

**PRESENT:** Selectmen Roland P. Nutter, Lisa M. Ferolito and Bill Greathead; Andrew MacLean, Town Administrator; Tracie Looney, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Pledge of Allegiance was said. Mr. Nutter announced that the meeting is being broadcast live and recorded for rebroadcast.

## **2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 February 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 1)**

The Board will review the minutes at the next meeting.

## **3. APPROVE WARRANT AND SIGN PURCHASE ORDERS**

The Board signed the warrants prior to the meeting.

## **4. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS (Exhibits 2/ 3)**

### **4.1 Cable TV Advisory Committee Appointment**

- Matthew Werner
- Elizabeth Faxon
- Grover Pillsbury
- Chris Kaczkowski
- Richard Potts(non-voting member)

On a motion made by Mr. Greathead and seconded by Ms. Ferolito, it was unanimously voted to appoint Matthew Werner to the Cable TV Advisory Committee with the term to expire on 6/30/2020.

On a motion made by Mr. Greathead and seconded by Ms. Ferolito, it was unanimously voted to appoint Elizabeth Faxon to the Cable TV Advisory Committee with the term to expire on 6/30/2020.

On a motion made by Mr. Greathead and seconded by Ms. Ferolito, it was unanimously voted to appoint Chris Kaczkowski to the Cable TV Advisory Committee with the term to expire on 6/30/2021.

On a motion made by Mr. Greathead and seconded by Ms. Ferolito, it was unanimously voted to appoint Richard Potts to the Cable TV Advisory Committee as a non- voting member.

### **4.2 Nashoba Valley Technical School District Committee Resignation / Al Buckley**

The Town Administrator informed the Board that Al Buckley will be resigning from his full seat on the Nashoba Valley Technical School District Committee. The Board thanked him for his 25 years of service.

### **4.3 Nashoba Valley Technical School District Committee Appointment / Mike Morgan**

On a motion made by Ms. Ferolito and seconded by Mr. Greathead, it was unanimously voted to appoint Mike Morgan to the Nashoba Valley Technical School District Committee with the term of April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2022.

Mike Morgan was in attendance and said he is looking forward to stepping up to fill Al Buckley's seat with his retirement.

### **4.4 Election Worker Appointment / Catherine Tocci**

On a motion made by Ms. Ferolito and seconded by Mr. Greathead, it was unanimously voted to appoint Catherine Tocci as an Election Worker with the term to expire on August 15, 2019.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:**

Audience Comments

Deb Spratt mentioned the Annual Friends of Library Book sale which is happening this coming weekend at the Community Center.

Mr. Greathead read an announcement for the upcoming Rabies Clinic to be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Station.

Dave Herman made the announcement that the Pepperell 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee will be holding a dance on March 15, 2019 at 7:00PM at the Community Center.

Written Submittals (Exhibit 4)

Citizen letter from Deb Fountain regarding the opposition to the Zoning Board of Appeals Decision regarding the Soil Reclamation Proposal.

**6. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:**

6.1 Soil Reclamation Proposal Update

The Town Administrator told the Board that the Town appeal has been assigned to Judge Jennifer Roberts and there should be a pre-hearing conference in the next month.

6.2 2018 Annual Town Report Dedication (Exhibit 5)

Ms. Ferolito read a dedication written by Laurie Masiello for Diane Karr.

On a motion made Mr. Greathead and seconded by Ms. Ferolito, it was unanimously voted to dedicate the 2018 Annual Town Report to Diane Karr.

6.3 Ballot Question for Annual Town Election (Exhibit 6)

At Annual Town Meeting 2018, under Article 16, the Town Meeting voted to direct the Selectmen to place a question on the next available ballot for a general or special election. April 22, 2019 is that ballot date as the State would not allow it to be placed on the November statewide election ballot or the special Dec. 10 Debt Exclusion local ballot. Our legal counsel has determined that the question is non-binding as this is not the process to be used to restrict marijuana establishments as prescribed in Chapter 94G of the General Laws for communities which voted yes on the November 2016 statewide ballot referendum on recreation marijuana. Non-the-less, the ballot question should be placed on the ballot as directed by the Town Meeting in May 2018. The Ballot question is...Shall that Town of Pepperell prohibit Marijuana Establishments from operating in the Town of Pepperell? Yes/ No

On a motion made by Mr. Greathead and seconded by Ms. Ferolito, it was unanimously voted to move to accept the ballot question as written.

6.4 FY2020 Budget (Exhibit 7)

The Town Administrator presented the preliminary FY2020 Budget to the Board. The TA mentioned the numbers are still up in the air with the schools budget and insurance numbers, however he has reviewed the budget with each Department Head. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the use of free cash in the past which has led to the financial issues the Town is currently facing. The Finance Committee is proposing an override to help the finances of the Town. The TA mentioned there will be seven layoffs of Town employees with the current budget. Mr. Greathead is opposed to any layoffs on the public safety side. Ms. Ferolito asked if the Town employees would consider a pay freeze in order to help with the current deficit. The TA mentioned the Town needs new growth in order to financially help stabilize the budget and working in conjunction with the schools budget at a 2 ½ % increase and no more. The TA told the Board he is working with electric companies to switch to net metering to help save on current utility costs, talking with developers for new growth, working with State Legislature for grant money, and imposing possible incoming marijuana sales tax.

**7. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

7.1 Update on Town Administrator's Report (Exhibit 8)

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion made by Mr. Greathead and seconded by Ms. Ferolito, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM.

On a motion made by Ms. Ferolito and seconded by Mr. Greathead, it was unanimously voted to accept the Town Administrator's recommendation to appoint Ms. Lauri Plourde as Pepperell's Town Accountant effective March 18, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracie Looney, Administrative Assistant

**APPROVED:**

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Roland P. Nutter, Chairman

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Lisa M. Ferolito, Clerk

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Bill Greathead

- Encl:
- \*Exhibit 1 - Meeting Minutes February 25, 2019
  - \*Exhibit 2 - Appointments
  - \*Exhibit 3 - Resignations
  - \*Exhibit 4 - Written Submittals
  - \*Exhibit 5 - Annual Town Report Dedication
  - \*Exhibit 6 - Ballot Question
  - \*Exhibit 7 - FY2020 Budget Presentation
  - \*Exhibit 8 - Town Administrator's Report