

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

March 10, 2020

PRESENT: Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Vice-Chairman), John G. Brown, Jr. (Clerk), Jessica M. Rushing (Selectman), Daniel W. Trabucco (Selectman), Edwin J. Thorne (Town Manager), Sabrina Chilcott (Assistant Town Manager), Deborah Wall (Library Director), Eugene Fulmine, Jr. (DPW Director), Andrew Sullivan, Stephen Curley and others.

At 7:30 pm Mr. Boyle opened the meeting and advised that this meeting is being made available to the public through a live video and audio broadcast on Comcast Government Access channel 15 and is being recorded for broadcast at future dates. Comments made in open session will be recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Brown announces that the Livestock Committee Community Forum originally scheduled for March 12, 2020 has been postponed to a date to be determined.

Mr. Thorne addresses the Board with a letter stating his retirement, effective May 10, 2020.

7:30 DEBORAH WALL – ARTICLE 14 (ATM) AND ARTICLE 5 (STM)

Deborah Wall is present before the board to explain the articles pertaining to the Library that will appear on the Warrant. She has provided an infographic to the board to illustrate the library's operations. Article 5 in the Special Town Meeting Warrant pertains to minimum wage which is set by the state. The library's entry level position compensation is now dictated by the state's minimum wage. She informs the board that the position is currently receiving less than the minimum wage. The article states that that position and the Library Aid's get the seventy-five-cent increase. Ms. Wall details the job descriptions of the aid's and the pagers.

Article 14 in the Annual Warrant is based on article 5 of the special warrant passing; it funds the previous numbers from July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. It also funds the numbers for article 5 when they change again in January when the state increases the wage. Ms. Wall states that the library has not asked for any funds for the current fiscal year but will request funds for the upcoming fiscal year.

Ms. Rushing asks for clarification on \$9748 requested, is for fiscal year 2021; Ms. Wall confirms. Mr.

Trabucco asks how many employees are currently at step 1 compared to step 3 in each position. Ms. Wall states there are two pagers at step 1, there are four or five employees at step 1 in the aid position. No further questions were asked by the board; Ms. Wall was thanked for coming in to give more information.

7:40 EUGENE FULMINE, JR. – ARTICLE 12

Eugene Fulmine is present before the board to explain article 12 that he is submitting to the warrant. Mr. Fulmine states there is a sanitary survey done every three years of the water system and this time, personnel has been brought up. Mr. Fulmine states they are lacking licensed individuals in the water department. He states that now the department must come up with a training program for employees to obtain their licenses; currently the department cannot compete with private water companies. Mr. Fulmine explains what another south shore town had to do once they purchased their water company back. Ms. Rushing inquires about the total number of employees for the water department; Mr. Fulmine states there is a total of seven, there are only two licensed. There is discussion about the new training positions that are proposed in the article. Mr. Fulmine states that this falls under the Water Commissioners also, and that he will work with the town manager next year to restructure. There are no further questions for Mr. Fulmine at this time, the board thanks him for coming in to explain the article.

8:00 COMMUNITY CENTER STUDY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Andrew Sullivan of the Community Center Task Force introduces the architect for the design of a new community center, Joel Bargmann. Mr. Sullivan lets the board know that the task force has met with many directors and boards in town as well as held a public forum in town to put together this design. The task force has submitted an article to the warrant as well. Mr. Sullivan informs the board that another study group is being formed for the next steps in this process, and there is a Facebook page available "The Friends of the Pembroke Community Center". Mr. Sullivan asks for clarification from the board on whether the task force

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

is needed to continue or if by finalizing this design, their purpose is fulfilled. Mr. Boyle believes that with the addition of two new selectmen, the group should stay in place for now.

Mr. Bargmann introduces himself and lets the board know that a traffic report is included that was the product of a grant that the town applied for through the Old Colony Planning Council. Mr. Bargmann explains the location of the new building, along with entrance and exit. He discusses the traffic report in relation to this and states there is no adverse effect. Mr. Bargmann highlights the green spaces that would be added to the area. He highlights the parking spaces with potential overflow available at the library if needed, vice versa. Mr. Bargmann details the interior design of the building with dedicated offices, senior space, gymnasium, recreational spaces, conference room, kitchens, etc. An indoor walking track is included in this design. Mr. Bargmann discusses the use of space for the Veteran's office as well as the Commission on Disabilities. Mr. Bargmann heavily emphasizes that the larger gymnasium design will be able to accommodate recreational activities of all ages. He details the insertion of multipurpose rooms in this design that allows for a large amount of flexibility in regard to activities. Mr. Bargmann goes through a typical daily schedule that may occur on any given day at this new facility.

Mr. Bargmann informs the board of the groups and committees that the firm met with including the historic district commission, the council on aging, etc. He explains to the board the exterior design of the new building and its potential uses including the arts festival, the fields for youth sports, etc. He states that the cost of the projected is 23 million dollars. Mr. Bargmann discusses the project timeline with the current schedule of Town Meeting and Town Election, highlighting that construction could start as soon as April 2021 with a building opening date of June 2022. He then opens it up for questions from the board.

Mr. Trabucco asks Mr. Bargmann if he feels this design is fiscally reasonable and the space is large enough for recreation and Council on Aging. Mr. Bargmann states that they met with these departments to ensure the design would properly accommodate them but was not an outrageously large building. The original square footage was 42,000 and brought it down about 10,000 square feet. He adds that decreasing the size of the gym is something that cannot be undone, and the size proposed is what is needed to meet all needs of the community. Mr. Trabucco states that currently, recreation cannot expand, this new building will allow for that.

Ms. Rushing asks what would happen to current programs during the construction period. Mr. Trabucco states that there would be a transitional period; recreation does not have a plan yet as to how to deal with displacement. Mr. Curley adds that Susan Roche, Recreation Director, has many programs that fill within an hour of opening registration however she does not have the space to expand these programs. Mr. Bargmann explains that there is a strain during the construction period, but other towns have been able to satellite programming or use schools, etc. Mr. Brown's concern is security with children involved with a large opening being proposed. Mr. Bargmann states the proposed barn door is decorative and cannot be opened by anyone other than staff. Mr. Trabucco adds that there is a first-floor security desk detailed in the plan. There is discussion about security in regard to the senior center as well and supervision of the building during and after construction.

Ms. Rushing asks the tax impact to the residents and other funding sources. Mr. Sullivan discusses searching for state grants, etc. to help offset costs and the process to secure these monies including going to town meeting and the town ballot before applying. He states that they are working with the town's accountant as well; the estimate is between \$200.00-\$250.00 per household per year increase to taxpayers.

Mr. Sullivan ends his presentation by confirming that this is a needed and fiscally responsible project for the town. He informs the board and any residents that they can reach out through the Facebook page to learn more information and to get involved.

Mr. Trabucco asks if it would be appropriate for the board to make a recommendation on this project. Ms. Rushing states that the board should discuss it with the return of Mr. Boulter; Mr. Brown agrees. All board members agree to discuss when Mr. Boulter returns.

VOTE TO ADD STREETLIGHT TO TOWN INVENTORY – 59 HIGHLAND DRIVE

Mr. Boyle asks the board's opinion; Ms. Rushing makes a motion based on the police department's recommendation to add the streetlight at 59 Highland Drive to the Town's inventory effective March 10; seconded by Mr. Brown, the vote was unanimously in favor.

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

VOTE TO APPROVE ROAD RACE JUNE 13 – LEARNING LANE

Mr. Boyle announces the details of the proposed Set the Pace 5K road race on Learning Lane that will take place June 13, 2020 from 6:00 am to 11:00 am. Mr. Trabucco moves to approve the use of the town's roads by South Shore Race Management on Saturday, June 13 along the proposed route, subject to the approval of the school superintendent and the police chief; Ms. Rushing seconds the motion, the vote was unanimously in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Trabucco states that after review of the meeting from the prior week, the vote that was taken on the town manager negotiation committee should be revisited. He would like a discussion tonight and the item to be placed on the next meeting's agenda for a vote. Mr. Trabucco would like to reconsider the previously taken vote. Mr. Trabucco makes a motion to place an item on the agenda for the March 17, 2020 agenda to reconsider a vote taken on March 4, 2020 at the Board of Selectmen's meeting regarding the town manager negotiation committee make -up with a possible new vote; Ms. Rushing seconds the motion, the vote was unanimously in favor.

Ms. Rushing would like to put the discussion of the budget presentation on a future agenda for questions and answers. Mr. Boyle states that this item will be put on the agenda of March 24, 2020.

Mr. Boyle states that with Mr. Thorne's retirement coming two days before the scheduled town meeting, the board needs to discuss how they will proceed. Mr. Boyle spoke to Michael Buckley and would like the board to move to make Mr. Buckley the point person for the budget. Mr. Boyle would like a vote of support from the board. Mr. Brown makes a motion to allow Mike Buckley and his finance team to move forward as the point person moving forward for town meeting and the budget; Ms. Rushing seconded the motion; Mr. Trabucco would like Mr. Buckley to meet with Mr. Thorne to produce an updated budget before the March 24th meeting, and request Mr. Buckley to meet with Advisory. The vote was unanimously in favor to designate Mr. Buckley as the point person.

VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11 AND FEBRUARY 19, 2020

Mr. Brown moved to approve the minutes of February 11, 2020; Ms. Rushing seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Ms. Rushing moved to approve the minutes of February 19, 2020; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Thorne states to the board that him and Mr. Buckley met with the Advisory committee on the evening prior and there was an issue with the five-year capital plan not being posted on the website; Mr. Thorne states that the full capital plan done by Community Paradigm Associates is now on the website.

Mr. Thorne states there is a process to replacing the Fire Chief, who has announced his retirement, and suggests that the board discuss the process with the new town manager.

Mr. Thorne asks Mr. Boyle to discuss the call he has upcoming with Mass DPH regarding Coronavirus. Mr. Boyle discusses what the call the next day is anticipated to entail and that will be available for board members to call in and listen in on. Lisa Cullity, Health Agent, will also be present on that call.

NEW BUSINESS

ASK THE SELECTMEN

Ms. Rushing received a question about whether a flag should be flown on Route 53 at the Fire Station and why there is not one. Mr. Trabucco states that it is taken down for the winter and put back up for Memorial Day.

Mr. Trabucco moved to adjourn; Ms. Rushing seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

MATERIALS & EXHIBITS

Community Center Presentation (BOS/TM Office)

Draft Minutes of February 11 and February 19, 2020 (BOS/TM Office)