

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, May 26, 2020

Howard Bronstein, Winton Pitcoff, and Hilary Weeks were present. Also, in attendance: Paula King, Sandra Morann, Denise Sessions, Ellen Dupont, David Kramer, Justin Litchfield.

The meeting, held via conference call consistent with Governor Baker's temporary modifications to the Open Meeting Law, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of May 12, 2020 were accepted as amended: Howard, yes; Winton, yes; Hilary, yes.

Caucus/Town Meeting/Election

The Town Clerk will check in registered voters prior to opening the caucus on Wednesday, May 27th at 6:00 p.m. at the 304/312 Main Street pavilion.

The Annual Town Meeting, June 20, 2020, will be held outside at the same aforementioned location. In the event of bad weather, the meeting will be adjourned to June 27th. A sound system, portable restrooms, and a tent will be provided.

The Annual Election will take place from 12 noon - 4:00 p.m. at the Town Hall on June 20, 2020. Social distancing will be required at both events. The state legislature is working on legislative relief for town meetings.

David Kramer asked about mask protocol. In response, Howard stated the Attorney General's Office said the wearing of masks at elections can't be enforced, but a municipality may issue an advisory.

Board of Health Chair Ellen Dupont added that events can be held in open spaces, not pavilions or tents. Howard explained in his conversation with Rep. Natalie Blais legislative bodies are exempt.

The Town clerk will be consulted in regards to posting a Town Election Warrant and a Town Meeting Warrant due to the two venues.

Informational Budget and Local By-Law Hearing

The informational budget hearing and hearing for local by-law changes was scheduled for June 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. by teleconference. Finance Committee Chair David Kramer will set up the conference call.

Room Occupancy, Town Beach, Park, Library, Etc.

The Highway Department and Town Offices are functioning. The 25% occupancy

rule can and is being adhered to.

Board of Health Chair Ellen Dupont put up closed signs at the town beach after patrons left last weekend. She said it is safer to keep the beach closed as limited space would make maintaining a 12' distance between blankets difficult. If open, the portable restroom would have to be cleaned/sanitized daily. The water is not being tested at this time.

The boat ramp is open. Recreation Committee Chair Sandra Morann noted that not all municipal beaches are open. Howard added that there are 102 state beaches which are never completely closed. People can walk on these beaches and restrooms are open. Sandy stated we have no control over the water. She drove past the beach at 4:00 p.m. and people were on the beach and not wearing masks. She also stated summer people from out of state and people from other towns use the beach which is tiny.

Winton suggested no parking signs along Rte. 116 in the area of the beach. Police could patrol and issue tickets, if necessary. Hilary stated people have to be responsible for their own actions and should be able to make their own decisions. Howard added people should be able to swim, but stated his willingness to concede. Chief Litchfield is in favor of the "no parking ban".

Howard moved to close the beach until further notice due to the COVID-19 emergency and to issue a no parking ban along both sides of Rte. 116 in the beach area. The motion was seconded by Winton. Hilary stated she supports the no parking ban, but not to close the beach. The motion, was approved with Howard voting yes, Winton voting yes, and Hilary voting no. It was noted there is not a lot of time for enforcement; officers are to use their own judgement. The Police Department has no parking signs that can be used.

Ballfield/Park

Sandy's concern about the North Central Street park is there is no way to sanitize the play structure. The ballfield should remain open. Howard noted playgrounds are scheduled to re-open in phase 2. Howard moved to close the play structure and keep the field open. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved: Howard, yes; Winton, yes; Hilary, yes.

Librarian Denise Sessions will meet with the trustees to formulate a plan for reopening the library and will advise the Board of the plan for re-opening.

Curbside service is a possibility while sequestering returned books, etc. for three days before re-circulating.

Town buildings including the Town Hall remain closed.

David Kramer said not everyone at the transfer station is wearing masks and not staying 6' apart making him uncomfortable. Placing a table in front of the shed to help maintain social distancing while processing cards was suggested.

Other Business

Howard moved to approve the following FY'20 Chapter 44:33B transfers requested by the Accountant: \$2,850 from the Insurance Account to the Short Term Interest Account, \$1,600 from the Insurance Account to the Medicare Account, and \$8,000 from Vocational Tuition/Transportation Account to the Chapter 32B Health Insurance Account. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved: Howard, yes; Winton, yes; Hilary, yes.

Howard moved to approved the following FY'20 Chapter 44:33B transfers for repairs to West Street requested by the Accountant and the Highway Superintendent: \$5,000 from the Highway Salaries Account to the General Highway Account and \$2,000 from the Machinery Upkeep Account to the General Highway Account. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved: Howard, yes; Winton, yes; Hilary, yes.

Howard moved to sign the VFIS renewal order for the fire/EMS and Police injured on duty insurance for FY'21 including the Cancer Coverage Protection for firefighters. The motion, seconded by Winton, was approved: Howard, yes; Winton, yes; Hilary, yes. FY'21 increases are due to reclassifying police officers according to hourly schedules and Cancer Coverage Presumption for firefighters.

Howard moved to pay KP Law invoice 125333 in the amount of \$84.67. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved: Howard, yes; Winton, yes; Hilary, yes. MVP Action Grant: A ninety-day extension request has been filed.

Other mail was read.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary