

SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF NATICK

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Conducted Via Virtual Meeting (ZOOM Meeting)

October 7, 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 Malone, Deputy Town Administrator, James Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator – Finance, John Townsend; Frank Foss, Town Moderator; Dorothy Blondiet, Director of Human Resources, James Freas, Director of Community and Economic Development, Chief of Police, James Hicks; Lieutenant Cara Rossi, Natick PD; 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 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 7:00PM. Chair Freedman noted that we have 1 item for Executive Session and read the following:

- A. Pursuant to MGL c. 30A, S. 21 (a)(3) - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares: New England Police Benevolent Association, Local 82

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

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

Mr. Jennett joined the Board in Executive Session.

Open session resumed at 7:15PM.

Chair Freedman stated 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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Cochituate Rail Trail

Installation of the Route 9 Bridge for the Cochituate Rail Trail is scheduled for the night of Sunday, October 11th through the morning of Monday, October 12th. Route 9 will be closed in both directions from 10:00 PM until 5:00 AM, and traffic detours will be in place. Businesses along Route 9 have been notified. Variable message boards are in place to alert motorists of the closure and detours. If the bridge installation is postponed for any reason, a public announcement will be made to this effect.

The Route 30 bridge is expected to be installed later in October. Expect an announcement in the coming weeks.

Please note that the CRT in Natick is not currently open to the public.

For project information, please visit natickma.gov/crt

B. Eversource – outreach on disconnections

EVERSOURCE Community Relations & Economic Development has put out some information regarding Commercial Customers pertaining to Outreach on Resuming Disconnections for Commercial Customers. disconnect notifications resumed for business customers in Massachusetts on September 29, and disconnections for non-payment are planned to resume for business customers on October 27. For all contact information and phone numbers please see Eversource's full attachment to this agenda.

C. Elections

A new ballot box will be installed early next week outside in a covered area outside the building. This will accommodate the needs of the upcoming election and town hall.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Amy Brooks Smith read a statement regarding community and citizens' concerns regarding a proposed marijuana dispensary on Worcester street. She is questioning why this address may be chosen especially with this area having such major traffic issues. Ms. Brooks Smith is asking if 42 and 6 Worcester Street could be put on hold.

APPOINTMENTS

A. Approve Committee Appointments

1. Michael Walz, Cochituate Rail Trail Advisory Committee

Mr. Walz joined the meeting this evening and presented himself as a candidate to the Advisory Committee. He is an avid cyclist and has been a fan of the CRT ever since it began. He stated that last Tuesday, he had the opportunity to walk the site. He is a professional photographer and has lived in Natick 27 years.

On a Motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by The Board by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to appoint Mr. Walz to the Cochituate Rail Trail Advisory Committee for the period expiring June 30, 2023. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

Malcolm Sockol, Council on Aging:

Mr. Sockol also joined us this evening and presented himself to the Board for a seat on the Council on Aging. Mr. Sockol stated that he has been involved in the senior center for quite some time, has helped with meals on wheels and knows everyone at the center. He's excited to move forward.

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to appoint Mr. Sockol to the Council on Aging for the period expiring June 30, 2023. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

SELECT BOARD UPDATES

A. COVID-19

Mr. Errickson is present this evening to give an update on behalf of James White, Director of Department of Health. There has been an uptick in Massachusetts, however Natick is still in the green. 1.1% in Massachusetts. Hospitalizations at 515. ICU cases at 34. Middlesex County 134 cases.

There will be CDC guidelines for Halloween. Trick or treaters should stay in their family units for Halloween. Bowls for communal grabbing should be discouraged. People should still be social distancing and wearing face masks.

A new ballot box will be installed early next week outside in a covered area outside the building. This will accommodate the needs of the upcoming election and town hall.

B. Update on Jail Diversion Program:

Lieutenant Cara Rossi is here this evening from the Natick Police Dept. along with their Social Worker Sonya Wagner, to speak to the Board about the Jail Diversion Program.

Also Chief Hicks was present to make the introduction to the Board and states that they have had the program for a relatively short period of time, but that Lt. Rossi has really been the person who has organized from the ground up.

Lieutenant Rossi stated that the police officer and social worker complement each other. The clinician – Sonya, provides follow-up so that resources can be provided. This cuts down on repeat calls for service and helps to ensure that officers are not going to the same place time and again. This is a win/win. Officers are now developing social work approaches to situations. Since having Sonya we now have an alternative to approaches in many different situations. Sonya works with the Fire Department, seniors, juveniles and anyone in a “vulnerable population”. About 75% of people who present with criminal behavior are diverted to other treatment such as a healthcare facility, recovery center or some place for mental healthcare.

Sonya Wagner has been there for about a year and a half. During that time, there have been 307 interventions, 85 of which were emergency room diversions. Total cost savings to date is \$413,000.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

A. Policy on the use of Natick Common

This item was not taken up this evening and will be pushed ahead to another meeting.

B. 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;

Article 4 Amend Zoning By-Laws: Downtown Mixed-Use District: Ground Floor Residential Uses;

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to move for favorable action for Article 4. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

Article 5 Amend Zoning By-Laws: Incremental parking Schedule: Mr. Errickson states that according to Mr. Freas there is no update and the finance committee has recommended to return to sponsor.

At this time, the Board will table discussion on Article 5 and has taken no action this evening.

Article 9 Sherborn Sanitary Sewer Extension (Pulte Homes) Inter-municipal Agreement:

Article 9 will not be ready for Town Meeting. We would like to bring this back in the spring. Recommend referral to sponsor.

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to recommend referral to sponsor for Article 9. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

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

No actions were taken nor motions made on Article 10.

Mr. Hickey left the Meeting

C. Special Town Meeting #1 Financial Motions: Article 2 Town Meeting Funding; Article 19 FY20 and FY21 COVID-19 Related Expenses of Natick Public Schools

Article 1 Fiscal 2021 Omnibus Budget: Mr. Freedman noted that the Board had already taken a vote to support Article 1, not on specific motions but on the Article itself.

Article 2 Town Meeting Funding;

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Adelman-Foster, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 4-0-0 to recommend favorable action on Article 2, Town Meeting Funding. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

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

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

Article 20 Facilities Management Department

On a Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Adelman-Foster, The Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 4-0-0, to refer Article 20 Facilities Management Department, to sponsor. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

D. Forecasts - Revenue, Expenses and Tax Rate; and Strategic Planning for FY 22-25

Ms. Malone and Mr. Townsend were present this evening and presented a full presentation entitled "Financial Review and Forecast to the Select Board" dated 9.30.20, as well as a subsequent document entitled Budget Change Scenario Table. Both of those documents are attached to our agenda this evening.

Ms. Malone also noted that we would be looking at three major things during this presentation:

1. Financial Indicators
2. Forecast
3. Strategic Plan and decision points

After the presentations, Mr. Freedman noted that any further questions should be sent directly to the Administration for direct follow-up. These discussions will also continue next week.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Green Communities Project Contracts
- B. Weekly Warrant Review

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Adelman-Foster, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 4-0-0 to approve the Consent Agenda. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

On a Motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 4-0-0 to Adjourn the Select Board Meeting at 11:04PM. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

Michael J. Hickey, 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=810&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agend>