

The Board of Selectmen met on Tuesday, October 06, 2020 remotely at 7:00 pm. 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 That order, which was effective immediately and until it is rescinded or the State of Emergency is terminated.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 – Public Hearing and Vote request of Eversource for Grant of Location to install one stub pole and anchor on Common Street

Christine Crosby, Eversource and Carl Balduf Town Engineer were present for the hearing. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, vote to open the public hearing for Eversource for grant of location to install one stub pole and one anchor on Common Street. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

With no communication on this matter from the public, on motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, and on roll call vote of the Board, voted 5-0-0 to close the public hearing. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan voted to grant request of Eversource to install one stub pole and anchor on Common Street and will include revised plans that will be submitted to the Engineering office. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

7:10pm – Vote on change of Manager for Wines & More Walpole to Matthew Benoit

Matthew Benoit, Wines & More Walpole was present for the appointment. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan voted to approve the change of manager for Wines & More Walpole to Matthew Benoit. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

7:15pm – Adams Farm Committee interview and vote for appointment

Robert Belcher gave a brief introduction and background. Long time Walpole resident, very interested in the property. Volunteering for the Neponset River Water Shed Association and recently retired. On motion of Vice

Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to appoint Robert Belcher to the Adams Farm Committee to fill a vacancy. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

7:20pm – Introduction of Lisa Sinkus as new Treasurer/Collector

Jim Johnson introduced Lisa to the Board who came to the Town from Foxboro with extensive experience and wished to make everyone aware of the transition that is taking place.

Lisa Sinkus expressed her happiness about being here, continuing to work with Jodi and excited to start her new role as the Treasurer/Collector. The Board congratulated Lisa on the promotion and wished her the best.

7:25pm – Vote to ratify decision of Town Administrator to appoint Jodi Cuneo as Finance Director effective November 02, 2020

Jim Johnson gave some background on Jodi's experience and requested the Board affirm his decision to appoint Jodi Cuneo as Finance Director effective November 02, 2020.

Jodi Cuneo conveyed her happiness about moving into this role as the next progression in her career and confidence she can do the job well. The Board articulated their excitement at having Jodi move into this position and look forward to working with her in her new role.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to ratify the decision of the Town Administrator to appoint Jodi Cuneo as Finance Director effective November 02, 2020. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

8:00pm – Chairman John Fisher, Board of Assessors, discussion on classification hearing

John Fisher was present for the discussion and gave an overview of the process that the Board will be going through in order to determine the certified tax rate. A classification hearing is held every year in November, with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Assessors. Data and a recommendation is provided and the Board of Selectmen take a vote. The hearing date is tentatively set for November 10. A full draft package will be provided to the Board two weeks in advance.

New Business

Carl Balduf, Town Engineer, providing an update on the Columbia Gas moratorium waiver and line maintenance program

Carl Balduf informed the Board that Columbia had withdrawn the recent request for the waivers that were discussed on August 12, they are hoping for the coordination of Columbia's service replacement program and the Town's paving program. The Board discussed the recent moratorium waivers and if still a safety concern at these locations. The Town would never recommended getting in the way of something that needed to be done for safety reasons. In addition, the Board wished to be kept up to date on the replacement program list when it is created by Columbia. Discussion continued and the suggestion was made to send letters to the homeowners that were involved in the waiver request of August 12.

Vote to declare DPW equipment as surplus as requested by the Town Administrator

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to declare DPW equipment as surplus and authorize the Town Administrator to dispose of the listed equipment. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0)

Vote to approve proposed snowplow rates as presented by Richard Mattson, Director of Public Works

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve proposed snowplow rates as presented. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0)

Vote on remaining Town Meeting Articles

Jim Johnson explained there were three articles remaining for the Board to vote on, Articles 2, 14 and 15.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted no action on Article 2. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted favorable action on Article 14. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan voted favorable action on Article 15. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Discussion and possible Vote to allow all existing extension of premises and any new applications to stay in place until 60 days after the end of the State of Emergency

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to allow all existing extension of premises and any new applications to stay in place until 60 days after the end of the State of Emergency or otherwise revised by the Governor unless sooner revoked or suspended as deemed necessary by the Building, Fire or DPW Department on the grounds of public safety. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0)

Vote to approve extension of lease agreements with Jalapenos, Conrad's, The Ravens Nest & Tessie's Bar and Kitchen

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve extension of lease agreements with several restaurants to stay in place until 60 days after the end of the State of Emergency or otherwise revised by the Governor unless sooner revoked or suspended as deemed necessary by the Building, Fire or DPW Department on the grounds of public safety. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0)

Discussion and possible Vote to offer Section 12 Licensees a 25% reduction on 2021 liquor license renewals if requested. All rates will revert to original fee amount after the 2021 renewals are complete

Jim Johnson explained the purpose is to help local businesses and outlined the revenue reduction that would result. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to offer Section 12 Licensees a 25% reduction on 2021 liquor license renewals if requested and all rates will revert to original fee amount after the 2021 renewals are complete. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0)

Vote to sign agreement between the Town of Walpole and W.R. Grace & Co.-Conn. and Covidien LP concerning continued access to Blackburn & Union Privileges Superfund Site

Melissa Ranieri, Health Director was present. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to sign the agreement between the Town of Walpole and W.R. Grace & Co.-Conn. and Covidien LP concerning continued access to Blackburn & Union Privileges Superfund Site. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0)

Vote to ratify decision of the Board to direct the Town Administrator to send a letter to the Norfolk County Commissioners regarding the 90-day extension on the offer to lease land

The Board discussed why the decision was made to add this item to the agenda. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to ratify decision of the Board to direct the Town Administrator to send a letter to the Norfolk County Commissioners regarding the 90-day extension request. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0)

Vote to sign the November 03, 2020 State Election Warrant

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to sign the November 03, 2020 State Election Warrant. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0)

The Board noted what an incredible job Liz and her staff are all doing and all the people that work the polls.

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. Moms Club of Walpole to Recreation Program Scholarships | \$200 |
| 2. Walpole Pharmacy to COA Gifts | \$100 |
| 3. Ellen Redfield to COA Gifts | \$34 |
| 4. Joanne Mulligan to COA Gifts | \$100 |
| 5. Mick Morgan's to Community Policing | \$425 |

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

Town Administrator's Update

COVID

324 total positive cases with 8 current active cases.

Town Meeting

Ready to go on Saturday, October 17 at 10am. The Finance Committee Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 13 at 6pm.

Select Board Meeting

Since we met tonight, right now we don't have anything on the agenda for next week. If we do need to post a meeting agenda we will need to post it on Thursday because of the holiday.

Planning Board Hearing

Public Hearing is Wednesday 14 at 7pm with a rain date of the 15, for the zoning articles. The zoning overlay article is going to be referred back to petitioner.

Shared Street Grant

We received a grant of \$15,100 for the shared street grant. Ashley worked hard to apply for that, so pleased to announce that.

Halloween

We are adhering to Department of Public Health guidelines.

Election

Early Voting will run October 17 to October 30, here at town hall. Mail in Ballots were received on Friday and Monday.

South St Solar Overlay

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to reconsider previous vote on Article 25. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0). On Motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to refer Article 25 back to the petitioner. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Minutes

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve the Minutes of September 01 & 15 2020 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 8:15 p.m. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).