

Minutes
March 10, 2020

The Board of Selectmen met on Tuesday March 10, 2020 at 6:30pm in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. The following members were present.

James O'Neil, Chairman
Nancy Mackenzie, Vice Chairman (arrived at (7:10pm)
Benjamin Barrett, Clerk
Mark Gallivan
David Salvatore (arrived at 7:20pm)

Also present
James Johnson, Town Administrator
Cindy Berube, Executive Assistant

Mr. O'Neil Called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. He explained that Jim Johnson and David Salvatore are currently at another meeting for the School Building Committee. Mrs. Mackenzie is stuck in traffic.

He made a Public service announcement the friends of St Patrick luncheon has been cancelled. Pass the word on that. More to come in terms how the Friends of St Patrick is going to handle that.

Chief Carmichael Quarterly update

We have 3 student officers in the Academy. Officer Richard Ordway, they will be graduating pretty soon end of March or April. Recent promotion Sgt. Kelleher and One commendation for Sgt. O'Connor and Powers and Slavin regarding overdose victim. This is great thing outside the Police responsibilities. Provide them with resource for treatment. We have a great resource in our own community. Stand at 226 and 40 fatalities. Those are people that are part of our community. The good news the trend is much lower than last year.

Dealing with a lot of management issues. Civil fingerprinting we have implemented that. That is the new bylaw, approved by the AG and FBI and upgrade to automated fingerprinting system. When people come in for a change in Manager, Class II and III, New license and Hawkers and Peddlers we do a background check. We could say it might be a problem and not the person you want. Provided that information to Cindy. Out of town door to door people. We found out they have very long history of breaking and entering.

Grant summary we have some we have been able to secure funding.
EMD regulatory & Training Grant this grant issued through Mass State 911 and reimburses the town for the cost of training dispatchers. We were awarded \$39,501.84 in grant funds through this grant for FY20.

We also get a grant from the Dept. of Justice for body armor that they wear which is expensive around \$900 and we get help with grants. We were awarded \$1,317.00. We also submitted a request to State 911 for \$9,017.18 and hope to receive that reimbursement in the near future. Also submitted a grant request to EOPSS bulletproof Vest Grant. We received reimbursements from EOPSS this quarter amount to \$845.00. On February 11 received another Reimbursement from EOPSS for \$447.50. On March 4 we received \$397.50 from EOPSS.

Highway safety grant, is funded by the Federal Government through EOPSS. It provided funding to Walpole for Traffic Safety initiative such as drive sober or Get Pulled over, Click it or Ticket and Distracted Driving Enforcement. Distractive driving. We received \$14,000 for FY20.

Community Traffic Safety Projects grant- the EOPS in NHTSA funding for grants that will implement effective community based traffic safety educational and awareness projects. To help reduce crashes, injuries and Fatalities. Some people are still texting and driving. Come April the State will implement fines.

Massachusetts's jail Arrest Diversion Grant program- this if for mental health issues. Have had a lot of mental health calls. Help provide services. Train the entire police dept. and mental health aid. Trained in that. Mental health disorder is one of the biggest concerns facing the Town of Walpole today Calls for service have been steadily increasing annually over the past two years. In 2019 there were 266 mental health incidents in just under 11 months. Under the one-mind campaign it requires that at least 20% of all officer be trained in CIT and 100% of officers be trained in MHFA.

This will result in officers being better prepared to recognize and individual that is dealing with mental health disorder. We want our officers to better understand the struggles associated with living with mental illness.

The printers inside of our cruisers when we write a citation we can do it from our terminals and transfer to the registry. It safes us a lot of time, that is almost ready to go. Compliance checks and A sting operation was done on 44 establishments and there were 2 that served to minors.

Worked with Fairfield Inn, discussed human trafficking. The FBI assisted us on getting on the sites that tie into human trafficking. Working with them in the near future. In the last month Bethany tracked one girl all the way down to Florida. Great job. The other big issues, ALICE alert we did a shelter in place for all of our schools. We finished Phase 1 and working on Phase 2, put everything we have been trained on into actual scenarios.

Chief Bailey Quarterly update

There were 7, 958 calls for service. In 2020 had a house fire on March 1st. Received Capital funds for ambulance 2 which will be delivered this week. The Boat in service, our tactical gear has been ordered. That is in the process, AFG we have received several in the past and this year doing a regional grant, getting a mobile simulation lab to keep our staff current. The match will be taken care of by the Norfolk County sheriff office. Held event at senior center. A lot of the buildings are becoming open soon. Fire alarm division we have to do the entire pole transfers on Rt1A. Training, the tower ladder is in service trying to secure more funding for training on that vehicle.

New building Siemens, 95 West, East Street Natural gas and Sprinkler training and active shooter training. Three other candidates for appointment, which I will bring to you on March 24th. We will be up to 10 on a shift. One outstanding injury should be back soon. Open burring season is open soon. Hope we get a little bit of rain. That goes through May 1. We are seeking donations for the Night before the Fourth. We are behind on our donations. Mention Middlesex gave us funding for this event.

Mr. O'Neil how far behind are you. Chief Bailey several thousand. Typically fundraising is slow. The inspections are starting to wrap up. We will bring in people to assist with this duty.

Vote update for Ambulance Rates

Chief Bailey talked about the Current rates as well as what is allowed by Medicare. Have not increased our price since 2017. Mr. O'Neil. If we go to another town to help we get 50%. Ben Barrett where do we fall in here with the percent increase?

MOTION moved by Mr. Gallivan to approve of the new ambulance rates as recommended by Chief Bailey, seconded by Mr. Barrett VOTED 3-0-0

(3-17) Change of Directors, for Boylston Schul

All the paperwork is in order.

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to approve the Change of Directors for Boylston Schul d/b/a the German Club seconded by Mr. Gallivan VOTED 3-0-0

(3-18) Use of Adams Farm for Wedding

All the paperwork is in order.

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to approve the request to use Adams Farm for a wedding on June 27, 2020 seconded by Mr. Gallivan VOTED 3-0-0

One day wine and Malt license

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to approve the request for a one-day wine and malt license at Adams farm on June 27, 2020 with police detail present one hour before event and one hour after seconded by Mr. Gallivan VOTED 3-0-0

(3-19) Livery permission to drive within town Boundaries

MOTION moved by Mr. Barrett to approve the request from Dany Khoury to operate within the Town of Walpole's Boundaries seconded by Mr. Gallivan VOTED 3-0-0

40B summer Street

Mr. O'Neil would like to talk about the rotary; lets hold this until Nancy and David are here.

Budget Discussion

Fire Department Chief Bailey

The current budget allows for fire prevention Lt. It will take place July 1, now will have 10 men per shift. Mr. O'Neil thinks it is good to be up to the 10 persons per shift. Good steps. Mr. Gallivan agrees with what you said. Mr. O'Neil lets talk about the future. Chief Bailey in the packet I put together some of it I will go in depth. When we do make the Fire Prevention Lt. The Deployment

schedule the fourth page what each position is and the assignment. Fire operations: incident command, Water supply, attach lines. Backup lines search and rescue teams, Ventilation teams RIT teams. Met with Assessors reviewed the list for 12,488 structures and 10,022 unites we protect.

Development projects what is being built currently? The hotels are filled more often than not. Siemens is a very large facility. Filmore lane has 30 age qualified duplex units; Roscommon will have 30 single family homes; Olmstead Estates 11 single family homes, Walpole woodworkers 186 units, Fairfield Inn, Home2Suites. Cricket lane has 157 units; 995 Old post Road 3 commercial buildings; Eastover Rd, Renmar Ave/West Street, Rt1@27, Burns Ave, 180 main Street, Rte1 @ Pine, Rte 1 A ;Foxhill, Walpole Mall, Urgent care facility, New commercial Building on Rte 1A @ Norfolk Street, 1350 North Street, Day Care, Summer Street 40 B 300 units, 1034 East Street has 152 units and 95 West Street 192 units.

Looking to have 13 per shift, 46-51 hours per week

Walpole compares itself through various communities, I have reached out to all of them and asked them what they had, and this is for informational purposes. We are the 12th largest with the 26 communities. Broke down where they sit. There are thirteen communities out of the 26 that meet the standards.

Fire safer grant and they will fund your firefighters at 75% year 1, and Year 2 and year 3 is 35%. I would like your consideration I don't need that tonight. It will help with getting more personal. Future staffing. Chief Bailey we can do it in concurrent years. They have been doing this for the last 7 years. The program could end and we would have to pay for it ourselves. Take it in smaller bites, looking to get another engine up and running. Change the minimum staffing per day. Mr. O'Neil these population numbers is that what you believe it will be. You think 46-51hours per day on staff. They won't award that grant unless you try to get to that benchmark. Mr. O'Neil if the goal is to get another online I would need 11 per shift. Chief Bailey Say you gave me 4 more that doesn't work. You need to get 12, 13 to cover vacation and sick time.

Mr. Gallivan we have talked about the saver grant. I would also like to see 11 per shift. Two more per shift is a big jump we can talk about it next year. Mrs. Mackenzie asked to look at Canton. I know they don't have the Building we have. She would support 6 more for next year.

Mr. O'Neil going back to your quarterly . What was the daily number of runs that you did? Chief Bailey I did all calls. I don't have that information with me. Mr. O'Neil how many emergency runs. Mr. O'Neil are there times were you have overlaps? Chief Bailey we have a tremendous amount of overlap. The 8 minutes requirement to a location. Mr. O'Neil how often do we beat that? Chief Bailey we don't make 8 minutes.

Mr. Salvatore you mentioned the float. Chief Bailey we do not have the Call department anymore. I have two groups of 9 and two groups of 10. After July 1 and get them in the academy, then we will have 10 on each group.

Mr. O'Neil in terms of coverage for the Town. Chief Bailey Getting up to North Walpole can take 8 minutes to get to. We have agreements with other towns to help us. Mr. O'Neil what I think I am hearing with growing population and structures, we need to do something. The Safer Grant is also a way to run it. I would suggest you come back to us with a proposal. Come back with a proposal.

Police Chief Carmichael

Chief Carmichael we partnered with the schools, with Alice. Trained with online training. Created our own ALICE Protocol for age appropriate. Made videos, we have done all that and it is all in place. Go Bags are in all the classrooms, phones that go straight to 911. Last thing we did shelter in place. The next phase is ASHER, first responders how they react to a worst-case scenario. We are trained on how to approach it. Go in to get people out that might be injured. Moving that scene into a cold scene. These are a community's worst nightmare. We are looking at this that if we are going to ask our people to go into these types of situations we will need funding to take these classes.

Mr. O'Neil what do you need from us? Chief Carmichael this phase would be another 8 hour training. Explained what it is. Do different scenarios; in Phase 3 we are talking about unified commands and command posts. Everyone will be at the table. For the Police department just for that day of training is about \$5,10,000 dollars so somewhere around \$20,000. Mr. Johnson I have talked to them about this. I had this under article 5; the coronavirus has thrown a wrench into this. We have a couple of items that require more funding both, Legal, and Veterans.

Chief Carmichael our budget for next year shows an increase in police personal. The strategic plan there are know 44 officers looking for additional three. The US Dept. of Justice range 1.3 to 1.4 to 2.4 per 1, 000 people. Going forward is to try and stay with the growth we are experiencing. Takes a long time to get a police officer. Getting us up to 47 officers next year. Look at the strategic plan adding to that, increase the command staff. We want to have a 3rd Lt in the department. If you look at the back you will see our chart. Next issue is crossing guards; there are not enough there are other places I would like to see more crossing guards. East and High Plain. We get a lot of complaints about Lack of crossing guards. Mr. O'Neil are you thinking of crossing guard at the RR crossing. There are some safety mechanisms in place there. We want to make sure the kids have no problem getting to and from school. Mr. Johnson they talked about putting in solar crossing lights. I am pushing them hard to cover the funding. In the back of the packet. What we did some comps on area towns. Reviewed the charts in the back of the document. Population and total sworn officers. We did a lot of comparisons. Looked at violent crime. Just so we have a better idea. The budget next year budget for increase in staffing and more crossing guards. When we have three officers and a Sgt. working on a shift. You could be up at Walpole Prison or RT109. There are a lot of times we are spread thin. Increasing our minimum staffing. That is part of our strategic goal. Officer in Charge, when the Sgt. can't fill in for the shift, we will have to do that with a patrol officer. That could be a Saturday night. The Police Dept. is the highest liability in the town. We need to make sure that every shift is covered with a Sgt. that knows what they are doing. Want to be an accredited police Dept. in Mass. We have 100 polices and procedures. A lot are low events. Pursuit what you should do. Inside of those policies that have to be practiced. We have been implanting those for years. If you follow those standard it keeps us from Liability. Increase in the Fleet, if we increase in size. Need to make sure the fleet is able to handle that. Mental health training, ALICE. Constantly evolving. The mental health crisis we are going through. Good handle on that. Information technology. We will need an IT person, Joe is great but he is not an IT person.

You have to use companies that are savvy to work with police computer systems. The way we pay for that is through the budget and 911 grant. Mr. O'Neil so you get 12-hour coverage per week so you could get someone on. Is it a full time job? Chief Carmichael it could be a full time job. Mr. Gallivan if you had a full time IT person. Mr. O'Neil we would have to get someone in the industry. How much we would need. We can come up with some ideas with that. Mr. Salvatore why the

need for more marked vehicles. Some run 24 hours day. Up to 12 marked , unmarked and motorcycles. There are days know where we have police officers taking their own car to schools or court. The dept. is very busy a lot of dynamic things happening all the time. Mr. Salvatore with 12 marked cars, why are some being used 24 hours a day. We use 5-6 cars per shift. Mr. O'Neil there can be all kinds of things the cars can be used for. We did do a comparison with surrounding towns. Our geo sectors we have four. Explained where they are. On a typical shift, there is a fifth one and they put them on motorcycles. On the night shift it is one SGT. and only 3 officers. We have over 20,000 incidents. They can be stretched very thin. Mr. O'Neil what about event like at Gillette. Chief Carmichael they have given us the manning that we need. Mr. O'Neil what I would be interested in is to come back with a plan over the next few years. What do we need to be thinking about? Chief Carmichael there are grants, we apply for COP grants. Hiring grants, community-policing side, school resource officer, we are making the applications out. Walpole has not been able to get COP grants. Talked about the manning. We are working on certification accreditation.

Richard Mattson DPW Director

We do not need a full time IT person, the DPW is essential part of the town. A lot of the duties that they do is not seen by residents. Unlike Police and Fire we are affected by structures, Roadway, drainage, Sewer and Water, primarily service group to the entire community. Trees are becoming a major issue, we recently purchased a tree truck, very valuable piece of equipment we don't have the staff to use that equipment. The Highway Dept. in 1980 they had 14 employees currently we have 7, know we have 31 total in Dew. We have part time and seasonal staff. The staffing levels and the needs for the next five years, we want to add 10 to 12 more employees over the next five years. When you build a showcase piece of property RT1A fields you need to take care of it. We do not have a lot statistics. Three in Hwy up to 5 in forestry, 1 in engineering. We do well with what we have. We have the ability to use outside contractors. Looked at that in the park dept. The quality of staff we are getting is much better. I don't have much more to say. We really could use more help. Comparing one community to another. It is apples and orange because some use a lot of contractors and some do not. Building maintenance 12 employees. There are a total of 47 employees. Mr. Mattson the 3 plus two would be dedicated to parks, cemetery, and trees. Mr. Gallivan you said trees are a major issue. Mr. Mattson it is the growth and their proximity to roads and buildings. We have the option of using an outside contractor.

Mr. Gallivan how do you feel we are doing on roadways and sidewalks. With the Chapter 90 money, local funds we increased from \$200 to \$400. The engineering dept. reviews the roads and determines which roads need to be paved. Use chip seal in the past. He does not like Chip seal. Use a leveling course. If we could get \$200,000 more that with the Chapter 90 would be great. Mr. Barrett level of service and level of exexpectability. People do not want to get hit by falling trees. Mr. Barrett what harms the roadway. Mr. Mattson the Road Salt does a lot of damage. A lot of the sunken drains you see. The Chip Seal, it is removing some of the underneath and I am not a fan of Chip Seal.

Mrs. Mackenzie I like the use of a co-op student for engineering. I think they are doing a great job for what we have. We have gone backwards.

Mr. Salvatore you mentioned the 30% MWRA assessment. We pay to discharge sewer. We are billing for that. About the use of Town Employees for Tree removal. Mr. Mattson there are certain trees that may require a crane. We do not have one of those. That would have to go to a contractor. Mr. Salvatore One thing I found is that there are trees in the right of Way and they should be removed. To look at other obstructions before they get to big. A tree across from me

there is a tree that is ok. Part of a pedestrian safety, make our sidewalks clear and safe. Mr. Mattson we are doing a sidewalk assessment.

Mr. O'Neil I want to pick up on a couple of things that you brought up. Any thoughts on how to go about that? Mr. Mattson probably through a public forum through this board. What are the things we would want to ask that forum? Valuable if you give us some information. Mr. O'Neil likes what he says on page 15. I think it would be interesting. (8;35)

Final comment I thought this was very helpful. Very great presentation. View of the future. Three nice presentations.

(3-20)Summer Street comments to ZBA

Whole overall discussion of the rotary. I am wondering if there are opportunities to do something about the traffic. Mr. Gallivan my issues is for kids mainly the sidewalk, how are they going to get back and forth to school. Mr. Barrett it is important to remember the increase in traffic, we know the density is 300% more dense than a typical neighborhood. The numbers do support a traffic problem. Not even getting to the public safety. We mentioned it in our letter; we need to challenge them to meet safety. Mrs. Mackenzie the lack of sidewalk on the other side, that roadway has always been difficult for kids, adding more traffic does not help it. We did the Street Scape thing. We did that within the last year. Their plan does not address that. The train and safety to Boyden and residents in that area are not going to be able to get around. There is a lot they can be doing. Mr. Salvatore the South Walpole rotary is problematic this is going to create a problem during early morning hours and afternoon. Makes it important to help us with pedestrian Safety issues. Directly related to increase traffic. More challenges as it relates to pedestrians. It is not unheard off for them to assist us with offsite improvements. Mr. Johnson I can make some changes and add that in there. Mrs. Mackenzie I had suggested to sink that RR crossing would have helped put it under the road.

There will be changes made to the letter and the Board can review it.

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to authorize Chairman O'Neil to sign and send the Boards Comments with amendments to the Zoning Board of Appeals seconded by Mr. Barrett 5-0-0

Town Administrator Update

1. The Governor has declared a state of emergency today.
2. Currently there are no positive cases in Walpole
3. He has created a website for residents to go and get information relation to Conronavirus
4. Public service announcement was posted on website and separate notice was given to Town Employees
5. Plan going forward is to have a standing weekly meeting with School and town department heads on Thursdays to go over everthing that has come up.
6. Next plan is to work with IT, PD, FD and DPW to ensure that we have a continuation of operations plan if things get worse and we have to close facilities for an extended amount of time.
7. The St. Patrick day breakfast at the senior center has been canceled

Talked about getting laptops for certain key personal. The St. Patrick's day breakfast has been cancelled. The cleaning of the bldgs. This was done on Saturday and in the Senior center. We talked about the High School We talked about having DPW personal to help wipe the bldg. down. Our snow and Ice budget is at \$400,000. The health dept. is doing a great job. The clerk has left and that position needs to be filled. I will keep you updated.

Mr. Salvatore I think it is a good idea to think about employees. People gathering has been an issue, at what point do we say that we need to cut back access there. The events are very popular keeping an eye out limiting those events. Telling if you are sick you should not be here. Moving our staff. That is a big concern. Change in protocols. That might be one of the first thing we do. Mr. Johnson Hessco is developing a plan. There may be a decision that we may close some buildings down.

Executive Session

Chairman's declaration

I hereby declare that.

1. Under G.L. c.30A, §21(a) (3), the purpose of the session will be to
•conduct strategy with respect to a Memorandum of Agreement with the Dispatchers

And to further hear updates and conduct strategy with respect to Police, and AFSCME contracts from Town Administrator .

That a discussion of the foregoing in open session could compromise the purpose for the Executive session and:

That the Board shall return to open session at the conclusion of the Executive session

VOTE OF BOARD

Motion moved that the Board of Selectmen go into executive session under G.L. c30A section 21(a) (3) for the purposes and reasons declared by the Chairman with the Board returning to open session at the conclusion of the Executive session (Roll call Vote) Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Barrett-Aye, Mr. O'Neil-Aye, Mrs. Mackenzie-Aye , Mr. Salvatore-Aye

After moving out of Executive session

MOTION moved by Mrs. Macenzie to ratify and sign the Memorandum of Agreement with the Dispatchers seconded by Mr. Gallivan VOTED 5-0-0

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:05PM