

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
Tuesday, June 9, 2020  
Stow Town Building & Via Zoom**

Present at the meeting: Chair James Salvie, Brian Burke, Cortni Frecha, and Tom Ryan.

Also present: Town Administrator William Wrigley and Executive Assistant Maureen McKeon.

Mr. Salvie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Input:** None

**Chairman's Comments:** Chairman Salvie requested a moment of silence for Eila Makey, former Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer/Tax Collector (retired 1988) and widow of former Highway Superintendent John Makey who died in May.

**Meeting Minutes:** *Selectman Ryan moved to accept the meeting minutes of May 26, 2020 as drafted. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously 4-0.*

**Correspondence:** Selectman Burke mentioned emails from residents on Gleasondale Road about the trench built by NStar. It is part of the program for energy reliability. If you are an abutter and have property damage bring it to the Board's attention.

**Finalist Candidates for Town Administrator**

The Board discussed the three finalists, Denise Dembkoski, Thomas Guerino, and Kellie Hebert.

Chairman Salvie noted that, by quite a bit, Denise Dembkoski is the best choice. She has experience in a similar community and sounds like she is a "one-woman band", and he is impressed with her budget process. Chairman Salvie was confident that Thomas Guerino could do the job and thought he did his homework on the town the best by calling department heads. Chairman Salvie thought Kellie Hebert could do the job although she did not communicate that well and he liked her emphasis on building relationships.

Selectwoman Frecha would rank them similarly and found that the connection with Ms. Dembkoski was the strongest. Mr. Guerino is also capable although with a different tone and would understand Stow due to his history with the Pioneer Valley. Selectwoman Frecha would choose Kellie Hebert last. Selectwoman Frecha thought she was affable, and she was impressed with her resume and experience, but thought her answers were less compelling.

Selectman Burke thought they were three superb candidates. He agrees that Denise Dembkoski is the right fit for the town. She has the background and personality that would work well in this town and he feels, more importantly, that it is the right fit for her.

Selectman Ryan said Denise Dembkoski has the entire package that they are looking for. She is smart and no nonsense and he agrees with Selectman Burke that it is a good fit for her also.

Town Administrator Wrigley agreed with the consensus of the first choice. He described Denise Dembkoski as a "professional of practice" meaning what her resume says she does, she does. She is potentially a perfect match and could be here for a long time.

*Selectman Ryan moved that the Selectmen offer the position of Town Administrator of the Town of Stow to Denise Dembkoski subject to final background checks and final reference checks. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously 4-0.*

## **Annual Town Meeting**

Town Moderator David Walrath thinks we can fit Town Meeting into the Hale Middle School gymnasium with the auditorium as overflow, or the Center School if we need a larger overflow. He has been contacted by citizens who are concerned with anything being indoors (due to the pandemic). Other options would be to start on Monday night indoors, but there could be technical challenges; find an outdoor space, maybe similar to Maynard's drive-in Town Meeting, but we would need a way to transmit audio to the cars and have a plan for voting; or to delay or do the minimal that we could on Monday then adjourn to some outdoor site on the weekend.

Discussion ensued about various options. Chairman Salvie summarized that the Board is not comfortable with a meeting completely indoors. They are open to any form of outdoor meeting or a combination of the two. The Board is skeptical that an outdoor meeting can be put together in the next 13 days. Postponing Town Meeting will have no effect on the Annual Town Election.

The Board discussed having Town Meeting with a 1/12 budget in June and postponing Town Meeting to July. Chairman Salvie said this is allowed per Administrative Rule from the Department of Revenue, and Town Administrator Wrigley added that he already has a 1/12 budget ready. Selectwoman Frecha suggested continuing this conversation at the next meeting.

## **Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles**

### Article 4 – General Budget for Fiscal Year 2021

*Selectman Ryan moved that the Selectmen support Article 4. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion.*

Chairman Salvie asked for discussion.

*Selectman Ryan moved that the Selectmen support Article 4, excluding the item for Nashoba Regional School District. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0-1 with Selectman Burke abstaining.*

Chairman Salvie asked for a motion to reconsider the prior vote.

*Selectman Burke moved to reconsider the prior vote. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously 4-0.*

Chairman Salvie asked for a motion to recommend approval of the budget except for the line items pertaining to Nashoba Regional School District, and Conservation Commission salaries.

*Selectman Burke moved to recommend approval of the budget except for the line items pertaining to Nashoba Regional School District and Conservation Commission salaries. Selectman Ryan seconded the motion, and it was approved 2-0-2 with Chairman Salvie and Selectman Burke abstaining.*

*Selectman Ryan moved to support the Nashoba Regional School District budget. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0-1 with Selectman Burke abstaining.*

*Selectman Ryan moved to support the Conservation Commission budget. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion.*

Chairman Salvie asked Selectwoman Frecha to chair this motion.

*Chairwoman Frecha asked for further discussion, and hearing none, the motion was approved 3-0-1 with Selectman Salvie abstaining.*

*Chairman Salvie resumed as Chair.*

Article 41 – Amend General Bylaw - Town Election Date

*Selectwoman Frecha moved that the Selectmen support Article 41. Selectman Ryan seconded the motion for discussion, and it was approved 3-0-1 with Selectman Burke abstaining.*

Article 44 –Box Mill Bridge Article 97 Petition

*Selectman Ryan moved that the Selectmen support Article 44. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously 4-0.*

Article 52 – Commuter Rail Van Transportation Service

*Selectwoman Frecha moved that the Selectmen support Article 52. Selectman Burke seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0-1 with Selectman Ryan abstaining.*

Article 58 – Design Funds for Stow Town Hall Restoration

*Selectman Burke moved that the Selectmen support Article 58. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0-1 with Chairman Salvie abstaining.*

Article 59 – COVID19 Emergency Rental Assistance Fund

*Selectwoman Frecha moved that the Selectmen support Article 59. Selectman Burke seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously 4-0.*

Article 60 – PFAS (Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Remediation Expenses

*Selectman Burke moved that the Selectmen support Article 60. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously 4-0.*

Article 61 – Nashoba Regional School District Feasibility Study

Discussion ensued with Leah Vivirito of the NRSD School Committee.

*Selectman Ryan moved that the Selectmen support Article 61. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously 4-0.*

**Annual July 1 Appointments**

*Selectman Ryan moved to make the appointment of individuals and committee members, the positions having been duly posted for which the applicants have applied, listed as one-year appointments with terms ending June 30, 2021 as reflected in the list of appointments dated June 9, 2020. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously 4-0.*

*Selectman Ryan moved to make the appointment of individuals and committee members, the positions having been duly posted for which the applicants have applied, listed as two-year appointments with terms ending June 30, 2022 as reflected in the list of appointments dated June 9, 2020. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously 4-0.*

*Selectman Ryan moved to make the appointment of individuals and committee members, the positions having been duly posted for which the applicants have applied, listed as three-year appointments with terms ending June 30, 2023 as reflected in the list of appointments dated June 9, 2020. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously 4-0.*

*Selectman Ryan moved to make the appointment of individuals and committee members, the positions having been duly posted for which the applicants have applied, listed as five-year appointments with terms ending June 30, 2025 as reflected in the list of appointments dated June 9, 2020. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously 4-0.*

**Town Administrator's Report** – incorporated throughout the meeting.

**Liaison Reports**

- Selectwoman Frecha reported that the Conservation Commission said many trees came down at Lake Boon during the recent storm and if you have a tree that you need removed and it is within 100 feet of a wetland contact the Conservation Commission. There are several openings on the Open Space Committee.
- Selectman Ryan said Acting Police Chief Sallese is doing a fine job working with some of the social justice groups to make sure that everybody stays safe in town. Chairman Salvie agreed about the Acting Chief, and said the department is gifted with several officers who are excellent communicators.
- Selectman Burke said the LACAC (Local Access Channel Advisory Committee) had a public forum via Zoom and it was very successful.
- Chairman Salvie – no report

**Executive Session**

*At 9:05 p.m. Selectman Ryan moved to convene in Executive Session, pursuant to MGL Ch. 30A, Sec. 21(a)(5), for the purpose of considering matters related to a criminal investigation and to reconvene in Open Session thereafter. Selectwoman Frecha seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously by roll call vote: Selectman Burke - aye, Selectman Ryan - aye, Selectwoman Frecha – aye, and Chairman Salvie – aye.*

**Reconvene in Open Session**

*At 9:24 p.m. Selectman Ryan made a motion to return to open session. Selectman Burke seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously by roll call vote: Selectman Ryan - aye, Selectman Burke - aye, Selectwoman Frecha – aye, and Chairman Salvie – aye.*

The Board had previously voted to conduct due diligence interviews at the police department as a result of the events in April concerning former Chief Marino. Chairman Salvie, Selectman Ryan, and Town Counsel Jonathan Witten (via Zoom) interviewed 10 officers and 4 dispatchers over a 2-day period, with an attorney for the union also present. Each interview was 10-15 minutes in length. The report drafted by Town Counsel will be released to the public and posted to the town's website.

**Adjournment**

*At 9:33 p.m. Selectman Burke moved to adjourn. Selectman Ryan seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously 4-0.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Joyce Sampson*

Executive Assistant

**Documents used at this meeting:**

*May 26, 2020 Draft Minutes*

*Annual July 1 Appointment list*

*KP Law Report re: Interviews with Stow Police Department Officers and Dispatchers*

*Additional documents can be found in the Selectmen's Office filed with meeting folder.*

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Board of Selectmen Meeting

June 9, 2020

Approved April 13, 2021