

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
AUGUST 5, 2020  
REMOTE MEETING HOSTED BY PACTV ON ZOOM PLATFORM**

**PRESENT:** Video: Daniel Trabucco (Chairman), Jessica M. Rushing (Vice Chairman), John G. Brown, Jr. (Clerk), Rebecca Coletta (Selectman), Tracy Marino (Selectman), William Chenard (Town Manager), Sabrina Chilcott (Assistant Town Manager)

At 7:00 pm, Mr. Trabucco advised that pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this public hearing of the Pembroke Board of Selectmen is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but the public can view this meeting while in progress. PACTV is providing this service live on Comcast Government Access channel 15, and for those without cable, on their PRIME streaming channel by visiting [www.pactv.org/prime](http://www.pactv.org/prime). Members of the public attending this meeting virtually will be allowed to make comments if they wish to do so, during the portion of the meeting designated for public comment, by emailing [selectmen@townofpembrokemass.org](mailto:selectmen@townofpembrokemass.org) or calling 781-293-3844. All votes taken during this meeting will be roll call votes.

**POLICE CHIEF RICHARD WALL**

Chief Wall announced that, after 34 years with the Pembroke Police Department, he will be retiring effective September 19<sup>th</sup>. Chief Wall thanked the residents for their unwavering support over the years and thanked his colleagues and the Board. The Board commended Chief Wall on his model of community policing and thanked him for his service.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mr. Chenard advised that Plymouth County Treasurer Tom O'Brien will be presenting a check to the Town for \$61,000+ for the first round of CARES Act reimbursable expenses on August 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.

**VOTE TO REMAND FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> WARRANT ARTICLES BACK TO ORIGINAL SUBMITTERS**

Ms. Rushing moved to remand all remaining items submitted in the annual warrant cycle that closed February 7<sup>th</sup> to give the submitters to provide them with an opportunity to review them for accuracy and relevance before a fall warrant cycle is announced. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 4/0/1: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, with Trabucco abstaining.

**VOTE TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF THOMAS IRVING FROM THE (ELECTED) PLANNING BOARD**

Ms. Coletta moved to accept the resignation of Thomas Irving from his elected role as Planning Board member effective immediately, and with regret. Ms. Rushing seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 4/0/1: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, with Trabucco abstaining.

**VOTE TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF PATRICK CHILCOTT FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Brown moved accept the resignation of Patrick Chilcott from the Pembroke Advisory

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Committee with regret. Ms. Rushing seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 4/0/1: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, with Trabucco abstaining.

**DISCUSSION, VOTE: BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S LIAISON POLICY**

Ms. Marino advised that the lack of a liaison role policy was made evident during discussions of liaison assignments. At the board's request, Ms. Marino compiled several neighboring policies and extracted the best options for Pembroke to compile into the document before the Board. Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of adding minimum meeting attendance requirements; consensus was achieved on not doing so. Further discussion ensued on changing references from "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board". Ms. Coletta requested that Town Counsel provide an opinion on whether the Board may change the name as the Town Manager Act references or whether a Town meeting vote will be required. Ms. Marino advised that she will change "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board" Ms. Rushing moved to accept the Select Board Liaison policy as presented by Tracy Marino with the change from "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board". Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 4/0/1: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, with Trabucco abstaining.

**VOTE AMENDMENT TO SELECTMEN'S CALENDAR: CANCEL AUGUST 12 AND 19, 2020 MEETING**

Mr. Trabucco advised that the 2020 meeting schedule has been aggressive thus far with many more meetings in years past; he is proposing summer break August 12 and 19. Discussion ensued on upcoming issues. Mr. Chenard advised that he will not have figures on HVAC improvements for the CARES Act submission plans until late August/early September. Mr. Brown moved to cancel meetings of August 12 and August 19. Ms. Rushing seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 3/0/2: Brown – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, with Coletta and Trabucco abstaining.

**VOTE TO PUBLISH LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S RACIAL JUSTICE POSITION**

Ms. Rushing read the proposed statement aloud: "The Select Board of the town of Pembroke unequivocally condemns racism in all its forms. We support and stand for racial justice and we commit to working to ensure that Pembroke is a welcoming community that embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion. As elected leaders, we recognize our responsibility to understand and address racial inequality in Pembroke. Change starts at the local level, and better understanding and action in our own community can contribute to greater systemic change at the regional, state, and national levels. To that end, we will work to educate ourselves, town employees, and town residents on racial justice issues. We will review our existing policies, practices, and procedures, and where necessary, we will enact changes to begin to build a stronger, more equitable community. We will work to ensure that Pembroke is a place where all individuals can live happily, free of fear, and with equal access to opportunities, regardless of race." Mr. Trabucco stated that this would make an excellent mission statement for a No Place for Hate Committee. Ms. Coletta stated that the focus of the Committee would be to improve community engagement for a more inclusive community. Ms. Coletta advised that the No Place for Hate Designation Is not available for towns, only for schools. An email was received from Ms. Cannone asking what other boards support the proposed letter; Ms. Rushing advised that statements have been made by Pembroke Youth Baseball, Pembroke Titans Football and Cheer, the Pembroke Superintendent of Schools and Pembroke Recreation Commission. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed language and the possibility of a more inclusive statement. Mr. Trabucco stated that the town has received feedback from residents asking about the wording, specifically a rejection of the statement that Pembroke is not free of fear

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and a request for clarification as to the statement regarding educating the residents and who is providing what education. Mr. Brown raised the concern that a specific endorsement of a public policy position that fails to include identity or religious diversity and economically disadvantaged is not inclusive. Ms. Rushing clarified that racial justice includes all races and the Board will have an opportunity to address social justice at another date. Mr. Trabucco recommended that further discussion occur on the Committee at a future meeting so the two items can be kept separate. Mr. Trabucco inquired as to whether the letter would be actionable or a statement letter. Ms. Rushing advocated that the letter be the position of the Board and the action would be to create a Committee established specifically to identify items that could be addresses such as the diversity and inclusion training of staff, curriculum recommendations of School Committee and other items. Ms. Rushing moved to approve this statement as an official statement of the position of the Town of Pembroke. Ms. Marino seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 3/1/1: Brown – no; Coletta – yes, Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, with Trabucco abstaining.

### **VOTE TO CREATE STUDY GROUP TO EVALUATE THE RESIDENT'S SUPPORT FOR APPLICATION PROCESS FOR NO PLACE FOR HATE DESIGNATION**

Ms. Coletta stated that the Committee would pull together community leaders to discuss the issues and how to have necessary but difficult conversations. Ms. Coletta stated that the group should take the same steps as recommended by the Anti-Defamation League NPFH program but not seek the designation as it is unavailable to cities and towns. Discussion ensued on the number of members, the composition of the Committee and the role of the Selectmen and Selectwomen. Mr. Trabucco advised that two may participate but three constitutes a binding quorum. Ms. Coletta recommended a working group at this stage versus a Committee. Ms. Rushing moved to nominate Rebecca Coletta and Tracy Marino to form a Committee to Promote Racial Justice in Pembroke. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 4/0/1: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, with Trabucco abstaining.

### **VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2020 AND JULY 15, 2020**

Ms. Rushing moved to accept the minutes of July 8, 2020; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 4/0/1: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, with Trabucco abstaining. Ms. Rushing moved to accept the minutes of July 15, 2020; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 4/0/1: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, with Trabucco abstaining.

### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### Interim Appointments

Mr. Chenard stated that he will be bringing forward interim appointments for Veteran's Agent and Police Chief at the next meeting; both roles are required to be filled. Mr. Chenard is working to adjust the Veterans' Agent job description and an assessment center needs to be arranged for the role of Police Chief.

### **ASK THE SELECTMEN**

#### Review of Town Manager's Social Media Guideline (GL #17-09)

Mr. Trabucco advised that this segment is reserved for comments and letters received from residents are addressed, and there has been considerable discussion about the use of private social media in town recently. Mr. Trabucco stated that Board members should not be removed for disagreeing with each other and that recalls should be reserved for crimes and malfeasance. Mr. Trabucco clarified that people have called, emailed and walked in to report a specific post, and people have also

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emailed and written in fervent support of the poster. Ms. Coletta stated that she is happy to have a conversation with anyone concerning the post and she can be contacted by email at [becky@beckycoletta.com](mailto:becky@beckycoletta.com). Mr. Trabucco concluded with the fact that nothing contained with the Town Manager's Social Media Guideline (GL-17-09) has been violated.

At 8:48 pm, Mr. Trabucco read the upcoming issues. Ms. Rushing moved to adjourn, and Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 4/0/1: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, with Trabucco abstaining.

**MATERIALS & EXHIBITS**

Letter, T. Irving RE: Resignation (Clerk/BOS/TM Office)

Email, L. Peterson (AdCom/BOS/TM Office)

Draft Racial Justice Letter, R. Rushing (BOS/TM Office)

No Place for Hate Coordinator Handbook & Resource Guide (ADL/BOS/TM Office)

Draft Minutes of Meeting of July 8 and July 15, 2020 (BOS/TM Office)

Town Manager's Social Media Guideline (GL #17-09) (BOS/TM Office)