over the years, even if they did not always agree, he appreciates the work David has done.

On motion of Board member Salvatore, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:41pm. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).