

The Select Board met on Tuesday, February 09, 2021 remotely at 7:00pm. The following Board members were present:

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

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 That order, which was effective immediately and until it is rescinded or the State of Emergency is terminated.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 – Recognition of Walpole Resident Evan McGrew

Mark and Evan McGrew were present before the Board. Mark and Evan spoke about what they have been involved in over the past couple of months in helping to raise funds for a family friend who was in an accident and ended up raising approximately \$24,000 in donations. The Board thanked Evan for being here tonight and sharing his story. They congratulated him on coming up with this creative way to help his friend and his efforts really define what it means to be a community.

7:05pm – Chad Clark, Roselli, Clark & Associates Town of Walpole FY2020 Audit Presentation

Chad Clark, Roselli, Clark & Associates and Finance Director Jodi Cuneo were present. Chad provided an overview of the executive summary and highlighted some of the changes that occurred for FY20 including the general fund dropping by about \$1 million with expenses holding tight and revenue ending up with some deficits. In regards to a positive trend about \$5.4million of free cash was spent in FY20 but when looking at the free cash number at the beginning of FY21 the town did well utilizing the funds but also recovering them. The Board expressed their gratitude to the Town Administrator and the Finance Team for their hard work especially during this past year and thanked Chad for being here tonight. Chad outlined a GASB item that will affect the manner in which long-term leases are accounted and reported in future years.

7:15pm – Bryan Jarvis, Compass Project Management Update on Middle School Project and Possible Vote to endorse B-1 Consolidated Option

Bryan Jarvis and Antonio Pina, Compass Project Management, Christopher Blessen, Tappé Architects and Mark Breen, School Building Committee were present. Bryan gave a brief presentation to the Board outlining the project timeline, feasibility/schematic deliverables, short-listed options and the preferred solution. The Board thanked the school building committee as well as Compass for all the hard work they have put into this

project. The Board spoke about the need for a new school but also raised some concerns about residents voting on an override during the current economic climate. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to endorse the B-1 option for the Middle School project and authorize the Chair of the Select Board or the Town Administrator to sign any and all documents related to. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

7:30pm – Town Clerk Liz Gaffey, Vote on apportionment of RTM

Town Clerk Liz Gaffey was present for this appointment. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted that the present apportionment change in Precinct 2 and 4 as recommended by the Town Clerk for favorable action. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

7: 35pm – G.L. c.268A §19(b) (1) Exemption Request – Discussion and Vote: Susanne Murphy Zoning Board of Appeals Member; regarding potential conflict of interest

Attorney Lauren Goldberg, KP Law was present. Jim Johnson provided a brief introduction on why this item is before the Board tonight and read Susanne's disclosure into the record. Lauren explained to the Board what this particular exemption is and why she recommended it come before the Select Board. The Board discussed the location of the property in question and appreciated the transparency of Ms. Murphy in regards to this matter. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to grant an exemption to Ms. Susanne Murphy, a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, from the prohibitions of G.L. c.268A, §19, in that she has described a potential financial interest in the written document submitted to us this evening, with respect to potential off-site mitigation with regard to the Omni Development Comprehensive Permit matter, and, further, that such potential financial interest is no so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services the Town may expect from Ms. Murphy as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and, further, that Ms. Murphy be notified of the Board's decision, in writing, as soon as possible, and that a copy of such decision be filed with the Town Clerk and a copy forwarded to the Zoning Board of Appeals Chair for the board's records. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

New Business

Vote request of Liz McAfee to use Adams Farm from March 11 to March 16, 2021 for the Friends of Adams Farm Seed Swap

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve request of Liz McAfee to use Adams Farm from March 11 to March 16, 2021 for the Friends of Adams Farm Seed Swap, subject to them complying with all COVID19 guidelines that re in place at the time of the event. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

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. Beth & Paul Miga to Fire Dept. Gift Account | \$100 |
| 2. Multiple Donors to Recreation Smiling Eyes Financial Assistance | \$266 |

On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Town Administrator's Update

COVID

At this time, we have 1,506 confirmed position cases with 92 active cases.

Vaccine update

The COA vaccine clinic started today and went off without a hitch. 110 people were vaccinated today. On Thursday, they will be doing about another 100 and then they will have first responders, school nurses, and the cert team next week; that will be their second round of doses.

Board member Salvatore raised the issue of how many people on each shift would be getting a second shot as many people are ending up with needing a day off. Jim Johnson informed the Board that he would raise this with the Police and Fire Chiefs.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee started meeting this week. They reviewed the general government section of the budget, culture and recreation, debt and health and human services last night. Thursday night they are set to go over the DPW budgets.

Veterans Officer

We continue to search for a new agent, we have had a couple of interviews but nothing has really panned out. I've talked to a couple of the neighboring towns and they asked if we were interested in forming another region so I told them anything is on the table but in the meantime we are going to continue to try to recruit a qualified person and Patrick and I have an interview later on this week.

Norwood Hospital

Chief Bailey was in two weeks ago and briefly touched on Norwood Hospital. We are getting very little information out of Norwood Hospital. Norwood went ahead and formed a medical services overlay district. One of the key elements is to allow them to go up to a height of 80ft in the primary hospital building. Earlier today myself, the Foxboro Town Manager and the Norwood General Manager were in communication and we are going to invite the CEO of the Hospital into the next Norfolk County Town Managers Association meeting, to ask if there is anything that us as managers can do to advocate to make some progress on the hospital. My biggest concern is that the hospital will just pack up shop and not open again and we really do not want to have that happen.

Board member O'Neil mentioned the Common Street accident that took down the several poles and inquired if any follow up needed to be done with Eversource and what the status of poles are generally in Walpole. Jim Johnson informed the Board that he would follow up with his Eversource point of contact on this matter.

Minutes

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve Minutes of January 19 and 26, 2021 as presented in our packet. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:30pm. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).