

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2020
REMOTE MEETING HOSTED BY PACTV ON ZOOM PLATFORM**

PRESENT: 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 Select Board 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. 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 hearing designated for public comment, by emailing selectmen@townofpembrokemass.org. All votes taken during this meeting will be roll call votes.

RENEW COMMON VICTUALER/LIVE ENTERTAINMENT/AMUSEMENT DEVICE AND SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT LICENSES FOR 2021 AS LISTED ON AGENDA

Ms. Rushing moved to approve the renewal of the eligible Pembroke common victualer/live entertainment/amusement device and Sunday entertainment licenses as listed on the public agenda for the year 2021 except Somewhere Else Tavern, subject to the approval of the Health Agent and Treasurer. 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 approve the renewal of the common victualer/live entertainment/amusement device and Sunday entertainment license for Somewhere Else Tavern for the year 2021 subject to the approval of the Health Agent and Treasurer. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 4/0/2: Brown – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes with Coletta and Trabucco abstaining.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Water Bill Discussion

Mr. Chenard presented an overview of the last three water billing cycles, from fall of 2019 to the current billing. The town recorded an increase in water distribution of more than 40 million gallons and an analysis of the bills in the increased tier reflect increased use of water as the biggest driver of the larger costs incurred by homeowners. Mr. Chenard advised that he has performed a detailed analysis of a sampling of bills with correct rates and correct meter reads verified by photographic validation; the town has even re-read meters as needed.

Mr. Chenard explained the loss of large volumes of water through leaks that go undetected and explained various methods for homeowners to read their own meters and check for water leaks to observe the activity being read by the meter.

Mr. Chenard is considering delaying the due date of water bills until January 9, 2021 to complete his review. He plans to update the board at the December 16th meeting.

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Mr. Trabucco makes note for the public that the Water Commissioners have recently raised the rates to help cover maintenance of systems, labor, etc. He emphasizes that residents should confirm the usage that the water bill shows.

Ms. Coletta asks if Mass Save type programs are available for reducing water usage; Mr. Chenard states that they are not as common as they once were, but they do still exist, and we should be looking into these programs. Discussion then ensued about the percentage that bills increased this round of bills and how difficult it is to pinpoint that number.

Coronavirus Update

Mr. Chenard advised that the town's case numbers are climbing, which is very concerning, and he reinforced social distance, facial covering and gathering avoidance precautions. He informed the Board that his office has worked with PACTV to obtain a webinar platform for meetings going forward and a page has been established to explain to the public how they may join the Board's meetings. Mr. Chenard reviews the Governor's travel restrictions due to Covid-19.

Police Grant & Toy Drive Update

Mr. Chenard informs the board that the Pembroke Police Department will be hosting a 'Fill-A-Cruiser' toy drive for Toys for Tots on December 4th from 12:00p.m. until 8:00p.m. at the police station. He also updates the board regarding grants that the police department has received: \$35,000 from the Justice Bryant Grant for equipment as well as \$25,000 for a traffic safety grant.

ASK THE SELECT BOARD

Mr. Trabucco advised that he was asked to review material and speak with NSRWA regarding the state's dam removal initiative and he will invite the NSRWA to join an upcoming meeting to present the prospect to the full board.

At 7:43 pm, Mr. Brown moved to enter executive Session under M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares: River Marsh, LLC

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

At 9:00 pm, Ms. Rushing moved to re-enter public session; Ms. Coletta seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 4/0/1: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes with Trabucco abstaining.

MATERIALS & EXHIBITS

none