

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF NATICK

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Conducted Via Virtual Meeting (ZOOM Meeting)

May 26, 2020

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Chairman Jonathan H. Freedman, Karen Adelman-Foster, Vice-Chair, Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Clerk, Michael J. Hickey, Jr., and Susan G. Salamoff

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Melissa A. Malone, Karis North, Esq., James Freas, Director of Community and Economic Development; Town Moderator, Frank Foss; James White, Director of Dept. of Public Health, Ms. Karen Partanen, Director of Parks and Recreation; Diane Packer, Town Clerk; Executive Assistant, Joan M. McNamara

ABSENT: None

Chairman Freedman called the meeting to order at 6:06PM, and noted that the Meeting is being recorded by Pegasus and Zoom. Mr. Freedman also noted that all votes taken will be by Roll Call Vote. Mr. Freedman instructed that there is a "raise hand" button for those who wish to participate during this meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed for respect for friends and family suffering from Coronavirus. Chairman Freedman conducted a Roll Call for attendance as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Town Administrator Performance Evaluation

Mr. Hickey: The 2019 calendar performance evaluation starts at the end of January and early February. On April 23, 2019, the Board voted the performance evaluation.

Mr. Hickey would like to give thanks to the Board members and the Town Administrator during this process.

- B. Ms. Diane Packer, Town Clerk, reminded citizens that they are able to vote early by absentee ballot or early voting ballot. The Natick Annual Town Election is scheduled for June 30, 2020. Polls will be open on election day, however, for poll workers' and voters' safety we are encouraging early mail-in ballot. Ms. Packer also reminded town citizens that they are able to call 508-647-6430 (the Town Clerk's office) to request a ballot.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

None this evening.

REQUESTED ACTION

Ms. Lenore Freitas, Mathworks' Scholarship Committee: We would like to thank Mathworks for their continued support. There were 11 submittals, essays and test scores. This year we identified two winners:

Adham Abji and Camilla Samuel

The two winners appeared during our meeting and were congratulated by the Board.

On a Motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Ms. Adelman-Foster, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to Accept Mathworks' Scholarship Committee's Recommendation for Scholarship Recipients. The vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

APPOINTMENTS

- A. Interview for Appointment to the Transportation Advisory Committee:

The Board conducted an Interview of Ms. Abigail Brown who is interested in public policy for a seat on the Transportation Advisory Committee.

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, by Roll Call vote, the Board Voted 5-0-0 to appoint Ms. Brown to the Transportation Advisory Committee. The Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

- B. Appointment of Sergeant Chad Howard to Lieutenant of Natick Police Department: Officer Howard came to Natick in 2005. In 2014 he was promoted to provisional Sergeant and he has performed that position very well. His personal qualities set him apart from many. Everything Sergeant Howard does is an effort toward improvement for himself, other department members, victims and the community. He is truly a professional and very worthy of this promotion.

On a Motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 5-0-0, by Roll Call Vote, that Sergeant Howard be appointed to Lieutenant of Natick Police Department as of June 3, 2020. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

2. **BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATES**

A. COVID-19

James White, Director, Department of Public Health: Provided update on Phase 1 reopening, with Phase 2 set for June 15. For more detail visit the [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) website. The State will be looking for six indicators as they continue to reopen.

Today at noon time the Town opened up the tennis courts with posted guidance on their use. We also opened up the track under specific hours.

1. Ms. Malone/Town buildings: The Town is in the process of looking at how the buildings need to be modified to reopen. Staff are putting orders in for supplies/equipment and doing walkthroughs of municipal buildings. The first building targeted is Town Hall. Mr. Gadson from Facilities is leading these changes.

2. Update summer programs/Ms. Karen Partanen, Director of Parks and Recreation: The decision about summer camps is delayed. Camp Arrowhead and Camp Woodtrail are full day programs but are officially cancelled. With all of the unknowns to date, we would not anticipate anything happening until at least the last week of July.

Refunds will be processed starting May 27, 2020, for the families that prepaid for camp.

A question was raised regarding the Town beach: Ms. Partanen noted that the beach is self-funded through beach passes and not supported by the Town. Social distancing at 12 feet apart and groups not larger than ten makes it difficult to social distance in the water. Final decision will not be made prior to July 6, 2020.

3. DISCUSSION AND DECISION

A. Town Administrator's interim update on FY21 budget process

(This agenda item will be limited to 30 minutes)

The municipal and School departments continue to work through the budgets.

Ms. Malone reviewed the Budget process timeline:

1. Distribution of budget Materials
2. Budget Development and Department Meetings
3. Preliminary Budget Submission
4. Presentation of Budget to Board of Selectmen and Finance
5. Finance Committee Budget Hearings and Financial Planning Committee Budget Review

Ms. Malone noted that this process is normally a 6-month process and now the Amended Preliminary Budget process has been condensed to a two-month process.

Goal of the Administration is to put together a package that maintains all of our critical services, but also retains as many employees as possible. Ms. Malone added that if individuals have questions on the budgets, cleargov.com is the online platform being used for the amended preliminary budget. This does have a line by line of each of our departments. You can see the year over year and what has been increased or decreased over a period of time.

Ms. Adelman Foster: Would like a thorough and specific understanding of what is being proposed and a definition of the reduction that is being recommended, the costs that come with it, net savings, and the service impact for the Town. The question was also as to what would occur if we received more funding or less funding than we are assuming.

B. Town Moderator

1. The Town Moderator is proposing a Further recess of Town Meeting from June 8th to July 7th 2020. Mr. Foss cannot put out a date more than 30 days.

On a Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0, to support the Town Moderator's Renewed Declaration of the Recess and Continuation of the Town of Natick's 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting from June 8th to July 7th 2020. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

2. Moderator's Preliminary Thoughts on Town Meeting

Mr. Foss/Town Moderator made a list of his preliminary thoughts/bullet points on Town Meeting:

1. Timing
2. Location
3. Communications.
4. Voting Mechanisms and Technology
5. Bathrooms
6. Media Press
7. Check-in procedures
8. Gloves and Hand washing
9. Social Distancing
10. Distributing information (paper)
11. Would we have a "mock" Town Meeting prior to the actual event?
12. How will we deal with all the paper that we usually deal with?

Mr. Foss also noted that if legislation is passed for the "virtual Town Meeting", he will be back to discuss all of that information at another time.

A. Bond Transaction

Ms. Malone, Town Administrator: The Bond transaction was initially tried on March 10, 2020. Ms. Malone noted that over the last two years she has recommended to put over \$2 million dollars in stabilization funds. The Town is now being recognized for our fiscal discipline. In the next 8-10 years, the taxpayer will see a savings of \$300-500.00 dollars. Because we have a AAA bond rating we will also have a better rating for borrowing. We typically borrow once to twice a year.

These decisions allow us to do better for our community.

B. Economic Development Committee

Mr. Freas, Director of Community and Economic Development: We continue to work with Natick Center Associates, this Board and other local businesses. We are also working with restaurants to see how many customers they can accommodate at any given time. As we focus on safety, we look to see if there are public spaces that can be (at times) made available for seating areas. Mr. Freas also added that on the regulatory side, we are looking at issues of licensing and zoning. We are hoping to come back to the Board as early as next week with some possible solutions.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Natick High School Car Parade Permit
- B. Appoint James Errickson as Primary Representative to West Suburban Health Group Board
- C. Authorize Chair to sign letter to West Suburban Health Group re: Appointment to their Steering Committee
- D. Appointment of Town Administrator as Designee for FEMA and Cares Act Reimbursements
- E. Weekly Warrant Review
- F. Approve Meeting Minutes

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board Voted 5-0-0, by Roll Call Vote, to approve the Consent Agenda. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, a Roll Call Vote was taken to enter into Executive Session. The vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION This portion of the meeting is not open to the public.

- B. To consider the purchase of real property where discussion in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town.
- C. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, where an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body, and the chair so declares – JLM-20-7878 - Natick Firefighters Local 1707, IAFF and the Town of Natick
- D. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(3) - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the Chair so declares: Supervisors' and Administrators' Association (DPW Supervisors); Public Employees Local Union 1116 (DPW Laborers); Public Employees Local Union 1116 (Clerical); Public Employees Local Union 1116 (Library); Maintenance and Custodians Local 1116 (Facilities Maintenance); Deputy Chiefs Association; International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO, Local 1707; New England Police Benevolent Association, Local 182; New England Police Benevolent Association, Local 82; Natick Patrol Officers' Association

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board unanimously voted, by Roll Call Vote, to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 11:23PM. The Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Clerk

May 26, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes Approved by the Board of Selectmen on September 16, 2020.

All documents used at this Board of Selectmen meeting are available at:

<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=751&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agenda>