

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING  
AUGUST 4, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Jessica Rushing (Chairwoman), John G. Brown, Jr. (Vice-Chairman), Rebecca Coletta (Clerk), Daniel W. Trabucco (Selectman), Tracy Marino (Selectwoman), William Chenard (Town Manager), Kathleen McCarthy (Treasurer/Collector), Robert DeMarzo, Vincent Cogliano, Alicia Azulay, Melissa Killham, Dana Bean, Lisa Drennan, Don Bryant, Mark Ames, Karen Ames, Susan Runne, David Norman, Mike Quinn, Dale Harrison, Donna Cannone, Arthur Edgerton, Sabrina Chilcott (Assistant Town Manager), and others.

At 7:00 pm Ms. Rushing opened the meeting and advised that this meeting is being made available to the public through an audio recording which will be used to ensure an accurate record of proceedings produced in the minutes of the meeting. All comments made in open session will be recorded.

**TREASURER KATHLEEN MCCARTHY: VOTE TO EXTEND USEFUL LIFE (BORROWING)**

Ms. Coletta moved that the Town of Pembroke, Massachusetts, certify that at a meeting of the board held August 4, 2021, of which meeting all members of the board were duly notified and at which a quorum was present, the following vote was unanimously passed, all of which appears upon the official record of the board in her custody: Voted: that the maximum useful life of the departmental equipment listed below to be financed with the proceeds of borrowing authorized by the vote of the Town passed June 22, 2021 (Article 5) is hereby determined pursuant to G.L. c.44, §7(1) to be as follows:

PURPOSE	BORROWING AMOUNT	MAXIMUM USEFUL LIFE
Fire SCBA Replacement	\$132,000	10 Years
Fire Turnout Gear	99,000	10 Years
Water Department Utility Vehicle	200,000	10 Years

and further certify that the votes were taken at a meeting open to the public, that no vote was taken by secret ballot, that a notice stating the place, date, time and agenda for the meeting (which agenda included the adoption of the above votes) was filed with the Town Clerk and a copy thereof posted in a manner conspicuously visible to the public at all hours in or on the municipal building that the office of the Town Clerk is located, or, if applicable, in accordance with an alternative method of notice prescribed or approved by the Attorney General as set forth in 940 CMR 29.03(2)(b), at least 48 hours, not including Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, prior to the time of the meeting and remained so posted at the time of the meeting, that no deliberations or decision in connection with the subject matter of this vote were taken in executive session, all in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §§18-25 as amended. Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF ANTI-NOISE BYLAW, ARTICLE XX, SECTION 15: JESSICA VAN DER TOORN OF 35 BLUEJAY WAY (AUGUST 14 FROM 5:00 PM TO 10:00 PM)**

Ms. Marino moved to approve the request of Jessica Van der Toorn to allow for outdoor music in the form of a DJ at 35 Bluejay Way on Saturday, August 14, 2021 from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm for the purposes of hosting a backyard birthday party, subject to the approval of the Pembroke Police Chief. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**OPEN WARRANT FOR FALL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ON AUGUST 9, CLOSE AUGUST 13**

Ms. Coletta moved to declare the fall Special Town Meeting warrant open effective August 9, 2021 and closed on August 13, 2021 at noon. Ms. Marino seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

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### **VOTE TO DESIGNATE MEMBER TO SIGN WARRANTS IN TOWN MANAGER'S ABSENCE**

Ms. Coletta moved to designate Tracy Marino to sign warrants in the absence of the Town Manager; Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO CREATE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Ms. Coletta moved that the Board reconstitute the Public Safety Building Committee to consist of the Police Chief or designee, Fire Chief or designee, Town Manager, two members of the Select Board, three resident representatives, and one planning board representative. Ms. Marino seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

### **DISCUSSION, POSSIBLE VOTE: CREATE DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE**

Ms. Rushing recapped the discussion and concerns raised at the last Board meeting concerning this topic; Ms. Marino read "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee: The Pembroke Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee is established to support and lead Pembroke's efforts to foster and celebrate diversity, the pursuit of equity, and the value of inclusion. The committee is designed to serve as an educational and advisory group to provide guidance to local governing bodies, municipal organizations and residents on DEI issues. The Committee will seek to promote full equity and inclusion for Black people, indigenous people, and other people of color (BIPOC), women, individuals with disabilities, members of religious communities, LGBTQ individuals, and other marginalized groups. The committee will endeavor to organize or seek out educational opportunities for the town and its residents. The committee may review the Town's existing policies, practices, and procedures, and where necessary, will suggest changes to build a stronger, more equitable community. It will also provide a place for members of marginalized to bring incidents or issues of concern to the attention of the town or appropriate officials. The committee will consist of 5-11 members (with a quorum for meetings based on the majority of appointed members at the time of a meeting). We will endeavor to solicit volunteers from members of marginalized communities, a variety of professional backgrounds and a cross-section of the Pembroke community. We will also seek to have liaisons from the Select Board, the Police Department, the Library, and the Schools (including liaisons from the high school student body)." Ms. Coletta read two emails into the record from Sally Jane Wallach and Teresa Sheedy, both expressing support of the formation of a DEI Committee. Mark Ames stated that the state has passed a bill creating this committee at the state level; Ms. Rushing stated that a local committee is needed. Mr. Ames stated that the definitions that were discussed at the last meeting were not included in the statement. Ms. Coletta stated that the draft as written provides the Committee an opportunity to weigh in on their mission. Mr. Ames stated that there is concern that the absence of a definition of these terms can lend itself to misunderstanding. Ms. Marino stated that the definition of the terms being used can appear on the Board's page on the website, but the working group felt they were out of place in the description of the actual Committee. Mr. Ames suggested that the creation of this Committee at town meeting to allow the town to be involved. Ms. Coletta stated that she is shocked that creating this Committee creates controversy. Ms. Rushing stated that residents cannot be forced to participate in these efforts in the same manner than no one can be forced to walk the Open Space trails. Brooke Musial stated that she strongly supports the creation of this Committee, and it is not intended to be divisive, but to promote all of the freedoms referenced in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sharon Carlino asked what experiences in Pembroke resulted in the need to form this Committee; Ms. Coletta stated that the factors would generate a longer discussion and the place for this discussion would be within the Committee and the public. Discussion ensued on how the members will be chosen and requests for clarification on the mission statement. Mr. DeMarzo stated there will be costs associated with having staff of the referenced departments participate in evening meetings. Steve Ciciotti stated that this has become a highly politicized and divisive issue that lacks definitions, and his concern is that this lack will lend itself to the Committee becoming something different over time, and he feels that the vote should be unanimous in order to be created. Ms. Rushing requested the Boards input; Mr. Brown suggested that the reference to "local governing bodies, municipal organizations and residents" be changed to "local governing bodies, boards and committees" and keep their actions to providing guidance versus making recommendations. Discussion ensued. Mr. Trabucco stated that he would prefer that the Committee be accountable to the Select Board by reducing their autonomy and have them partner with the Select Board by developing a long-range calendar of activities and meetings. Ms. Marino suggested including quarterly

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reports of activities to the Board. Ms. Marino moved to approve the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee mission as amended; Ms. Coletta seconded the motion. The vote was 4/1 with Mr. Trabucco opposed.

### **BOARD LIAISON UPDATES**

Ms. Coletta stated that several members of the Planning Board have expressed interest in establishing and serving on a Master Plan Committee.

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

#### **COVID-19**

The Town of Hanover has invited Pembroke to participate in a Pfizer Clinic 8-9 5p-7p Hanover High School 12 years and up, 2<sup>nd</sup> dose 8-30 5-7p. Pfizer.

Vaccine count in Pembroke: ages 12-15 32%, ages 16-19 62%, ages 20-29 62%, ages 30-49 65%, 50-64 72%, 65-74 87%, and 75 and older 84% resulting in a 60% overall vaccination rate in town. In June the town saw two positive cases, in July there were seventeen cases and August to date is already at fifteen cases. The CDC strongly recommends wearing masks indoors.

#### **Ponds**

Regularly scheduled pond water testing has been occurring and there have been no issues reported.

#### **Route 36 Project Update - Water**

Mr. Chenard stated that the parallel water main replacement phase one connections between Route 27 and West Street connections are complete and the service is connected to the new water main. has begun with work conducted between the hours of 7:00 am and 4:00 pm. New service lines are being installed and they will then be connected to a new water main, the old main will be properly abandoned. Residents should expect delays and seek alternate routes.

#### **Route 36 Project Update - Roadway**

Mr. Chenard stated that all affected residents have received their materials concerning the temporary and permanent easements. Any gas or water upgrades should be completed prior to the final paving as there will be a five (5) year street opening moratorium after the final work is complete.

#### **Route 53 Project**

The MassDOT contractor who was installing a new guardrail post accidentally drove it through the town's water main; it took eighteen hours to restore service in parts of the area. Starting this week, MassDOT will be completing the guardrail and milling the road. Beginning August 23<sup>rd</sup>, they will begin raising castings and milling driveway aprons.

#### **FEMA Flood Maps**

The Pembroke overlay is posted on the town website.

#### **CPCWDA Board**

Mr. Chenard has reviewed the Central Plymouth County Water District Commission Draft Sampling and Analysis Plan for the Silver Lake Quality Monitoring Project and will plan to discuss with the Board the town's comments on the Plan to be submitted at the next meeting.

#### **Community Center**

Mr. Chenard stated that the borrowing piece is underway and the Owner's Project Manager RFQ was posted in the Central Register today. Mr. Chenard advised that the Board will be signing the notes on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

At 9:07 pm, Ms. Rushing read the upcoming issues from the agenda. Ms. Rushing stated that she would like an agenda item for the Board to discuss their individual goals for the year. Mr. Brown wished the Coast Guard a happy 231<sup>st</sup> birthday. Ms. Marino moved to adjourn; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

### **MATERIALS & EXHIBITS**

Vote to Extend Useful Life of Borrowing Items, K. McCarthy (Treasurer/TM Office)

Email, J. Van Toon (TM Office)

Draft Mission Statement for DEI Committee (TM Office)

Materials or other exhibits used by the public body in an open meeting are available to the public within 10 days upon request.