

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MAY 13, 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), Michael Buckley (Town Accountant), Steve Dodge (Moderator), Lisa Cullity (PEMA), William Chenard (Town Manager), Sabrina Chilcott (Assistant Town Manager), Erin Obey (School Superintendent), Mike Tropeano (School Committee), Stephen Burt (Mobile Vendor), Audio: Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Vice-Chairman)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Ms. Cullity provides the board with an emergency management update. She states that the Covid-19 cases are steady and that the state is in a downward trend. Governor Baker is remaining firm on not releasing a list or type of businesses but has released requirements and is alluding non-public businesses. PEMA will be creating a template for businesses to reopen. A template for eating establishments will be created, the thought is to allow temporary outdoor seating. A temporary permit would be created with input from the Planning and Zoning boards. Compliance for re-opening will include self-certification with efforts concentrated on large establishments. With re-opening comes the expectation that there will be a small increase in cases, however, hospital capacity remains low and will be able to handle those in need. Mr. Boulter asks about bathroom facilities and their availability. Ms. Cullity states that if there is staff on site for more than four hours, restroom facilities need to be made available. The sanitizing component will include access to hand washing. Discussion ensued on re-opening guidelines from the state. Mr. Boyle asks Ms. Cullity if restaurants will open in phase 1, she responds no.

MICHAEL BUCKLEY – FY20, FY21 FINANCE DISCUSSION, VOTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES AS EMERGENCY EXPENDITURE

Mr. Buckley states that as far as the water vote, he is not ready yet and would like to push it to next week as he is working with the state. As far as the budget discussion goes, he would like to hear from Erin Obey and the School Committee. Ms. Obey informs the board that they have received the first round of funding from the CARES Act for a total of \$90,000 and there will be more grant submissions filed. These funds need to be expended by September 2022. Mr. Tropeano will explain to the board where the School Committee is in the budget process because of the closure due to Covid-19.

Mr. Tropeano recaps fiscal 2020 for the board. Additional savings will bring fiscal 2020 to balance along with \$280,000 from the town. He states that reductions and possible furloughs are being considered. Zoom and Google meets are underway for the last several weeks of school and will continue until mid-June. Teachers are still working. Mr. Brown asks what we are still paying for with students with disabilities and are we still paying for transportation. Ms. Obey states that remote learning is available for speech and other therapies and are being performed. The town is still paying for out of district services, but the savings is being applied to next years tuitions. She states that DESE and the DOR have indicated that it is different to pay for services that are not being received. Currently negotiations are being done with transportation vendors and the town is not paying 100% of the contract charges.

Mr. Tropeano discusses what is happening with fiscal 2021 for the board. At the May 5 School Committee meeting, Ms. Obey presented several different scenarios regarding next year's revenue. He asks if they should be looking at a level fund for fiscal 2020 when looking at fiscal 2021. Mr. Buckley confirms. Mr. Tropeano continues and states that one administrator is retiring, and one is leaving the district. There will be restructuring for more savings. They will be carrying the concept

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of reductions into the collective bargaining process. The Committee can also pull identified levels to further reduce the \$1.4 million dollar gap which will result in increased class sizes. The schools would also pre-buy SPED offerings as well as taking more a bit more from SPED circuit breaker which could impact fiscal 2022.

Ms. Obey states that they should be receiving guidance on Friday regarding extended day and summer programs from the Governor which will be an indicator for the upcoming school year. Discussion ensued on scenarios planned, options being explored, and the planning process will take place in June through the summer for September's re-opening. Mr. Tropeano states that there will be a discussion about adding a line item related to returning to the facilities or an increase in spending for sanitizing measures. Discussion ensued about a level funded budget for fiscal 2021. Mr. Tropeano states that a discussion was had and rejected an increase in fees because families are struggling. He states that there is a large demand for grab and go meals. Ms. Obey states that they are looking at staff reductions of about fifteen to twenty.

There is discussion concerning impact bargaining to implement furloughs. Mr. Tropeano says that he can come back in two weeks with a better understanding of level funding process. Mr. Trabucco would like Bill and Mike to join Friday's budget subcommittee meeting. Mr. Tropeano discusses that graduation could potentially take place on the first weekend in August and would like to invite the board to attend and participate.

VOTE TO RE-APPOINT COA DIRECTOR GRETCHEN EMMETTS AS PEMBROKE OCES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Brown makes a motion to reappoint Gretchen Emmetts as Pembroke's OCES representative, Ms. Rushing seconds the motion. By rollcall: Ms. Rushing – yes, Mr. Brown – yes, Mr. Trabucco – yes, Mr. Boyle – no response, Mr. Boulter – yes.

VOTE TO ACCEPT MARIA KARAS ADVISORY RESIGNATION

Ms. Rushing makes a motion to accept the resignation of Maria Karas from the advisory board, Mr. Brown seconds the motion. By rollcall: Ms. Rushing – yes, Mr. Brown – yes, Mr. Trabucco – yes, Mr. Boyle – no response, Mr. Boulter – yes.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE STREAMLINED WARRANT FOR ATM

Mr. Brown points out that the date in article 14 is incorrect, needs to be corrected. Advisory will be invited to next week's meeting. This item will be moved to next week's agenda.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE MOBILE VENDOR PERMIT – STEPHEN BURT

Mr. Burt provides details for the board about his ice cream truck noting that it is pre-packaged, there is no scooping of ice cream. Mr. Boulter states that all permits have been filed with the Board of Health. Mr. Boyle makes a motion to grant the mobile vendor permit, Ms. Rushing seconds. By rollcall: Ms. Rushing – yes, Mr. Brown – yes, Mr. Trabucco – yes, Mr. Boyle – yes, Mr. Boulter – yes.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Chenard informs the board that he has received a letter from Mass DOT that punch list items are complete for the Route 14 project and it has been turned back to the town. Mr. Chenard will be working with staff to confirm the accuracy of that statement. The special election will be held on Tuesday, May 19 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and all residents should vote at their regular polling locations. These locations will be open to voters only and only essential staff will be present. No

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other business will be conducted that day. Custodians will be on site to clean and Mr. Chenard thanks the school department for their cooperation.

Mr. Chenard states he is developing a plan to re-open town facilities to staff in accordance with the Governor's regulations, more information on this will be forthcoming. Mr. Chenard informs the board that this coming Friday is Police Officer's Memorial Day and he would like to thank our officers for the work that they do in our community and he would like to encourage others to thank officers as well.

ASK THE SELECTMEN

At 8:12 pm, Mr. Boulter read the upcoming issues. Ms. Rushing moved to adjourn; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By roll call: Ms. Rushing – yes, Mr. Brown – yes, Mr. Trabucco – yes, Mr. Boyle – yes, Mr. Boulter – yes.

MATERIALS & EXHIBITS

Email, D. Badger re: Resignation of Member (AdCom/BOS/TM Office)

Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant (BOS/TM Office)

Application for Mobile Food/Ice Cream Truck, S. Burt (BOS/TM Office)