



Office of the
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
272 Main Street, Townsend, Massachusetts 01469

Wayne Miller, *Chairman*

Don Klein, *Vice-Chairman*

Veronica Kell, *Clerk*

James M. Kreidler, Jr.,
Town Administrator

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 14, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M.

Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency to respond to COVID-19 on March 10, 2020 and ordered a suspension of certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law M.G.L. c. 30A, s 20.

The Board of Selectmen closed the town offices, including boards and committee meetings consistent with the Governor's order, to public access to promote social distancing and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

For those wishing to participate in a meeting, the dial-in number is (605) 313-5800 and the access code is 357174.

I. PRELIMINARIES – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN:

1.1 WM called the virtual Selectmen's meeting to order for July 14, 2020.

Roll call vote showed 3 members present: Chairman Wayne Miller (WM), Vice-Chairman Don Klein (DK) and Clerk Veronica Kell (VK)

Finance Committee members present: Stephen Sheldon and Jerri Bozicas.

1.2 WM announced the meeting is being broadcast on zoom. All attendees will be muted.

1.3 Chairman's Additions or Deletions.

WM announced that Donna Howard, the Transportation Administrator is celebrating her 20th year of town service.

II. APPOINTMENTS OF OFFICIALS/PERSONNEL – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN:

2.1 NONE

III. MEETING BUSINESS - VOTES MAY BE TAKEN:

3.1 NONE

IV. WORK SESSION – VOTES MAY BE TAKEN:

4.1 Town Administrator Report

1. Review/Approve the FY21 budget.

Mr. Kreidler informed the Board he attended the Finance Committee meeting last Thursday. Review/answered several questions the Finance Committee had related to the budget. Chief Sartell attended the meeting to answer questions regarding the restructuring of the administration of the Police Department, noting the Finance Committee supported Chief Sartell's plan.

Mr. Kreidler put the budget on the screen to be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. (see attached) WM explained the budget is temporary as the town is waiting for the local aid numbers from the State.

VK asked if Ashby passed the school budget. Mr. Kreidler informed the Board both Pepperell and Ashby did pass the school request/budget.

Discussion included: temporarily defunding the Land Use Coordinator position, loss of services, survey of health insurance and increased premium, reevaluations of positions and with other responsibilities, grant writer and human resources funding, shared services, administrative assistance for the police department, organization and responsibility of the proposed position of Lieutenant, capital planning and the funding of projects, legal expenses, and timeline for the annual and special town meeting warrant posting.

The Board reviewed the warrant for the annual town meeting. (see attached)

Discussion included: solid waste and recycling, revolving funds, review of the cost for general government and public safety, ambulance receipts for appropriations, review of the estimated revenues, review of the town meeting handout, the capital plan funding, Fire-EMS department increased staff and costs, police vehicle leases, capital stabilization funds, net metering solar credits, net metering solar credit contract, climate change concerns for the existing project location, role of the Board of Assessors, a presentation for the Board of Selectmen and town meeting by the Town Administrator regarding the contract, negotiations, and analysis of the net metering credit benefits, and the former Police Chief settlement agreement.

VK moved that we accept the FY21 budget as written. VK amended the motion to approve the FY21 budget. DK seconded. Unanimous vote.

VK moved that we approve the annual town meeting warrant with the addition of the capital planning article that the warrant be executed out of session. DK seconded. Unanimous vote.

2. Review/Approve/Sign the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting to be held on July 25, 2020. (see above)

The Board reviewed a municipal relief transfer for legal expenses. (see attached) VK that we move \$5,000 from MIS expense to legal expense. DK seconded. Unanimous vote.

4.2 Board of Selectmen announcements, updates, and reports.

None

4.3 VK moved to review and sign the bills payable warrant out of session. DK seconded. Unanimous vote.

The next meeting is to be held next Tuesday.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

VK moved to adjourn the meeting. DK seconded. Unanimous vote.

For detailed discussion, please see: <https://youtu.be/5jgYbFOSk60>

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Smart
Executive Assistant

Voted to approve the meeting minutes for the meeting of July 14, 2020 by the Board of Selectmen this 23rd day of November, 2020.