

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 21, 2020
REMOTE MEETING HOSTED BY PACTV ON ZOOM PLATFORM**

PRESENT: Video: Willard J. Boulter, Jr. (Chairman), John G. Brown, Jr. (Clerk), Jessica M. Rushing (Selectman), Daniel W. Trabucco (Selectman), State Representative Josh Cutler, Michael Buckley (Town Accountant), Kathleen McCarthy (Treasurer-Collector), Catherine Salmon (Chief Assessor), Sabrina Chilcott (Assistant Town Manager),

Audio: Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Vice-Chairman), Edwin J. Thorne (Town Manager)

At 3:00 pm Mr. Boulter opened the meeting and 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/live. 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@townofpembroke.com or calling 781-709-1402. All votes taken during this meeting will be roll call votes.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Representative Josh Cutler was present before the Board to update the Board on actions taken at the state level and advised that the Governor had just finished a daily briefing in which he extended school closures to the end of the school year and extended early childhood education centers closure to June 29th. Pandemic unemployment assistance under the CARES Act for the self-employed, gig economy workers and 1099 employees is now accessible through the portal as of today, remaining open through December 2020 for retroactive benefits at mass.gov/PUA. Buoy.com/mass has served over 90,000 residents checking symptoms of potential exposure. Mr. Cutler advised that his office has sent a letter of support for Pembroke's grant application to the Attorney General's Office for a Small Business Relief Grant to support Pembroke's local businesses. Mr. Cutler thanked Pembroke COA Director Gretchen Emmetts as they worked to establish a COVID-19 Relief Fund for residents "Pembroke Hope Fund". Mr. Buckley advised that the creation of this fund will require a vote of the Board and that the Treasurer has set up the ability to donate online. Ms. Rushing moved to authorize the establishment of a gift fund; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By Roll Call Vote: Brown – yes, Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes.

FURTHER DISCUSSION, VOTE: ADOPTION OF CHAPTER 53, SECTIONS 10 AND 11 OF THE ACTS OF 2020, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES FACED BY MUNICIPALITIES AND STATE AUTHORITIES RESULTING FROM COVID-19"

Kathleen McCarthy advised that the Finance Team has recommended that the Board consider adopting section 10, delaying real estate and personal property tax due dates to June 1 versus May 1 but not adopt section 11 as it contains vague language concerning fees. Ms. McCarthy advised that a drop box was installed at Town Hall and items are collected at 9:00 am and 4:00 pm and lockbox continues to receive mailed payments. Ms. Rushing moved, based on the recommendation of the Finance Team, to adopt Chapter 53 Section 10 in regard to property tax and property tax exemptions. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By Roll Call Vote: Brown – yes, Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes.

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DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A VOTE TO IMPLEMENT MODIFIED HIRING FREEZE DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A VOTE TO IMPLEMENT NON-CRITICAL SPENDING FREEZE

Michael Buckley advised that revenue projections indicate that local receipts are a serious issue and the Commonwealth will not be able to meet the projections for local aid for fiscal 2020. Discussion ensued on Finance Team's recommendation that the Board implement a modified hiring freeze with the only hiring requiring the prior approval of the Town Manager or Board of Selectmen and a non-critical spending freeze.

At 3:30 pm, Arthur Boyle joined the meeting via audio connection.

A recap was performed by the Finance Team of a modified hiring freeze and non-critical spending freeze for the remainder of fiscal 2020. Ms. Rushing moved to implement a modified hiring freeze whereby new hires require prior approval of the Board of Selectmen and a non-critical spending freeze whereby expenditures have the approval of the Town Manager. R. Brown seconded the motion. By Roll Call Vote: Boyle – yes, Brown – yes, Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes.

REVIEW ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES 6, 9 AND 15 FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Trabucco moved to table this agenda item to the next meeting. Ms. Rushing seconded the motion. By Roll Call Vote: Boyle – yes, Brown – yes, Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes.

VOTE TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF MARCH 20, MARCH 25, MARCH 31, 2020

Mr. Boyle moved to accept the minutes of March 20, 2020; Ms. Rushing seconded the motion. By Roll Call Vote: Boyle – yes, Brown – yes, Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes.

Mr. Brown moved to accept the minutes of March 25, 2020 as amended; Ms. Rushing seconded the motion. By Roll Call Vote: Boyle – yes, Brown – yes, Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes. Mr. Boyle moved to accept the minutes of March 31, 2020; Ms. Rushing seconded the motion. By Roll Call Vote: Boyle – yes, Brown – yes, Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Thorne advised that the Plymouth County Commissioners have reached out to confirm that they are in receipt of the town's CARES Act share of funding and will be accepting applications for COVID related expense reimbursement and he is seeking a vote of the Board to authorize the Town manager to submit these expenses to the County for reimbursement. Mr. Boyle moved the Town Manager's recommendation. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By Roll Call Vote: Boyle – yes, Brown – yes, Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes.

At 4:06 pm, Ms. Rushing moved to adjourn; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By Roll Call Vote: Boyle – yes, Brown – yes, Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes, Boulter – yes.

MATERIALS & EXHIBITS

MGL c.53 Sections 10 and 11 (BOS/TM Office)

Draft Warrant (BOS/TM Office)

Draft Minutes of March 20, 25 and 31, 2020 (BOS/TM Office)