

The Select Board met on Tuesday, February 23, 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 joined the meeting at 8:05pm
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 That order, which was effective immediately and until it is rescinded or the State of Emergency is terminated.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 Tyler Forgeron

Tyler Forgeron and Tracy Deroma were present before the Board. Tyler spoke about how he has been redeeming cans and bottles and donating to different charities, such as LifeWorks, St. Vincent de Paul and the Walpole Food Pantry. He informed the Board that in total he has raised \$11,975 for various charities. The Board congratulated Tyler for a job well done and appreciate his hard work and efforts in supporting the Town.

7:05pm – Vote to appoint candidate Kelcey Bernal to the position of Police Officer

Police Chief Carmichael, Deputy Chief Kelleher and Kelcey Bernal were present for this appointment. The Chief introduced candidate Bernal to the Board and provided some background information. Kelcey introduced herself to the Board and elaborated on her experience and how she is excited for this opportunity. The Board welcomed Kelcey to the Town and the Walpole Police Department. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to appoint candidate Kelcey Bernal to the position of Police Officer with the Walpole Police Department. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

7:30pm – Discussion of South Walpole Intersection at Washington St., Neponset St., Summer St. and Water St. (South Walpole Common) and Possible Vote

Chair Barrett provided some background on this agenda item and why it is before the Board tonight. Sean Reardon, Tetra Tech, Ashley Clark, Planner, Chief Carmichael, Chief Bailey, Carl Balduf, Engineer and DPW Director Rick Mattson were present. Sean outlined to the Board that this project would add about 10% of new

volume to the intersection and challenged the applicant to develop several different alternatives and the overwhelming performance favorite was a simple t-signalized intersection. He informed the Board that this design is at the very beginning stages. Chief Carmichael, Chief Bailey and Carl Balduf provided comment to the Board on this project and highlighted safety but also the need to listen to the feedback from the residents. Ashley noted that special attention should be giving to planning for the treatment of the common area. The Board discussed the recent ZBA meeting and the feedback from the residents. Questions were raised about potential traffic backups and the road lay out coming out of the Washington Street Extension. Sean explained that the model shows that with a signal there, the queues will be shorter during the transition time and if we reconfigure the intersection, the eventual design would not make it worse. Jim Johnson informed the Board that all residents would be involved in a public input session when working towards the final design. Discussion continued around the building permit fees and the amount that would be redirected towards the cost of the intersection reconfiguration. Sean confirmed that a light might not be the final design but reiterated the point that with a light is the only way to get the benefit of those opposing left turns. The Board talked about the need to preserve the common as much as possible and mitigation involving the public in all the future conversations. On motion of Clerk Gallivan, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to request that the ZBA incorporate the offsite mitigation for the improvements to the South Walpole Intersection into their decision and incorporate the feedback from the Select Board at their meeting particularly around the flow of traffic and the utilization of the common in trying to preserve as much useable space. The Board also notes that as the Road Commissioners, the Select Board shall have final review and approval of any changes On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-1-0) Vice Chair Mackenzie opposed.

New Business

Discussion of proposed Joint Committee on Inclusionary Zoning consisting of Walpole Housing Partnership, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals Members and Possible Vote

Chair Barrett provided some information to the Board members on this item. The Board discussed the request from Housing Partnership Chair Andrew Flowers on the make-up of a possible subcommittee to include members of the Planning Board, Zoning Board and Housing Partnership. Discussion continued amongst the Board members on the pros and cons of a joint committee and where the Planning Board and Zoning Board stood in terms of being a part of this committee. On motion of Chair Barrett, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to compose the joint committee of 7 members – 2 Planning Board, 2 ZBA and 3 Housing Partnership to the extent that they wish to take part in proceeding with this effort. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (3-2-0) Vice Chair Mackenzie and Board member Salvatore opposed.

Vote to appoint Mary McNamara Cullinane as a member to the Cultural Council

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to appoint Mary McNamara Cullinane as a member to the Cultural Council. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Discussion and Vote on Fire Department SAFER Grant Application

Chief Bailey and Deputy Barry were present for this item. The Chief gave an overview to the Board on the grant application from the federal government for staffing and asked if the Board is inclined to move forward with this application. The Board recognize the staffing issues within the Fire Department and view this as a great opportunity to move ahead. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to direct Chief Bailey to apply for the SAFER Grant with approval for up to eight additional personnel subject to his coordination with Jim Johnson to ensure sound budgetary planning once the grant runs out. 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. Hub Grinding to COA Grab & Go Account | \$100 |
| 2. Mr. & Mrs. Nasson to COA Gift Account | \$60 |

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

Town Administrator's Update

COVID

At this time there are 1,633 total with 71 active cases, down from two weeks ago. Patrick reminded me that the first department head discussion regarding COVID took place on February 28 last year. My first update to the Select Board took place on March 03, where I let the Board know we were keeping a watchful eye on this; it's amazing how much has changed in just one year.

Vaccine Clinic

The COA vaccine clinic started a few weeks ago, but unfortunately, they have stopped due to Governor's decision to focus on mass vaccination sites. Representative Rogers did set up a meeting with Rob McLaughlin who serves as the legislative director for Sec. Sudders. Rob explained that the mass vaccine sites are more sustainable and efficient for distribution. We explained to them our frustration, they understand, they are hearing this from town managers and administrators from around the state. We did ask could they reconsider, he said they would try but no promises.

Norwood Hospital

Some area managers and I met with Sal Perla, President of the Norwood Hospital last week. He explained they have no set eta for the hospital to open; they were hoping the insurance claim would be resolved by May or June as that is what is tying this whole thing up. As more info comes available, I will share it with the Board and the public. Sal did agree to attend the managers meetings once a month.

Finance Committee

They continue to meet and we have almost made our way through all of the town budgets. Public safety and insurance are being considered on Thursday, schools are up next week and then citizen petitions are on after that.

Borrowing Update

The bond results came in for about a \$4.5million borrowing, interest rate came in at 1.062%, which is great since we were budgeting 4.25% last year. So at your next meeting the Select Board will be asked to vote to approve the results of the bond sale and sign the necessary bond documents. This was Jodi's first borrowing, I'm really impressed with the work Lisa and Jodi did on this borrowing and this is some good results.

Minutes

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan voted to approve Minutes of February 09, 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 8:50pm. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).