

SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF NATICK

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Conducted Via Virtual Meeting (ZOOM Meeting)

September 30, 2020

6:00 PM

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Melissa A. Malone, Deputy Town Administrator, James Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator - Operations, Dorothy Blondiet, Director of Human Resources, James White, Director Department of Public Health, Diane Packer, Town Clerk, Dr. Anna Nolin, Superintendent of Schools, Executive Assistant, Joan M. McNamara

ABSENT: None

Chair Freedman called the meeting to order at 6:05PM and noted that the Meeting is being recorded by Pegasus and Zoom. Chair Freedman also noted that all votes taken will be by Roll Call Vote. Instructions were also given that there is a "raise hand" button for those who wish to participate during this meeting. For those participating by phone, please press *9 to raise your hand and #6 to unmute your phone.

Chair Freedman states that he will read the items for Executive Session this evening and also notes that we will be returning to Open Session at approximately 8:15PM. Chair Freedman noted that we have 1 item for Executive Session and read the following:

- A. 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

On a Motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 4-0-0 to enter into Executive Session. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Jennett | Yes |
| Ms. Salamoff | Yes |
| Ms. Adelman-Foster | Yes |
| Mr. Freedman: | Yes |

Mr. Hickey joined the Board in Executive Session

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Open session resumed at 7:48PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence was observed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. St. Patrick's Project Update see attachment

Stonegate Group will begin the demolition of the 2-family house, barn and former funeral home located at 4 & 6 Lincoln Street (the former St. Patrick's Parish Property) on Wednesday, September 30th starting at 7:00 am (weather permitting). We anticipate the demolition work to last for approximately 2 days.

B. Water Use Restriction see attachment

The Department of Public Works recommends that the Town Administrator lift the mandatory water use restriction on non-essential outdoor use that was instituted on August 10, 2020.

C. Early Voting Flyer

There will be early in-person voting at the Morse Institute Library from October 17th through October 30th:

Saturdays and Sundays: October 17-18 and 24-25: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM;

Mondays-Wednesdays: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Thursdays: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Fridays: 9:00 AM - Noon

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Ms. Martha Paynter read a statement regarding the impact of the licensing of marijuana retail stores in the neighborhood of Jennings Morse's Pond/Rte. 9.

Kwesi: Budu Arthur read a statement regarding the Jennings and Morse's Pond neighborhood regarding traffic impact of marijuana retail stores and lack of parking in the area.

Daniel Zitnick spoke regarding the incident on the common last Saturday where a large crowd gathered for political reasons.

SELECT BOARD UPDATES

A. COVID-19

James White: There has been an uptick in the Mass COVID numbers. A 1% increase in the number of positive tests. Metrics in hospitalizations have gone up (400 hospitalized). The numbers haven't been this way since July. There has been an uptick in Middlesex as well, however Natick remains in the green (20 positive cases with 3000 tests)

conducted).

- B. Dr. Anna Nolin, Superintendent of Schools: Natick High School is now closed for 2 weeks due to a non-compliance issue. We cannot control how people behave outside of school and then they return to school. Because we could not get truthful answers, we decided to close Natick High School for two weeks.

1. DISCUSSION AND DECISION

A. Water and Sewer Abatement Appeals

1. William Kourtis/LILI Realty Trust

Mr. Kourtis of LILI Realty Trust appeared for a water/sewer abatement hearing before the Select Board this evening. In order to more fully understand all the details of this abatement, Mr. Erickson will be checking all the numbers and rates and will get back to the Board. Mr. Kourtis will appear at a subsequent hearing for a formal decision before this Board.

B. Consider establishing a Town Government Study Committee

The full memo from Frank Foss, Town Moderator and Ms. Salamoff, Board Member, of the Proposed Town Government Study Committee is attached to this agenda for this evening's discussion. Highlights from the memoranda are below:

At this time in our history, it seems prudent to evaluate the current structure of our town government and consider if there are more immediate changes that would create more efficiencies in the operation of our government as well as create better citizen access and ability to participate in their town government.

Should there be term limits for elected or appointed Boards, Committees or Commissions?
Should Natick consider changing the overall structure of its government?

We propose the Select Board appoint a 9-member Town Government Study Committee to be composed of a present or past Select Board member, the Town of Natick Finance Director or designee, the Town Moderator and 6 citizens at large. At least two of the at large appointees should have served as a Town Meeting member for three years. The study committee shall provide a preliminary report to the Select Board within 6 months of being established. The report should include status of work and a plan to provide recommendations to the Select Board by 1-15-2022. Municipal counsel or consultant should be engaged to work with the Town Government Study Committee.

C. Forecasts - Revenue, Expenses and Tax Rate –

This item has been taken off the agenda for this week.

- D. Special Town Meeting #1 Financial Motions: Article 1 Fiscal 2021 Omnibus Budget; Article 2 Town Meeting Funding; Article 3 Amend Town By-Laws: Amendment to Town By-law – Article 41A – Revolving Funds; Article 4 Stabilization Fund; Article 5 Operational/Rainy Day Stabilization Fund; Article 6 Capital Stabilization Fund; Article 7 Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Appropriation or Transfer of Funds; Article 8 Collective Bargaining; Article 10 PEG Access and Cable Related Fund; Article 11 Rescind Authorized, Unissued Debt; Article 12 Unpaid Bills; Article 15 Increase Gross Receipts for Eligibility for Property Tax Deferral Program; Article 19 FY20 and FY21 COVID-19 Related Expenses of Natick Public Schools

2. Consider any other warrant articles to discuss for the Special Town Meeting#1

Article 1 Fiscal 2021 Omnibus Budget

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to recommend favorable action on Article 1. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

Article 2 Town Meeting Funding: Amendment to Town By-law – Article 41A – Revolving Funds: On hold per Mr. Freedman

Article 3 Amend Town By-Laws

On a Motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Ms. Adelman-Foster, the Board, by Roll Call Voted 5-0-0 to recommend no action on Article 3. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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

Article 4 Stabilization Fund

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board, by Roll Call Voted 5-0-0 to recommend no action on Article 4. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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

Article 5 Operational/Rainy Day Stabilization Fund and Article 6 Capital Stabilization Fund;

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board, by Roll Call Voted 5-0-0 to recommend no action on Articles 5 and 6. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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

Article 7 Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Appropriation or Transfer of Funds;

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board, by Roll Call Voted 5-0-0 to recommend favorable action on Article 7. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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

Article 8 Collective Bargaining, Article 11 Rescind Authorized, Unissued Debt; Article 12 Unpaid Bills; and Article 15 Increase Gross Receipts for Eligibility for Property Tax Deferral Program;

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board, by Roll Call Voted 5-0-0 to recommend no action on Articles 8, 11, 12 and 15. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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

Article 10 PEG Access and Cable Related Fund

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board, by Roll Call Voted 5-0-0 to recommend favorable on Article 10. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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

Article 19 FY20 and FY21 COVID-19 Related Expenses of Natick Public Schools

This Article will be on the next Select Board agenda.

- E. Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles: Article 4 Amend Zoning By-Laws: Downtown Mixed-Use District: Ground Floor Residential Uses; Article 5 Amend Zoning By-Laws: Incremental Parking Schedule; Article 9 Sherborn Sanitary Sewer Extension (Pulte Homes) Inter-municipal Agreement; Article 10 Authorize Special Legislation Article 97 Land Disposition of a Portion of 181 West Central Street

A full discussion by the Board was had on Article 10. Randy Johnson presented a presentation on Affordable Veterans' Housing on the 181 West Central Street site for the development of this housing.

Some Select Board members did not feel ready to take any action on this. Chair Freedman will add Article 10 to next week's agenda once again.

Article 10 Authorize Special Legislation Article 97 Land Disposition of a Portion of 181 West Central Street

Mr. Hickey has left the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Procurement Officer Award Contract

- A. 1. Approve Second Contract Extension with Aggregate Industries effective until November 25, 2021
2. Approve Change Order - South Main Street Project - Fire Alarm Replacement
- B. Weekly Warrant Review
- C. Approve Meeting Minutes Meeting Minutes June 1, 2020
- D. Clifton, Larson, Allen Engagement Renewal
- E. Sign Warrant for Presidential Election – Removed

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On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 4-0-0 to Approve Items A-D only of the Consent Agenda. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Jennett | Yes |
| Ms. Adelman-Foster | Yes |
| Ms. Salamoff | Yes |
| Mr. Freedman: | Yes |

On a Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 4-0-0, to sign the Warrant for Presidential Election and to Use electronic signatures. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mr. Jennett | Yes |
| Ms. Adelman-Foster | Yes |
| Ms. Salamoff | Yes |
| Mr. Freedman: | Yes |

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 4-0-0 to Adjourn the Select Board Meeting at 11:35PM. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Mr. Jennett | Yes |
| Ms. Salamoff | Yes |
| Mr. Hickey: | Yes |
| Mr. Freedman: | Yes |

Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Clerk

_____, Select Board Meeting Minutes Approved by the Select Board on _____.

All documents used at this Select Board meeting are available at:

<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=795&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agend>