

PRESENT: Selectmen Bill Greathead, Margaret Scarsdale, and Joe Radwich; Town Administrator, Andrew MacLean; Administrative Assistant, Tracie Looney

This meeting was remote participation only. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Pledge of Allegiance was said. Mr. Greathead announced that the meeting is being cablecast live, and recorded for future cablecast by Pepperell Community Media.

1. AGENDA PACKET (Exhibit 1)

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Ms. Scarsdale and seconded by Mr. Radwich, it was unanimously voted to accept and release the meeting minutes of March 9, 2020.

3. APPROVE BILL AND PAYROLL WARRANT

Since the last meeting the Board of Selectmen have approved the following payroll and bill warrants:

- 3/11/2020 Bill Warrant 37B \$142,902.32
- 3/19/2020 Payroll Warrant 38A \$233,805.57

4. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

According to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 54 Section 12, the Selectmen shall appoint the Town Election workers.

On a motion made by Ms. Scarsdale and seconded by Mr. Radwich, it was unanimously voted to appoint Mary E. Veysey to be an Election Worker in Precinct 2 for a term to expire on August 15, 2020.

The Affordable Housing Committee is appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Renee D'Argento has submitted an application to be appointed to the Affordable Housing Committee and was in attendance remotely to answer any questions from the Board. She currently is on the Master Plan Committee and the Light, Air and Noise Committee.

On a motion made by Ms. Scarsdale and seconded by Mr. Radwich, it was unanimously voted to appoint Renee D'Argento to the Affordable Housing Committee with the term to expire on June 30, 2020.

5. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Written Submittals:

The Town Administrator informed the Board of a letter that was sent to Charter Communications regarding the upcoming License Renewal Public Ascertainment Hearing.

Audience Comments: None

6. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Town Administrator did not have his usual TA report to present to the Board, instead he read a few paragraphs pertaining to the closing of Town Hall as a reaction to the COVID-19 virus. The TA thanked the citizens and staff for their patience and understanding during this unprecedented time. He also thanked the IT Director for getting the Board meeting up and running remotely as well as setting up other staff to be able to work from home.

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Soil Reclamation Proposal Update

The Town Administrator informed the Board that we are completing work leading to the end of the discovery process. With the closing of the courts this month we are uncertain of how long the next process steps will be delayed. The BOS are working on a response to the MCGI letter to MassDEP (dated 2/07/20), as it is felt it contains significant mis-information. As soon as that document is ready it will be made publicly available.

7.2 Complete Streets Presentation

The Planning Department and traffic engineering consultant VHB have conducted the Tier 2 process of defining and prioritizing local Complete Streets projects. The process included significant public input. Jason Plourde, VHB Representative, gave a presentation of the process and the recommendations for projects to be submitted for Tier 3 funding. Mr. Plourde explained there is funding for 4 out of the 5 projects presented, not the Railroad Square project. The Planning Board does not have a direct role in voting for the endorsement of the Complete Street projects.

On a motion made by Ms. Scarsdale and seconded by Mr. Radwich, it was unanimously voted to endorse the Complete Streets Prioritization plan for the Tier 3 funding application.

7.3 FY2021 Budget Review with Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will review with the Board of Selectmen the FY2021 Budget for the preparation of the Annual Town Meeting. John Ladik, Chair of the Finance Committee, was in attendance remotely and asked the Board to table this discussion until the next Board meeting.

On a motion made by Mr. Radwich and seconded by Ms. Scarsdale, it was unanimously voted to table the FY2021 Budget Review with the Finance Committee.

7.4 Town Responses to COVID -19

The Town Administrator explained to the Board that they need to consider three decisions due to COVID-19.

A local emergency declaration may help expedite the expenditure of local, state, and federal resources made available to combat this infectious virus. They also need to consider whether to change the dates of the local election and town meeting. No action was taken at this meeting and will reopen the conversation at the next meeting on April 13, 2020 as things are changing daily.

The Town Administrator informed the Board that the Governor has submitted a bill on changing rules related to Town Meeting. The bill would permit the Moderator of Town Meeting to declare a 30-day postponement due to a “public health emergency” after consulting with the Selectboard. Town Council recommends that the Board and Town Moderator set a date for the Town Meeting.

The Town Administrator also discussed the postponement of the Town Election. The TA will get back to the Board when he hears from both Ashby and Townsend on their election date and also from the Governor of Massachusetts as to the direction the towns can take. The TA said these situations are changing daily. No action taken.

The Town Administrator also presented to the Board a Sample of a Declaration of Emergency. The Board decided not to issue a Declaration of Emergency.

Susan McCarthy, Director of the Council on Aging, was in attendance remotely and told the Board how the Center is reacting to the new protocols. Ms. McCarthy mentioned that Meal on Wheels is being offered to all seniors now.

7.5 Request to Clean Pond at Rotary

Local residents are interested in cleaning the pond at the rotary / community center so that it may be available for use in the future. Mr. Radwicz explained to the Board that he had been approached by local resident, Tracie Ezzio to clean the pond at the rotary. Mr. Radwicz explained that the pond is littered with tires and debris. The Board pointed out that facilities are under the purview of the Town Administrator and he will coordinate with the interested parties who want to undertake the cleaning work. No motion was necessary.

7.6 Walking Path Endorsement

The Town has been working with the Friends of Pepperell and the Recreation Commission on creating a walking path at Town Field. Ms. Scarsdale informed the Board that the Friends of Pepperell have spent over 10 years raising funds to help to make the walking path a reality for the citizens of Pepperell. The project has been vetted by the DPW, the re-bid for the paving is ready to go out, letters of support from town citizens have come in, the Police Chief is in support, and a petition with over 100 signatures has been signed. Mr. Radwicz spoke in opposition of the project.

On a motion made by Ms. Scarsdale and seconded by Mr. Greathead, it was voted to direct the Town Administrator to submit the bid for the plans for the walking path. Mr. Radwicz opposed.

7.7 BOS / TA Communications

The Town Administrator discussed steps to ensure the communication internally and externally is consistent. There was a brief discussion on the process of the chain of command, reviewing the meeting packet ahead of scheduled meetings and working together at decision making.

7.8 Town Meeting Warrant Articles

The Board of Selectmen authorize articles to be presented on Town Meeting Warrants. The following items have been submitted thus far for 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 13- LAWRENCE LIBRARY MONDAY HOURS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds a sum of \$69,300 for the purpose of funding Monday hours at the Lawrence Library. This would provide funding for a pilot program covering FY2021-FY2022 with the library being open Mondays from early September through late May each year.

On a motion made by Ms. Scarsdale and seconded by Mr. Radwicz, it was unanimously voted to move to accept Article 13 – Lawrence Library Monday Hours onto the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

ARTICLE 14 - OUTDOOR LIGHTING BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to adopt an Outdoor Lighting Bylaw, pursuant to the authority under General Law Chapter 40, Section 21 and Chapter 111, Sections 142A-142M, and 310 CMR 7.00, as reasonable and

necessary for the protection of the health and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Pepperell, in the form on file in the office of the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

On a motion made by Ms. Scarsdale and seconded by Mr. Radwich, it was voted to move to accept Article 14- Outdoor Lighting Bylaw onto the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Radwich voted nay.

ARTICLE 15 - CITIZEN PETITION

To see if the Town of Pepperell will vote to adopt the following non-binding resolution to restore and maintain partisan free local municipal elections, or take any action relating thereto:

- Whereas partisan free campaigning is congruent with local tradition, and
- Whereas non-local contributions, whether financial or in kind, challenge the ability to maintain a level playing field for campaigning candidates, and
- Whereas officials elected in a non-partisan manner are free from non -local state or national interests and political parties, real or perceived, and
- Whereas partisan free local elections ensure the integrity of the will of the local electorate thereby engendering public trust in town governance.

On a motion made by Ms. Scarsdale and seconded by Mr. Radwich, it was unanimously voted to move to accept Article 15- Citizen Petition onto the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

ARTICLE 16 - VARNUM BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PILOT

To see if the Town will accept the proposed Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Varnum Brook Elementary School, or to do anything relative thereto.

On a motion made by Ms. Scarsdale and seconded by Mr. Radwich, it was unanimously voted to move to accept Article 16- Varnum Brook Elementary School PILOT onto the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

ARTICLE 17 - NISSITISSIT MIDDLE SCHOOL LEASE BETWEEN TOWN AND NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

To see if the Town will accept the terms of the Nissitissit Middle School Ground Lease between the Town and The North Middlesex Regional School District.

On a motion made by Ms. Scarsdale and seconded by Mr. Radwich, it was unanimously voted to move to accept Article 17- Nissitissit Middle School Lease between Town and North Middlesex Regional School District onto the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

ARTICLE 18 - HEAVY EQUIPMENT LEASE

To see if the Town will allow heavy equipment vehicle leases to be written for up to seven years or to take any action relative thereto.

On a motion made by Ms. Scarsdale and seconded by Mr. Radwich, it was unanimously voted to move to accept Article 18- Heavy Equipment Lease onto the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

8. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
7:00 PM

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On a motion made by Ms. Scarsdale and seconded by Mr. Radwicz, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracie Looney, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

Bill Greathead, Chairman

Margaret Scarsdale, Clerk

Joe Radwicz

Date: Remotely Approved April 27, 2020