

**Minutes
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2020
Stow Town Building & Via Zoom**

Physically present at this meeting was Chair of the Board of the Selectmen James Salvie, Selectmen Brian Burke and Tom Ryan. Cortni Frecha attended remotely via Zoom.

Also present physically were Town Administrator William Wrigley and Executive Assistant Maureen McKeon. Mr. Salvie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Input: Resident Ellen Sturgis mentioned concerns regarding plans for Annual Town Meeting scheduled for July 11th.

Chairman's Comment: Mr. Salvie stated that the Town has been faced with some difficult challenges over the past few months and thanked everyone who has worked so hard during this time.

Appointment of New Treasurer/Collector

Mr. Wrigley stated that he had been searching for a Treasurer/Collector for almost two months, after receiving Cathy' Murphy's resignation in early May. Mr. Wrigley stated that he would recommend applicant Brad Brightman who is a Certified Treasurer and comes highly recommended by Eric Kinsherf of the Town's CPA consulting firm. Mr. Burke asked the Board to consider delaying the hire, as he might be leaving the Board after the upcoming election on June 27th. The Selectmen agreed with Mr. Wrigley's recommendation and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Brightman. Mr. Salvie thanked the Town's current Assistant Treasurer/Collector for her extra help during the months the Town has been operating without a Treasurer.

Mr. Ryan moved to authorize the Town Administrator to hire Brad Brightman as Treasurer/Collector for the Town of Stow, subject to successful contract negotiations and a background check. Ms. Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ms. Frecha, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, Mr. Burke, aye and Mr. Salvie, aye.

Annual Town Meeting Plans

Town Moderator David Walrath was present to update the Board regarding developing plans about Annual Town Meeting. After an in-house meeting at Town Building on Monday, 6/22, it was recommended strongly by the Fire Chief that an indoor meeting option be available, noting recent high temperatures. An outdoor option would also be available for those not comfortable sitting indoors. Mr. Walrath mentioned the merits and drawbacks of having a large tent covering the seating in the field. He told the Board that there would not be live presentations due to the restrictions in the outdoor area. He thought presentations could be posted on the Town website in advance and paper handouts could be produced or the information could, perhaps, be included in the Action Unlimited or another local newspaper. The concept of calling a second STOWS meeting to plan for packets was mentioned. Mr. Ryan stated that it should rely on the residents to behave as responsible citizens and socially distance on their own accord. He added that there will be a police officer present, but they will not be able to completely patrol for social distancing. Mr. Salvie asked that the Moderator post rules that develop for the meeting on the website and publish in the 7/1 issue of the Stow Independent. Resident Megan Birch-McMichael was present via Zoom and asked if the Board of Health has weighed in on indoor vs. outdoor Town Meeting. Mr. Wrigley said that a list of protocols has been put forth by the Health Agent from the Nashoba Boards of Health. Mr. Wrigley added that the Town's Safety Officer, Fire Chief Joe Landry has been involved in the planning process. The question of when the NRSD Feasibility Article will be

addressed was raised, but was not decided at this time. To address resident Bill Byron's question, Mr. Walrath explained that there would be a drop off point for handicapped access and, most likely, additional handicapped parking spots close to the school building. There was some discussion regarding running the Council on Aging van that day to transport people who might be parked at remote parking lots such as the First Parish Church. Mr. Ryan said there should be a certain amount of reserved seating for Seniors. Mr. Ryan recommended the Moderator coordinate with the Highway Department to request trash barrels be placed at the site and request any help from that that may be needed.

Chapter 61 Section 8 Filing – Notice of Intent to Sell Property at Hallock Point Road

Mr. Salvie announced that the Town had received a filing regarding the sale of property classified as Ch. 61 Forestry Land. The property is located off Sudbury Road adjacent to Lake Boon. He announced that there is a 120 day deadline for the Town to determine whether the Town is interested in exercising its right of first refusal to purchase the property and to inform the seller with the Town's intent is to purchase or decline to purchase the property. More detailed discussion regarding that will occur at a future Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Salvie said that he had spoken with Town Counsel and that M.G.L. Chapter 53, the Acts of 2020, Section 9 suspends all Ch. 61 time constraints. Mr. Salvie summarized that the 120-day time period would begin 90 days *after* the end of the Governor's Emergency Declaration.

Town Administrator's report

Mr. Wrigley recommended that the Town hire a rental tent, including set up, for Town Meeting. He told the Board that he is in the process of finalizing the agreement for the hire of the new Town Administrator.

Liaison reports

Mr. Salvie mentioned that the appointment to the Randall Library Building Committee would be addressed in July.

Mr. Ryan said that he had spoken with Fire Chief Landry today and Chief Landry very strongly recommended that Town Meeting have an indoor component because of the recent hot weather. Chief Landry said that if the weather were similar at Town Meeting to the 90 degree weather over the past weekend, he simply would not have enough ambulances to take away those affected by the high heat. Mr. Ryan added that he had spoken with Acting Police Chief Salles and reports that he is doing well. Finally, Mr. Ryan said that he had spoken with Superintendent Nadeau regarding the digging on Gleasondale Road. The Superintendent mentioned that the gas line work will be going on until the fall and at the end, Eversource will pave the entire portion of roadway.

Adjournment

At 8:08 p.m. Mr. Burke moved to adjourn. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Mr. Burke, aye, Mr. Salvie, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye and Ms. Frecha, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen McKeon, Executive Assistant

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRWSTy5EdU4>