

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
APRIL 7, 2021
REMOTE MEETING HOSTED BY PACTV ON ZOOM PLATFORM**

PRESENT: **Panelists:** Daniel Trabucco (Chairman), Jessica M. Rushing (Vice Chairwoman), John G. Brown, Jr. (Clerk), Rebecca Coletta (Selectwoman), Tracy Marino (Selectwoman), William Chenard (Town Manager), Erin Obey (School Superintendent), Michael Tropeano, Susan Scholl, Simon Yueng (National Grid)
Attendees: Linda Peterson, 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, §18-20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting 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 on Comcast Government Access channel 15, and for those without cable, via livestream at: <https://www.pactv.org/pactv/towns/pembroke>. 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 registering to login to this webinar at <https://www.pembroke-ma.gov/select-board/meetings>. While no in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Pembroke website an audio or video recording, transcript or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting. All votes taken will be roll call votes.

POLE HEARING: JOINT MASS ELECTRIC/VERIZON PLAN# 26019455 CENTER ST & HOBOMOCK ST INSTALL NEW POLE# 19-50; HOBOMOCK ST & INSTALL POLE 48-50, CENTER ST

At 7:00 pm, Simon Yueng was present before the Board from National Grid regarding the proposed plan 26019455 to install a new pole to feed a new solar array on Hobomock Street and a new pole to install equipment to balance the change in voltages by the newly connected solar farm. Mr. Brown moved to approve the petition of National Grid/Massachusetts Electric and Verizon New England, Inc. to install new pole 19-50 on Hobomock Street to feed a new solar array and also install pole 48-50 on Center Street to install equipment to balance the change in voltages by the newly connected solar farm; Ms. Marino seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 5/0: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes; Trabucco – yes.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE, SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: BUDGET PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION

Ms. Obey was present before the Board with Budget Subcommittee members Michael Tropeano and Susan Scholl; they presented the School Department budget and budget process undertaken to date. Ms. Obey explained that the initial budget gap can be budgeted down through several strategies reviewed by School Committee to less than \$300,000 for fiscal 2022. Mr. Tropeano advised that there are additional levers that the Committee is exploring and they feel confident that this solvable number can be resolved. Ms. Marino thanked the School Committee and stated that she has seen the presentation at several prior meetings and this information is widely disseminated. Ms. Coletta asked how the Ways and Means discussion regarding Chapter 70 funding could impact these figures and has ESSER 3 funding been planned yet. Mr. Tropeano advised that the Ways and

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Means discussion has not yet revealed details for cities and towns but next Tuesday they will receive House and Senate figures that can be incorporated. Mr. Tropeano stated that they anticipate approximately \$789,000 via ESSER 3 funding but this figure is not yet finalized; it could be higher. Mr. Tropeano also stated that the criteria for qualification “Learning Loss:” expenses and “Return to Learn” expenses still need further clarification to determine what expenses can be submitted under each category.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE: ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

Ms. Marino stated that adopting this proclamation is the final step the town must take to receive a Tree USA designation; the proclamation would need to be voted annually with a new date designated. Ms. Marino moved that the Board accept this proclamation to observe Arbor Day on May 1, 2021. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 5/0: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes. Ms. Marino read the proclamation into the record: “WHEREAS, In 1872 J Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and WHEREAS: Arbor Day is now celebrated throughout the world; and WHEREAS: The citizens of Pembroke take great pride in their trees and appreciate their immeasurable value to the environment; and WHEREAS: Trees and forests are renewable natural resources which provide us with timber, paper, fuel for our fires and countless wood products; and WHEREAS: Trees and forests in Pembroke reduce energy demands for heating and cooling, moderate the temperatures, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for birds and other wildlife; and WHEREAS: Trees in the Town of Pembroke increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, beautify our community and improve our quality of life; and WHEREAS: Trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal. NOW, THEREFORE, we the Select Board, declare Saturday, May 1, 2021 to be Arbor Day in the Town of Pembroke. We urge the residents of Pembroke to join in a concerted effort to plant trees throughout the community on their properties, to protect and care for our trees and woodlands and to join in observances and celebrations of Arbor Day in Pembroke.”

VOTE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2021, MARCH 10, 2021, AND MARCH 17, 2021

Ms. Rushing moved to accept the minutes of March 24, 2021 as submitted; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 5/0: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes. Ms. Marino moved to accept the minutes of March 10, 2021; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 5/0: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes. Ms. Marino moved to accept the minutes of March 17, 2021; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 5/0: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes.

REVIEW REMAINING WARRANT ARTICLES FOR POSSIBLE VOTE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Chenard stated that article one proposed a 1% COLA at a cost of \$20,785 and he recommended that the Board vote to support the article. Mr. Chenard referred to the last weeks of budget presentations totaling a proposed operating budget of \$66,305,732 for article two and he recommended that the Board vote to support the article. Mr. Chenard stated that he is working with the Town Accountant to finalize the figures for articles three, four, five and six. Articles seven and eight have been voted. Article nine in the annual and article two in the special will be discussed later. Articles ten and twelve are still in process with town counsel. Article thirteen is a small request by Open Space to spend from the Open Space fund; article fourteen is to authorize the Fire Chief to hire a second deputy, a proposal Mr. Chenard stated that he strongly supports. Discussion ensued on status of remaining articles, scheduling, and this evening’s actions. Ms. Rushing moved

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to recommend favorable action on annual article thirteen and special within the annual article three; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 5/0: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE: COMMUNITY CENTER ARTICLE RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Chenard shared potential tax impact of the project using traditional twenty-five-year term borrowing figures at 2% with level principle; this would result in a \$158 year one tax increase to homeowners assessed at \$423,000, with payments reducing over the term. Mr. Chenard stated he would post the data on the town website at: https://www.pembroke-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3666/f/uploads/cc_tax_impact.pdf

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Chenard advised that Pembroke is still in a red category with younger demographics testing positive; he advised that the cities and towns do not receive information regarding which strains or variants are being identified. Mr. Chenard reminded the residents that the vaccination link set up by the state is: www.vaxfinder.mass.gov.

Old Business

Mr. Trabucco stated that the Board has received the requested information from PEMA regarding their preference for town meeting outdoors and information that three locations indoors at PHS in May will be problematic. Mr. Trabucco confirmed that the Moderator knows his role once the warrant is posted, and the Board has already voted to proceed with indoor town meeting May 11th and he opened the floor for comment. Ms. Coletta stated that she would like to wait a week or two for the purposes of having more vaccination rate data available. Ms. Rushing stated that she favors a consideration of postponement. The Moderator and a PACTV representative will be schedule for the next meeting.

Community Comment

Mr. Brown stated that Pembroke Chamber of Commerce President Kyle Harney has put out that Bluestone Bank is offering a \$5,000 donation and the Pembroke Firehouse Pantry is one of the nominees. Veterans vaccination clinics are ongoing; the VFW Post 1046 in Brockton ha clinics schedule for tomorrow and Friday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at 283 N. Quincy Street in Brockton. On Saturday, the Legion Post 105 in Raynham at 291 Mill Street from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm for veterans and their spouses. Ms. Rushing stated there is a clinic at Cape Cod Community College on Saturday and a veteran only needs to show a DB214 and photo id, versus being enrolled in VA Healthcare.

At 8:30 pm, Mr. Brown moved to enter executive Session under M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, and the chair so declares, regarding proposed MOAs: AFSCME Local 1700, Public Works and Water Enterprise Divisions, Clerical; Mr. Trabucco declared it to be so and stated the Board will return to open session. Ms. Marino seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 5/0: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes.

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At 8:50 pm, the meeting resumed.

VOTE PROPOSED MOAS: AFSCME LOCAL 1700, PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER ENTERPRISE DIVISION, CLERICAL DIVISION

Ms. Coletta moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Pembroke and AFSCME Public Works unit and Water Enterprise unit; Ms. Marino seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 5/0: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes. Ms. Coletta moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Pembroke and AFSCME Clerical unit; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 4/0/1: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Trabucco – yes with Ms. Rushing abstaining.

At 8:55 pm, Mr. Trabucco read the upcoming issues. Ms. Coletta moved to adjourn; Ms. Marino seconded the motion. By roll call vote: 5/0: Brown – yes; Coletta – yes; Marino – yes; Rushing – yes, Trabucco – yes.

MATERIALS & EXHIBITS

NGRID/Mass Electric/Verizon Plan# 26019455 (TM Office)
PowerPoint Presentations (E. Obey, W. Chenard (TM Office)
Draft Arbor Day Proclamation (TM Office)
Draft Minutes of Meetings Held February 24, March 10, March 17, 2021 (TM Office)
Draft 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant (TM Office)
Draft 2021 Special within Annual Warrant (TM Office)