



APPROVED

**MINUTES**  
**SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY**  
**MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021**  
**5:30 PM (Executive Session)**  
**6:30 PM (Regular Session)**

RELEASED

**SELECTMEN PARTICIPATING:** Larry Ballantine, Michael MacAskill, Edward McManus and Donald Howell

**ALSO PARTICIPATING:** Town Administrator Joseph F. Powers

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Ballantine opened the meeting for May 17, 2021 at 5:30 PM. And proceeded to complete a roll call vote. All members of the Board of Selectmen responded that they were present.

Selectmen MacAskill moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Selectmen Howell, followed by a unanimous vote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Pursuant to MGL c30A s21(a) paragraph 3 to discuss with respect to collective bargaining for all town unions if an open session would have a detrimental effect on the town's bargaining position and the chair so declares.

Mr. Ballantine stated that they had a good hour discussion and look forward to working with the union on the upcoming contracts. Regular Session opened at 6:35 PM. Mr. Ballantine invited attendees to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**WEEKLY BRIEFING**

A. COVID-19 Updates

Town Administrator commented that this will be one of many dates that will be remembered for quite some time, referencing the announcements made by Governor Baker today regarding COVID-19. He informed the Board that given that many industry restrictions will be lifted as of May 29th and recognizing that the Governor will declare the pandemic state of emergency to be dissolved of June 15th and recognizing that there is an employee vaccination clinic on May 6th, it is his recommendation to open town buildings as of June 15th. The clinic will allow employees to finalize their vaccination process including the recommended 15 days. If the Board is agreeable, it will be broadcast widely that we are looking to be open June 15th. We can also expect to resume regular meetings at the regular meeting on June 21st. It may also mean that we no longer have to dedicate time to the COVID-19 weekly briefing but rather as the need arises. The Board didn't offer any objections to the recommendation.

Dr. Katie O'Neill Health Director reported that Governor Baker made substantial announcements today, Massachusetts is on track to meet its vaccination goal. The remaining restrictions will be lifted on May 29th. The state of emergency is projected to end June 15th. We do not yet now if there are any transitional conditions, those will follow. There is a state wide call with the Department of public Health tomorrow and there will be some additional clarification. Harwich has been moved back into the green with a positivity rate of 1.5%, currently following 2 active cases. The Board of Health will be meeting

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remotely this Friday at 10:00AM to discuss and vote on their current mask mandate along Rte. 28 in Harwich. We don't know where we stand with any restaurant changes or the expansion of the outdoor liquor license, hopefully those questions will be answered this week.

Town Administrator Powers stated that we will be relying on ABCC's guidance in relation to Governor Baker's orders. Outdoor seating may revert back to inside.

Mr. Howell asked if the June 15th dates a withdrawal of the state of emergency or a change in the level of enforcement of what they're having closed and open.

Town Administrator Powers replied that his understanding is that the Governor is declaring the state of emergency is over as of June 15th. That is significant and we will then seek information on orders that were post emergency state dated.

Mr. Howell commented that every license that the Board granted giving them the extra ability to dine outside was conditioned with the same exact thought that 60 days after the expiration that everything would change. He is interested in whether that would be an automatic something or other or does the Board have to make an affirmative move to continue to allow something.

Town Administrator Powers stated that they will have to rely on the various agencies for information and then come back to this Board to advise before you taking any action as the local licensing authority.

#### B. Update on ongoing efforts by the Town in support of the business community

Cynthia Williams Director of the Chamber of Commerce commented that after talking to Dr. O'Neill, they will be opening the Visitors' Center on the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend and will be open 7 days a week. They will also be selling beach and transfer stickers to residents and visitors starting June 1st through Labor Day. She is excited to welcome everybody back in and share what Harwich has to offer.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amy Usowski Conservation Administrator announced that the first nest of piping plovers is due to hatch this week at Red River Beach and that is the only pair there this year. They are hopeful in the Conservation Department that if these birds hatch within the next week, that they will have fledged or flown in advance of July 4th. People will also notice that today the Highway Department assisted in putting up jersey barriers on the east end of the parking lot at Red River Beach as they have in previous years. That was a requirement by the state to keep vehicles away from the nest and the chicks. The barriers will be removed once the birds are flying. There are signs near the barriers alerting people to what they are. There are several pairs in the Bank Street vicinity that are not set to hatch for another week or two. She also mentioned that a couple of residents have made it known to the Natural Resource Director and the Health Department that there is a bit of an algae bloom starting over at Sand Pond, about a 2-3 foot wide strip along the south shore and they check it daily. It is not in the concentration that is a hazard at this point. If it starts to involve a larger area they will involve the county and the state to look into it further.

Mr. McManus noted that the APCC, the Association to Protect Cape Cod, is doing pond sampling for the algae issue. He asked if they had been contacted to do sampling.

Ms. Usowski replied that they have not contacted the APCC. She believes they were starting to check the fees for that and she is willing to make a preemptive call and see if they'd be willing to come out and

look. They are not necessarily recognized by the state as being something that they should rely on 100% for these results.

Robbin Kelley Cemetery Administrator announced three events coming up at the arboretum proper. The James G. Marceline Arboretum Grand Opening Friday, May 21st from 10:00-2:00. They are partnering with Americorp of Cape Cod. She thanked everyone who helped with this project. The first event will be talking about the development of the arboretum, showing where the invasive species was removed and will be continue to be removed. There are new gardens going in, including a native species garden. The second event is the 3rd annual tree tour which is Wednesday, June 9th from 11:00 to 1:00. They partner with the Garden Club members for this event. The third is Arts in the Arboretum which will be in the end of July, the 26th through the 31st, no date set yet.

Mr. McManus offered an update on Harwich Center. The Shared Streets Project started today. The first phase of it is putting in handicapped ramps at the end of each crosswalk. The next step will be to do the remarking of the traffic lanes. After that is the moving in of the flower planters on both the north and south sides. If the COVID regulations change we may have outdoor dining areas that can no longer be used. We will have to find out what the Governor's announcement means, it could affect this project in a number of ways. One of the things in the plan that could go ahead with way is the setting up of a bicycle parking area in the street. We are under contract for the handicapped ramps and the street re-striping. The yellow lines in the center will be widened to allow for the signs in the crosswalks. That will provide for a safer environment for pedestrians. Mr. McManus stated for the public that he is not now nor has he ever been employed or a contractor for The Seal Restaurant. His association with them is strictly because they're the closest local coffee shop to where he lives. He has volunteered with them to train some of their new employees with the new espresso machine as he had one and is familiar with how it works.

Mr. Howell commented that he was under the impression that there was no loss of permanent parking and he asked if that has changed.

Mr. McManus answered that with the current plan, some of the spaces will be moved around from the north side to the south side of the street but will then go further down the street. If the plan stays as it is now there would be a loss of one parking space.

Mr. Howell feels that if we were doing permanent changes we should get more input from the people in the area. He thought this was temporary.

Mr. McManus replied that it's not permanent, it's paint on the sidewalk and if it doesn't work out it can be redone.

Elaine Meehan commented that she does not agree. She feels that all of the parking is being eliminated across the street from her. O'Delle's has a substantial amount of clientele who are mature and she asked where they are expected to park and get to her store. They would have to come across Main Street which is busy or come from Town Hall which is very unrealistic. There are discrepancies from one set of plans to another. The parking in front of the church is eliminated, the parish hall and all the way across from her and in front of The Seal. She designs, Aging in Place Mature Handicapped bathrooms all day long, but she would have to have all those people bring tile down. If the line in the middle of the street and all the street lines are repainted, whose expense will it be to repave the road and repaint all of those lines? The other part that has been left out is that The Seal is planning on putting on a deck that will be at curb height for seating in the street with these barriers. The first impression of Harwich when you come off the highway is jersey barriers. She asked who is liable if someone falls off that platform and into the street. What you're talking about is alcohol, being served out in the street. She also asked, when they walk their dogs down the middle of Harwich Center which is actually through a restaurant, if it is legal

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and OK by the Health Board. She commented that the grant that we were to be given, was to help everybody through COVID. What the Board is doing is hindering all of our businesses except for The Seal and making it difficult for any of them to come through and to purchase things. She is hearing that the CDC is lifting this. They won't be able to serve outside and they won't be able to serve in the street. She asked why the town is going to the expense of painting the streets and the town tax payers are going to have to pay to repaint them.

Town Administrator Powers replied that he doesn't believe the last statement is accurate. The local licensing authority has not expanded service to the sidewalk. The service is contained to the licensed establishment which includes their outside area aka their current deck. He is unaware of any effort to extent that into the roadway or the sidewalk generally and if that was to happen it would have to come back before this Board. The other comments about the timing are accurate. He cannot speak beyond that and he does not know which plans the previous speaker was talking about. The plans have been slightly changed to impact upon traffic calming on the north side of the street. Beyond that there are no major changes to the plans.

Mr. Ballantine commented that it is not on the agenda so they cannot take a formal action on this.

Ms. Meehan commented that the Board was aware of this because they had a fact finding meeting and they were supposed to bring all those facts back to the Selectmen which was 2 1/2 weeks ago. The Board has chosen not to respond to her emails. She isn't sure what happened to the fact finding because clearly the Selectmen were not given it. It is very clear that there is seating out in front of The Seal in the street and you and I spoke about that at our fact finding meeting.

Town Administrator Powers responded that the Board has not been presented with any applications to expand seating out to the sidewalk. If it was contemplated in prior designs, that would be prior designs. There is no service of alcohol beyond the deck.

Mr. MacAskill noted that this is Public Comment/Announcement, this is not an agenda item and he asked that it be brought back on the 24th for further conversation. In that meeting he suggests that they have some actual plans of what is taking place so that they can view actual plans.

Lucy Brackett, a Harwich Center resident, is aware of the no parking constraints and a neighbor concerned on businesses because she has been through it personally. In terms of the postponement until the 24th, would that mean that the work will be continued tomorrow or would the work be halted until the 24th. She feels that if the work continues, it'll mean a lot of money to the Harwich business owners and the residents.

Mr. McManus replied that the work that is going on today, tomorrow and Wednesday are the handicapped ramps and at this point, if they are left as they are now, the Center will be in a state of not being passable. It doesn't make sense to take out the ramps that are done and replace the asphalt in their place. Those are the only permanent parts of the project.

Jenny Hewitt Library Director and Harwich Center resident commented that regardless of what happens with the parking spaces and the barriers, she hopes that all of the striping and narrowing of the corners at the Oak Street and Bank Street intersections can still go forward. If work is stopped, it doesn't leave much time before the end of May when all the work has to be done.

Peter Moore owner of Ruggies commented that this grant was in order to help businesses and promote safety during COVID times and since the Governor's announcement of the removal of the COVID

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regulations, he doesn't feel this project should move forward and the grant money isn't going to what it was intended to be used for.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

A. Public Hearing continued from May 3, 2021 - Discussion and possible vote to approve the transfer of the Seasonal, All Alcohol, On Premise Liquor License from Phoenix Park, LLC DBA The Cape Cod Irish Pub, Brandon O'Reilly Manager to Chase Escape Cape Cod, LLC DBA The Summer House Cafe - 126 Route 28

Mr. MacAskill moved to open the Public Hearing that was continued from May 3, 2021 with the intent to read the advertisement and then immediately close it. Mr. MacAskill moved to open the Public Hearing, notice is hereby given under Chapter 138 of MGL as amended that application has been made to this Board for a transfer of Seasonal, On Premise All Alcohol, On Premise Liquor License from Phoenix Park, LLC DBA The Cape Cod Irish Pub to Chase Escape Cape Cod, LLC, DBA The Summer House Cafe - 126 Route 28, West Harwich, MA, Thomas Paulini Manager on the following described premises located at 126 Route 28, West Harwich, MA, a two story wood structure with 9 rooms on the first floor including dining room and lounge, 5 rooms on the upper floor, a cellar for storage with rear entrances and exits on easterly side of building and one entrance and exit on the rear existing outdoor deck. The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on the application on Monday, May 3, 2021, no earlier than 6:30 PM remotely via Go To Meeting at which time all interested parties are cordially invited to dial in. The Board of Selectmen, Local Licensing Authority, advertise Cape Cod Times April 15, 2021. 2nd by Mr. Howell. The vote was 4-0-0 with Mr. Howell, Mr. MacAskill, Mr. McManus and Mr. Ballantine voting aye by roll call.

Mr. Ballantine noted that they received a memo today asking for a continuance.

Town Administrator Powers commented that Mr. Paulini has been following up, he had not finished his food service permit and building. He is hopeful that his paperwork will be completed so the Board can contemplate this for May 24th. The applicant has expressed a desire to open for Memorial Day but that would not have been the case based on the original hearing date given that it takes 5-7 weeks for the state to go through their processes.

Mr. MacAskill moved to close said Public hearing, 2nd by Mr. Howell. The vote was 4-0-0 with Mr. MacAskill, Mr. Howell, Mr. McManus and Mr. Ballantine voting aye by roll call.

Mr. MacAskill moved to continue to a date certain of May 24th no earlier than 6:30 PM, 2nd by Mr. Howell

Town Administrator Powers asked if closing was for the purpose of continuing. He just wants to make that clear, the original notice still stands, we do not have to re-notice etc.

The vote was 4-0-0 with Mr. MacAskill, Mr. McManus, Mr. Howell and Mr. Ballantine voting aye by roll call.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Discussion and possible vote - Coastal Resilience Grant Program FY22 - Lothrop Avenue Water Main Improvements

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Russ Klekamp from GHD has been working with Dan Pelletier, Water Superintendent on these wastewater items. When grants are advertised for the state, this one is the Coastal Resilience Program, they are good grants to go after. Mr. Pelletier brought this above grade water main on Lothrop Avenue to his attention. The grant will help fund the final design and permitting of relocating this main underground. It is in a wetland area and will probably be directional drilled. As a bonus they get to do some habitat restoration at the salt marsh where the main is running through would be restored. He feels it's a very competitive application. The overall project cost is \$91,000.00 however 75% is funded through the grant which is approximately \$69,000.00. The in-kind services by Mr. Pelletier and his staff total roughly \$11,000.00 so the only cash the town would have to expend is roughly \$12,000.00 for the final design and permitting of the water main relocation. If successful they would pursue this funding program or the MVP funding program to help with construction funds. Both of these grants offer up to a million for the Coastal Resiliency and 2 million for the MVP for construction projects. While it is expensive to directional drill, if we can get 75% of it funded, it makes it much more palatable for the Water Department.

Mr. MacAskill asked what the Board needs to do to give him approval to go ahead.

Town Administrator Powers replied that it would be the intent tonight for the Board to accept the draft language that was in the packet, recognizing that there is a scribbler's omission so there's one letter that needs to be added to the word please and then the Board could sign it tomorrow and it could be released.

So moved by Mr. McManus, 2nd by Mr. MacAskill.

Mr. Ballantine commented that he appreciates that they have the value of the grant to do the work and the in house charge so we have indirect expense of our own labor in this as well.

The vote was 4-0-0 with Mr. MacAskill, Mr. McManus and Mr. Howell and Mr. Ballantine voting aye by roll call

#### B. Discussion and possible vote - FY22 Disposal Area fee recommendation

Lincoln Hooper Director of Public Works referred to a memo from him recommending a fee increase of \$25.00 for the residential permit and \$25.00 for the nonresidential permit which would move the prices to \$185.00 and \$225.00 respectively. Nearly the same recommendation was made last year based on the fact that on January 1, 2020 the town entered into new solid waste contracts that increased the town's disposal costs from \$60.00 per ton to \$90.00 per ton. The simple way to look at the cost impact of that on a resident is that the DEP considers that the average residence produces 1.25 tons of solid waste per year. If the math is applied to that, it's approximately \$37.00 per ton increase. He is recommending a \$25.00 increase to remain in a full cost recovery model that we have been in for about the last 15 years. That is the disposal area user fees cover the operational costs including direct costs and indirect costs that are on the spreadsheets included in the memo. We changed in COVID to a single stream recycling model. That is when one can put all of their recyclables into one container. That has worked remarkably well however that convenience comes at a cost. The cost is \$105.00 per ton, over a year that's about \$110,000.00 annually along with about \$50,000.00 in recycling revenue. When the single stream model was instituted they were very clear that it was a temporary measure and that they would return to a source separated model where the residents put their various recyclables in different receptacles and we ensure the quality of that and get paid for most of it. Some people will be surprised and not happy with the change returning to the separate recycling that we've had for years. On the flip side we have been asked by many residents when we were going to go back. There is a population that actually enjoys the recycling.

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Mr. McManus commented that Mr. Hooper indicated the single stream was running at \$110,000.00. If we go back to source separating model, what would the cost be?

Mr. Hooper replied that the net impact is about \$160,000.00. He estimated that they would lose about \$50,000.00 from recycled revenue from using this model. He pointed out that they have not had to come back and address this because the Cares funding has covered the tip fee for the single stream recycling.

Mr. McManus asked when the Cares Act funding ends.

Mr. Hooper has been in discussion with the Finance Director about this and she has not been able to tell him definitively but it will most certainly be before the end of the calendar year.

Mr. MacAskill commented that he does not think they should be raising the taxpayer's fee by 15+% now and he would argue that they should be raising the commercial MSW rate and he did see the notes on who our competitors are on C and D. He appreciates the volume and how well the dump is run but we should be doing anything and everything we can to reduce rates to the residents and make the commercial haulers pay the difference. He would support a nonresident's increase but he cannot support a resident's increase.

Mr. Ballantine questioned the different perspectives. You're keeping ours lower because of the competition. He asked why we are treating it that way and keeping it low based on that. We offer a great service here.

Mr. Hooper replied that the Town of Yarmouth is the only other town that he is aware of on Cape Cod other than 2 private entities, that accepts commercial quantities of this. Their rate is \$145.00. We went to \$155.00 last year and we could go up on that and he doesn't think it would hinder the volume one iota. Building has been remarkably busy, we are almost at our permit limit, and we can't handle any more. If the Board had a pallet for that, they could cover the recommendation with a \$10.00 increase to yield that \$110,000.00 he recommended to raise for the residents.

Mr. McManus moved to leave the residential sticker at its current price and that we raise the C & D price from \$155.00 a ton to \$165.00 a ton and increase the nonresident sticker from \$200.00 to \$225.00, 2nd by Mr. MacAskill.

Mr. Howell asked if that accomplishes a net neutral mathematical equation.

Mr. Hooper replied yes, pretty much.

The vote was 4-0-0 with Mr. McManus, Mr. Howell, Mr. MacAskill and Mr. Ballantine voting aye by roll call.

Mr. Ballantine commented that he feels the right thing to do is go back to letting people sort.

Town Administrator Powers doesn't think they can operate under that notice. They would have to re-notice that specifically on the single stream because it was only for the disposal area fees and it is a policy vote to resume a single stream.

Mr. MacAskill doesn't think they have to make any action. The last action was taken by the DPW Director and he can take this action if given the consensus of the Board is that we want go back to sort separating.

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Mr. Ballantine states that there is a clear consensus to move back to that when we can.

Mr. Hooper asked if the Board would like the June 15th date or another date for that.

Mr. Ballantine suggested they go with the June 15th date for consistency.

C. Discussion and possible vote - 2021 Junk Dealer Renewal License -  
Windsong Antiques, Inc. 346 Route 28

Mr. MacAskill moved to approve as presented, 2nd by Mr. Ballantine. The vote was 4-0-0 with Mr. McManus, Mr. Howell, Mr. MacAskill and Mr. Ballantine voting aye by roll call.

D. Discussion on setting a special election to fill an expired term

Town Administrator Powers has suggested a special election, the Board's directive was to follow up with a memo and dates on the procedure. In the packet there are different dates that would apply. Once the Board puts notice on and sets a date for the election, the clerk will then create that calendar. At this point it's the Board indicating when they would want to have a conversation noticed on a meeting. He suggested the Board give themselves about 60 days from when they declared the election to when the election occurred. Looking at the legal requirements of the clerk, that may be sufficient.

Mr. Howell commented that they could notice it for next week but it's not noticed now for votes.

Mr. Ballantine suggested that if it's brought back next week, it'd be 60 days from that date at the earliest that the Board could start the action.

Mr. McManus commented that he had hoped to vote on this before his term on the Board terminated. He urged other Board members to put this through as soon as possible.

Mr. MacAskill suggested that when it comes back next week it'd include a few dates for the Special Election that would be good for the town. It appears that July 19th or 26th would be the earliest to have an election.

E. Discussion- Annual Liquor Licensing Meeting with Local Establishments

Town Administrator Powers commented that, with the changes and the announcement that Governor Baker made, they can now consider having a broader meeting. He would like to hold off on this discussion until he can have further conversation with Deputy Chief Considine.

F. Discussion and possible vote to approve Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

1. March 22, 2021
2. April 20, 2021

Mr. MacAskill moved to approve the Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes for March 22, 2021 and April 20, 2021, 2nd by Mr. Howell. The vote was 4-0-0 with Mr. Howell, Mr. McManus, Mr. MacAskill and Mr. Ballantine voting aye by roll call.

G. Presentation from the Library Director on new resumption of services.

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Virginia Hewitt Library Director stated that the library started allowing patrons inside today. She noted that initial open hours. This is counter to the day time only hours or the weekend only hours that other libraries have chosen. They feel it's important that people with school aged children or who work during the day aren't excluded. They hope to extend those hours in the summer and to return to normal schedules in the fall. They are asking patrons to limit their visits to 15 minutes and they're hoping to avoid an appointment only system. They are still requiring masks inside to try and keep everyone safe. All rooms are open and public computers are available. There are Chrome Books and Hot Spots that are available to check out and take home. Story Hour and Nit Wit will be held outside at Brooks Park, other programs will remain online. Curbside pickup is still available. Their plan for reopening is on the web site.

Mr. Howell commented that the Library has been very resilient and he appreciates that, even in the darkest days when people had to stay home, it was important that they had books, subscriptions and newspapers. The effort from the Library was incredible.

### **CONTRACTS:**

A. Discussion and possible vote for the Board of Selectmen to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to execute the CoMIRS Radio Upgrade Grant Award for the Fire Department with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Technology Services and Security for \$133,831.87

Mr. MacAskill asked if CoMIRS is the name of an acronym. The Board is not supposed to use acronyms on the agendas.

Fire Chief David LeBlanc responded that it is an acronym but he cannot say what it stands for. It's a state organization that has to do with radio upgrades.

Mr. Howell states that it is the Commonwealth Of Massachusetts Interoperable Radio System

Mr. MacAskill moved to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to execute the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Interoperable Radio System Radio Upgrade Grand Award for the Fire Department with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Technology Services and Security for \$133,831.87, 2nd by Mr. Howell. The vote was 4-0-0 with Mr. MacAskill, Mr. Howell, Mr. McManus and Mr. Ballantine voting aye by roll call.

B. Discussion and possible vote for the Board of Selectmen to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to execute the (CoMIRS) Commonwealth of Massachusetts Interoperable Radio System Radio Upgrade Grant Award for the Police Department with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Technology Services and Security for \$163,023.79

Mr. MacAskill moved to authorize the Chairman of there Board of Selectmen to execute the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Interoperable Radio System (CoMIRS) Radio Upgrade Grant Award for the Police Department with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Technology Services and Security for \$163,023.79, 2nd by Mr. Howell

Mr. Ballantine thanks the Chief for doing all the work for this grant money. It is very much appreciated.

Chief LeBlanc gave kudos to Deputy Thornton and Deputy Considine for doing all the work, cataloging every radio they have so they can get credit for those and reduce the cost to the town. Because of this grant, the entire upgrade will be taken care of which was in the capital plan for \$200,000.00 a year over

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five years. They were able to do a million dollars' worth of radio work in one year with a vast majority of it being paid by the Commonwealth.

Deputy Considine commented that the Chief did a lot of work on this and they appreciate this efforts. Desperately needed radios are coming and that's great news.

The vote was 4-0-0 with Mr. MacAskill, Mr. Howell, Mr. McManus and Mr. Ballantine voting aye by roll call.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Town Administrator Powers reported that they have received notice from Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod that they are building 6 homes on Murray Lane in Harwich. They are doing a virtual community kickoff next Monday, May 24th at 4:00 PM. There is information on their website. He will be participating in that. They are still looking for volunteers as they go forward in the program.

Mr. Howell recommended that they notice it in case the Selectmen want to sit in.

Town Administrator personally thanks Selectman McManus for his service on the Board. He wishes Mr. McManus every success going forward.

Mr. McManus stated that it has been a rewarding experience for him and he hopes for the town. He was involved in doing some very nice things here in the town, building projects such as the Police Station and Monomoy Regional High School. He mentioned the progress on the CWMP, he hopes they continue to give it the level of attention that has always had at the Board of Selectmen and at Town Meetings. He thanked all of the Selectmen there and others that he has served with and all of the town employees which are an overwhelmingly stellar group of public servants. All in all it's been a tremendous experience for him and if they have questions about things that happened 10 years ago, he can be helpful in providing answer and will be happy to do so.

Mr. Ballantine, Mr. MacAskill and Mr. Howell thanked Mr. McManus for his service and wished him the best.

### **SELECTMEN'S REPORT**

Mr. MacAskill asked Administration that prior to next week's meeting on the 24th that they can receive as much ahead of time on the Harwich Center plans as possible. He also encouraged that, through the emails they could try and work with some of the concerns related to the striping and the parking. One legitimate concern is the congestion and the ability to drive through Harwich Center. This conversation has been going on for over 20 years, there are a lot of ideas. We can get something done with this grant money, whatever isn't spent has to be given back. As for rumors or allegations about creating a deck for the Seal Pub, Governor's orders have been very specific about when they are lifting the state of emergency. There is no plan filed with the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health or anyone else related to deck service in Harwich Center. That rumor needs to go away. If it is ever applied for, there would be a Public Hearing on that because it's a change on a liquor license. He encouraged everyone to try and work together. To kill the whole project makes absolutely no sense.

Mr. Howell commented that they have met a few times at Hall's Path and they are still fact finding and anticipate that they'll gather more information and eventually report back.

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Mr. McManus also encouraged all to try and get as much worked out as they can. He is also concerned about safety and liability. There have been many incidences that could have been tragic if someone was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Town Administrators Powers stated that Tuesday, May 18th is the Annual Town Election. The polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM at the Community Center.

Mr. MacAskill moved to adjourn, 2nd by Mr. Howell, the vote was 4-0-0 with Mr. MacAskill, Mr. Howell, Mr. McManus and Mr. Ballantine voting aye by roll call.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith R. Moldstad  
Recording Secretary

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