

**Minutes  
Board of Selectmen  
Stow Town Building – Warren Room & Zoom**

**(meeting ID code 674 192 178)  
Tuesday, March 24, 2020**

Physically present at this meeting were James Salvie, Chair, and also Brian Burke. Present virtually were Tom Ryan and Cortni Frecha.

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.

**Chairman's Comment:** Mr. Salvie referred to Governor Baker's Order in terms of provisions for Board members and audience members being accepted in attending and contributing the public meetings remotely. He announced that there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Stow at this time. He provided valuable website addresses and the 211 number for those seeking accurate information regarding the virus. He named Town buildings and services that are open and available. He mentioned that the Stow Food Pantry is looking for assistance for the month of April.

**Public Input:** None

**Discussion/vote re: Appointment to Historical Commission**

Stacen Goldman was present virtually. She had contacted the Selectmen's Office and expressed interest in serving on the Historical Commission. The Chair of the Historical Commission, Dot Spaulding, was also present virtually and stated that they had met with Ms. Goldman and recommended her for appointment. The Board thanked her for volunteering for the Commission.

*On the recommendation of the Historical Commission, Ms. Frecha moved to appoint Stacen Goldman to the Historical Commission, to complete the remainder of an unexpired three-year term expiring June 30, 2022. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Mr. Salvie, aye, Mr. Burke, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, and Ms. Frecha, aye.*

**Discussion/vote re: Appointment of Police Officer**

Mr. Ryan stated that after a thorough interview process with several candidates had been completed, candidate, Brendan Fitzpatrick was considered the best candidate and he has been recommended for appointment. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Brendan Fitzpatrick.

*On the recommendation of the Police Officer Search Committee, Mr. Burke moved to appoint Brendan Fitzpatrick as a full-time Police Officer for the Stow Police Department, for a one-year probationary period from the effective date of hire. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Mr. Salvie, aye, Mr. Burke, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, and Ms. Frecha, aye.*

**Determination of Conflict of Interest re: Hire Highway Department**

Steve Nadeau, Superintendent of Streets and Crew Chief Brian Taranto were present, virtually, to discuss, the hire of Brian's son Colin Taranto to a temporary Truck Driver/Laborer position for the Town's Highway Department. Brian Taranto stated that he would not be Colin's direct supervisor or completing his performance evaluations, although his opinion might be requested. He stated that she would be impartial where that was concerned. Mr. Nadeau stated that he believed Brian

Taranto could be impartial in matters where his son might be involved. Brian Hatch would serve as Colin Taranto's direct supervisor. The Board deemed that there was no financial interest that has been disclosed here that is so substantial as to be likely to affect the integrity of the services which the town can expect from Brian Taranto.

*Mr. Burke moved that the Board has determined that should Colin Taranto be appointed as a Temporary Full-Time Truck Driver/Laborer, any financial interest that has been disclosed here is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the municipality expects from the employee. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Mr. Salvie, aye, Mr. Burke, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, and Ms. Frecha, aye.*

*Mr. Ryan moved to authorize the Chair to sign the required ethics disclosure document regarding the hire of Colin Taranto. Ms. Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Mr. Salvie, aye, Mr. Burke, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, and Ms. Frecha, aye.*

### **Appointment of Temporary Full-Time Highway Employee – Truck Driver/Laborer**

Mr. Nadeau stated that after completing the interview process for this position, he fully recommends Colin Taranto to temporarily fill Derek Hopper's position as he heads off for extended military duty. The Board agreed unanimously to appoint Colin Taranto, and the Board offered their best wishes to Derek Hopper on his endeavor.

*On the recommendation of Highway Superintendent Steve Nadeau, Mr. Burke moved to authorize the Town Administrator to appoint Colin Taranto as a Truck Driver/Laborer for the Stow Highway Department. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Mr. Salvie, aye, Mr. Burke, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, and Ms. Frecha, aye.*

### **One-day Liquor Licenses for Honey Pot Hill Orchard**

Chelcie Martin of Honey Pot Hill Orchard was present remotely to request a series of one-day liquor licenses to sell hard cider in September and October of 2020, as they did in 2019. Last year while issuing the licenses, the Board recommended Honey Pot apply to the ABCC for a more permanent liquor license. The Chair and Ms. Martin stated that they had both spoken with the ABCC (Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission.) The ABCC assured her that they should be able to provide the license within a six-week turnaround.

Ms. Martin said that they are planning to apply for a full license this week from the State, but would like to have these one-day licenses available as security measure in the event the full license takes longer than anticipated. The Board recommended tabling the one-day applications until their second June meeting, and, if at that time, Honey Pot has not yet received the license they are seeking from the ABCC, the Board would revisit the request for one-day licenses. Ms. Martin agreed to this arrangement.

*Ms. Frecha moved to table the one-day liquor license applications submitted by Honey Pot Hill Orchards until the Board's second meeting in June. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Mr. Salvie, aye, Mr. Burke, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, and Ms. Frecha, aye.*

### **Permit for Stow Clean-Up Day**

Resident Sandy Taft was present virtually to request permission to use the Lower Village Common for the Annual Stow Town Clean Up on Saturday, April 25 from 7:30 am-12:00 p.m. In past years, he and his wife have distributed bags and gloves for the public in order to have them disperse and pick up trash along the roadways, etc. in Stow. He was wondering if, in the time of COVID-19, this event should go forward. Mr. Taft said that unless the Governor changes his order leading up to April 25<sup>th</sup>, he would plan to speak with Public Safety and get their opinion

regarding this event. If another date is required to hold this event, he will request permission, again, with the Selectmen.

*Mr. Burke moved, contingent upon approval from Highway, Police, Fire and the Board of Health, to permit Sandy Taft and his group of volunteers to conduct the Annual Stow Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 25, 2020 from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Ms. Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Mr. Salvie, aye, Mr. Burke, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, and Ms. Frecha, aye.*

#### **Dr. Edward Bouquillon - Minuteman Technical High School Superintendent**

Dr. Bouquillon and School Representative Alice DeLuca were virtually present to address the Board and offer a presentation regarding Minuteman Technical High School including an overview of the FY-21 school budget.

#### **Contingency Plans/Possible Delay for Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election**

Town Moderator David Walrath and Town Clerk Linda Hathaway were virtually present to discuss the possibility of postponing the Annual Town Meeting and Town Election in relation to State laws on the subject. Recent legislation, however, allows the Town to postpone the date of Town Meeting. The Charter states it must take place the first Monday in May, and State law says that it must be completed by the end of June. It was decided that due to COVID-19, the Annual Town Meeting would take place on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Town Election would take place on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Ms. Frecha moved to move the Annual Town Meeting to Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and that the Town Election will follow on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Burke, aye, Mr. Salvie, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye and Ms. Frecha, aye.*

#### **Appointment of Veterans Services Officer**

This position was posted as required. The current VSO, Joseph Jacobs was the only person to reply stating an interest in continuing on in this position. Mr. Wrigley spoke regarding Mr. Jacob's stellar service. The Board thanked Mr. Jacobs for his continued excellent service.

*Mr. Ryan moved that the Board of Selectmen appoint Joseph Jacobs as the Town's Veterans' Services Officer, to fill a one-year term expiring on March 31, 2021. Ms. Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Mr. Burke, aye, Mr. Salvie, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye and Ms. Frecha, aye.*

#### **Town Administrator's FY-21 Budget**

Mr. Wrigley asked, in light of the postponement of Town Meeting, that the presentation of his FY-2021 budget be taken up at a later meeting. He stated that he feels he will better be able to project numbers related to the PFAS matter. The Board agreed it was a good idea to take advantage of the additional time.

#### **Grievance Hearing**

Mr. Salvie stated that the parties to the Dispatch grievance hearing asked that the hearing be postponed.

#### **Liaison Report**

Mr. Burke mentioned that the LACAC will be meeting via Zoom on Contract renegotiation. Mr. Ryan mentioned that the Police and Fire Station are still open, but that visitors should be mindful of health risks. Ms. Frecha reported that the Town Hall Restoration Committee will be meeting later this week via Zoom. Mr. Salvie mentioned that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will take place on April 14<sup>th</sup>, and he will recommend that all Selectmen attend via Zoom.

**Adjournment**

*At 9:05 p.m. Mr. Burke moved to adjourn. Ms. Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. 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=v2n4FTotza8>

**Documents used at this meeting.**

Ethics Disclosure Form for Brian and Colin Taranto

*Items can be found in the Selectmen's Office filed with meeting folder:*