

APPROVED

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TOWN CLERK
HARWICH, MA
MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL

2022 JUN -1 P 2:46
GRIFFIN ROOM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020
6:00PM EXECUTIVE SESSION
6:30PM REGULAR MEETING
REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

RELEASED

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

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Interim Town Administrator Powers

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Ballantine opened the Board of Selectmen's meeting for September 14, 2020 at 6:00PM. Mr. MacAskill moved to enter into Executive Session, 2nd by Mr. Howell. Vote 5:0 in favor. By roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Pursuant to MGL c30A section 21(a) paragraph 2 to conduct strategy sessions for contract negotiations for non-union personnel - Finance Director and Chief of Police
- B. Pursuant to MGL c30A section 21 (a) paragraph 3 to conduct strategy sessions in Executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy concerning a potential agreement with non-union personnel

Mr. Ballantine reported that the items listed above were discussed. He reopened the meeting at 6:30PM and invited attendees to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

WEEKLY BRIEFING

A. COVID-19 Updates

Meggan Eldredge Health Director updated with active cases and others being monitored in quarantine. Chatham is presently in the red which raises concerns about schools but all who are connected to the school have recovered.

Mr. McManus asked when they would be going back to recycling at the land fill.

Ms. Eldredge noted that Lincoln Hooper DPW Director has looked into it and what it cost the town.

Ginny Hewitt Library Director reported on the services they are offering and changes they have made to comply with restrictions. They will be opening to the public on September 29th and she

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described the process, restrictions and scheduling. She described programs they are offering virtually.

Interim Town Administrator Powers reported that they received notice from the ABCC regarding Phase 3 adjustments extending the outdoor seating time. This will be on the agenda in the fall.

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

Cindy Williams Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce reported new campaigns to help the businesses.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Announcement to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Award

David LeBlanc Fire Chief announced that the grant they had applied for had been approved for SCBA, compressors and emergency packs. It is a lesser amount than originally quoted but they can cover the cost. This also means that it will be taken off the Capital Plan for next year. He added that last year was the first they had done the CPU Program for Medicaid Supplemental funding for the Ambulance. They did it again this year and received \$160,000 from Medicaid which goes into their ambulance receipts. They are trying to help out wherever they can. He stated that Craig Thornton has been promoted to Deputy, he has 22 years in and is the best choice for this position.

Craig Thornton is on the call.

All Board members offered their congratulations.

Mr. Ballantine mentioned an email sent to them from the Interim Town Administrator through Carole Coppola Finance Director and her team who were awarded a Certificate of Excellence and Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. He acknowledged that this is quite an accomplishment and complimented Ms. Coppola on a great job. Also they received a letter from the Harwich Garden Club profusely thanking the DPW and the Water Department for bringing them through some drought areas and Garden Club activities saying they saved their day. All the Garden Club's hard work is appreciated by all. Mr. Ballantine described his day with a flat tire, the events and offers for help from a number of people and emphasized what it's like to live in Harwich.

Mr. MacAskill offered a story of seeing a couple often, picking up trash on the side of the road. He offered his thanks to whoever they are and felt they deserved recognition.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Discussion for Town of Harwich to participate in the Massachusetts Commercial Property assessed Clean Energy Program - PACE Massachusetts

Interim Town Administrator Powers noted that representatives from PACE are on the call.

A number of people on the call were there to discuss the Rooftop Solar Agreement and they were informed that it will not be discussed this evening but is scheduled for September 21st.

No representatives from PACE were on the call. The Board will move on and come back to this if they join the call.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Vote to approve the Caleb Chase Fund request in the amount of \$1,000
- B. Vote to accept a gift in the amount of \$10,750 from Ora Gaylord Arooth Trust to the Community Center
- C. Vote to approve the Interim Town Administrator's recommendation to grant permission request of NSTAR/Eversource for the purpose of the installing approximately 66' +/- of conduit under a town road to provide electrical service to customer at 39 Need Road
- D. Vote to approve the Interim Town Administrator's recommendation to grant permission request of NSTAR/Eversource for the purpose of the installing approximately 40' +/- of conduit under a town road to provide electrical service to customer at 2 Mockingbird Lane
- E. Vote to accept the donation of a memorial bench that will be placed at Merkel Beach

Mr. MacAskill moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, 2nd by Mr. Howell

Mr. MacAskill noted that on "E" the recommendation was made by Amy Usowski Conservation Agent and that the bench be put at her recommendation, choice 3 at Merkel, otherwise it comes back before the Board.

Mr. McManus asked if the bench has arms.

Mr. Ballantine replied, yes.

Vote 5:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Charleen Greenhalgh Town Planner spoke and noted that Wendy O'Malley is now on the line.

Interim Town Administrator Powers noted that the presentation would be on the screen for Wendy O'Malley of PACE

Wendy Lee O'Malley Vice President and Program Manager for PACE from Mass Development is here to present the new PACE Massachusetts Program. She explained what the PACE Program is, how it works and the benefits.

Mr. McManus asked what the payback period length would be.

Ms. O'Malley replied up to 20 years or the longest useful life of the energy measures that are included in the project.

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Mr. MacAskill noted that it is a new program, only 21 communities out of 351 and he asked how Harwich came up on the list as next.

Ms. O'Malley replied that the Regional Business Development Manager looked into communities in Southeastern Mass that have commercial and industrial properties that could benefit from this program. They started the effort in 2019.

Interim Town Administrator Powers commented that the hope tonight is that after the presentation the Board would take it under advisement, if there is interest he will work with council on the agreement they provided.

Mr. Howell asked if Ms. O'Malley would mention what the eligible properties are for people listening.

Ms. O'Malley described the categories of properties that are eligible and are not eligible.

Mr. Howell asked, regarding 501C3's and the lack of a tax bill.

Ms. O'Malley explained the process regarding 501C3s

Mr. McManus noted that a number of nonprofits have pilot agreements with the town and asked if they would qualify.

Ms. O'Malley replied that it would if that payment allowed to have a tax bill issued.

Mr. Ballantine suggested that he would like to see a survey of the number and types of properties they might have that might be eligible. He would like some reassurance, before the Board spends a lot of time on this that it is something the town could use.

There were more questions and answers regarding different scenarios that could occur.

Charleen Greenhalgh Town Planner spoke in favor of this plan. It's unsure how many properties in Harwich can benefit but even one is a win-win for the business and the community.

NEW BUSINESS

B. Minutes for Approvals

1. June 22, 2020
2. June 29, 2020

Mr. MacAskill moved to approve the minutes for June 22, 2020 and June 29, 2020, 2nd by Mr. Howell.

Mr. MacAskill commended Lisa Schwab on her detailed minutes.

Vote 5:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

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C. Discussion and possible vote for storm water permit application and fee structure.

Mr. MacAskill asked if a public hearing would be needed if they are establishing a fee structure.

Interim Town Administrator Powers thinks they do need a public hearing.

Mr. MacAskill commented that the application speaks for itself and he would take Griffin Ryder's recommendation on the fee structure

Griffin Ryder Town Engineer explained the circumstances that require this local permit. The meat of it is in the forms and plan that is submitted with the application. There is no specific deadline on this.

D. Vote to approve Common Victualler's License - Cape Roots Market & Cafe - 557 Route 28, Harwich Port

Mr. MacAskill moved to approve the Common Victualler's License as presented, 2nd by Mr. Howell. Vote 5:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously,

E. Review the logistics plan for Annual Town Meeting.

Interim Town Administrator Powers commented that there are updates on the logistics plan. Both the Health Director and Town Engineer are present on the call. He shared a screen with the layout of the football stadium and the narrative for the general public.

Griffin Ryder Town Engineer commented that the design is evolving as more details are added and they figure out the logistics. He described what they were seeing on the screen including some changes, the flow of people entering and registering, the flow for exiting and all precautions to keep people safe.

Meggan Eldredge Health Director noted the Board of Health's emergency order for face coverings and amended it to include the grounds of Town Meeting. She described acceptable face coverings. People exempt because of health reasons have to identify themselves. She described the registration process for them. There will be social distancing for everyone. Also described is the flow for those using a microphone or a restroom, following the arrows on the chart. Masks can be removed while seated but put back on to move around.

Interim Town Administrator Powers added where they will be suggesting people park and enter the stadium to register before being seated. All of this will be communicated to the public.

Mr. Howell commended everyone involved in putting this together. He suggested adding some wording to the directive regarding signing in.

Interim Town Administrator Powers replied that there will be signage and a tent that'll draw everyone to where they want to go to check in. Also the CERT team has been fantastic.

Mr. Ford asked what the distance is between seats.

Mr. Ryder replied that there are clusters of single and double seats. The circumference around each is a 6 foot radius. There is also a 2 foot aisle.

Mr. Ford commented that a lot of people won't be happy that masks are removed after people are seated.

Mr. McManus noted that the bleachers are identified as non-resident and Town Staff. Staff can sit in the voter's section. Also he noted that Ms. Eldredge had made reference to being a taxpayer. He stated that you don't have to be a taxpayer in town to be a voter at Town Meeting. He also asked if they had given consideration to setting up an area for bicycle parking.

Interim Town Administrator Powers replied that there is bicycle parking available throughout the area.

Mr. MacAskill echoed Mr. Howell's comments about thanking everybody involved, it is very detailed. He suggested they add one seat for Town Council. He asked if anyone had reached out to the school about moving the buses. He suggested where they could be temporarily parked.

Interim Town Administrator Powers has a call set up with the Superintendent for that discussion. He's hoping they will move the buses to the other side of the high school.

Mr. McManus noted that during Cranberry Festival the Superintendent had no problem moving the buses to Chatham.

Interim Town Administrator Powers asked to hold the next 2 items, E. and F. Council is getting final comments to him. Item F related to the rooftop solar array was confirmed for him by council working with the Finance council that the drop dead date is September 22nd so it will be finalized by the 21st.

Mr. Ryder noted that they received the last piece of that today and he will transmit it tomorrow.

Mr. MacAskill is interested to see what the benefit to the town would be and what the deal looks like.

H. Discussion and possible vote to approve the CARES Act Form

Interim Town Administrator Powers noted that the Finance Director has collated everything for FY2020 for submission before September 25th. What is in the packet has been confirmed as what is in the computer. If the Board would have vote approval of the chair to permit this, it can be sent through his computer and that will then be sent. There are concurrent submittals to both FEMA and the CARES Act. This is the reimbursement the town is seeking.

Mr. Howell asked if there was no one at all in the Police or Fire Departments who got sick and they had to call in overtime to replace because there is a zero there.

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Interim Town Administrator Powers replied, not as it relates to COVID.

Mr. MacAskill confirmed that bathroom cleaning and laptops fit into FY2021.

Mr. MacAskill moved to approve the CARES Act Form for submittal as presented, 2nd by Mr. Ford.

Mr. McManus asked if the total is \$49,485.

Interim Town Administrator Powers replied with the number of eligible and non-eligible, the percentages and the totals.

Mr. MacAskill added \$49,485 to his motion, 2nd by Mr. Ford

Mr. McManus noted that the difference from the total and that amount will come from FEMA

Vote 5:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Interim Town Administrator Powers noted the Golf Department and Harbormaster's reports. Regarding the golf course, he went to the golf course and saw a full parking lot, people had on masks and were social distancing. The course was in remarkable condition. He feels that criticisms are off the mark. The USGA has done an evaluation and Cranberry Valley got glowing reviews. He noted that it's a municipal golf course. It looks and plays like a private course but its municipal and they should be proud of it.

Mr. Ballantine commented that he has talked to people who play golf at Cranberry and they all say they can't believe there's anyone criticizing the golf course.

Mr. MacAskill agrees but also feels they owe it to the few who are writing and emailing constantly to have the Golf Committee meet and go over the criticisms and give the Board a report.

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Mr. Howell reported that the representative to the Clean Water Management Board where that rooms tax allocated specifically for remediation projects, are trying to figure out a fair and equitable way of distributing. He will be forwarding the information for the packet so they can all have an idea of what he should advocate. It will be going to the Management Board and has not yet been approved.

Mr. Ballantine reminded everyone about Town Meeting coming up and he thinks they'll far exceed the 150 for a quorum.

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Mr. MacAskill moved to adjourn, 2nd by Mr. Ford. Vote 5:0 in favor by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith R. Moldstad
Recording Secretary

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