



OPEN SESSION MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, April 13, 2020

COPY

WILLIAM DOWLING, CHAIRMAN
CAROLE JULIUS, VICE CHAIRMAN
DAVID SHEEDY, CLERK

TOWN HALL, 1st FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
175 CENTRAL STREET
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

Members Present: Carole Julius, David Sheedy and William Dowling

Members Absent:

Others Present: Brian Noble, Town Administrator and Rebecca Johnson, Administrative Assistant

4:30 pm William Dowling called the meeting to order.

REC'D SO TOWN CLERK
20 APR 23 PM 4:27

William Dowling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

M/Sheedy, s/Julius, a unanimous vote, for Carole Julius as Chairman, David Sheedy as Vice Chairman and William Dowling as Clerk effective 4/13/2020 until the Monday following the next April Election 4/12/2021, if held as scheduled.

Ms. Julius thanked Mr. Dowling for his time and leadership as Chairman.

APPOINTMENTS

Melissa Morrissey, Treasurer Collector was present to discuss setting the due date for taxes, penalty and interest. Ms. Morrissey stated the Governor signed a bill to address some of the challenges the communities are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One was changing the due date for taxes; the option is to change the May 1st due date to June 1st. Ms. Morrissey stated she does not recommend this option.

The second option would be to wave interest and penalties up to 6/30/2020 as long as bills are current. Ms. Morrissey stated, to be sensitive to the residents, she recommends this option.

The Selectmen decided to table this discussion until their next meeting due to changes being made frequently at the State level. A meeting will be set for 4/24/2020 at 4:30.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Dowling made a motion to table the discussion regarding setting the due date for taxes, penalty and interest until the next meeting on 4/24/2020 at 4:30. Mr. SHEEDY seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve minutes of the March 23, 2020 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve minutes of the March 26, 2020 10:00 am Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to appoint Town Administrator Brian Noble, acting Assistant Treasurer / Collector. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Noble stated the Assistant Treasure /Collector recently retired. A second signature is needed on the bank transfers which is why he is requesting to be appointed as the Acting Treasure /Collector.

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve Secondhand Articles: Susan M. Hartman dba Hartman House Antiques, Susan M. Hartman, Mgr. 334 Bedford Street Hours: Sunday - Monday: By chance or appointment. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve Secondhand Articles: Lorraine Parker dba Mrs. Swift's & Moore Antiques & Gifts Lorraine Parker, Mgr. 16 West Union Street Hours: Daily 9 am – 9 pm. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve Secondhand Articles: Benjamin Ellis dba Land of Electronics Benjamin Ellis, Mgr. 687 North Bedford Street Hours: Sunday – Saturday: 8 am – 8 pm. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve Secondhand Articles: Wayne Chiappini dba C&C Antiques Wayne Chiappini, Mgr. 734 Bedford Street Hours: Saturday – Sunday 10 am – 6 pm. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve Junk Dealers License (to sell gold, silver, etc.) Benjamin Ellis dba Land of Electronics Benjamin Ellis, Mgr. 687 North Bedford Street Hours: Sunday – Saturday: 8 am – 8 pm. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve Junk Dealers License (to sell gold, silver, etc.) Wayne Chiappini dba C&C Antiques Wayne Chiappini, Mgr. 734 Bedford Street Hours: Saturday – Sunday 10 am – 6 pm. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve for the Community Gardens to use the Gardens located at the Community Center and to continue the great work they're doing through the next year. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and declared State of Emergency all Town Buildings are closed to the public and gatherings of 10 or more are not allowed. Therefore, no work can be done at the gardens located at the Community Center / COA until Town buildings reopen. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Noble stated he's been working nonstop on COVID-19. He pointed out the hard work of the Board of Health and first responders. Mr. Noble stated that he's been in contact with the Department of Revenue, if we enter the new fiscal year without an adopted budget at Town Meeting.

Mr. Noble stated that so far, of our 521 employees, we have only had a handful of exposures and no confirmed cases. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been provided to our first responders, and masks and gloves are available for all other employees. He also requested that department heads curb non-essential spending. Try to husband our resources and create as much free cash as possible as we approach the end of the fiscal year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The School Department is serving lunch daily 10-12 for all students at the Jr/Sr High School. Next week you can grab lunches Mon-Wed. On Wed April 15th parents can pick up for Thursday April 16th, and Friday April 17th and for Monday the April 20th the holiday because they will be doing a deep cleaning. The School Comm. Meeting will be held on Tuesday at 7pm.

Mr. Noble stated there were some concerns surrounding food establishments in Town. The Board of Health has acted upon those concerns. The lobbies of all food establishments will be closed to the public as of Wednesday 4/15/2020. Food establishments will only be able to provide use of a drive-up window, curbside or delivery only. The full order from the Board of Health is attached to the minutes.

COA Director, Nancy Hill would like to give an update on the Federal Census. The Massachusetts response rate on the 2020 Federal Census is 48%, the East Bridgewater response rate is 55.9% as of 4/8/2020. For older residents, the COA staff is in the office from 8am to noon, Monday through Friday. Please give the COA a call at 508-378-1610 if you would like assistance filling in your form on-line. You would need to have your code available from your mailing when calling.

Also, the COA continues to assist eligible residents of all ages with Fuel Assistance and SNAP applications. Please call Kelley at the COA 508-378-1610 M-F, 8am to noon for more information.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Mr. Noble stated the Town Meeting Warrant is still a work in progress. He's working closely with the Finance Committee to solidify the budget for next year. Mr. Noble reviewed the articles that changed since the last review.

Mr. Noble stated he is waiting for the Finance Committee to approve the Budget. He stated the budget is balanced, and they are comfortable.

The EB Community Gardens sent an update to the Board of Selectmen with a timeline on the work they did over the last year. Mr. Sheedy thanked Lisa Rue for starting this project and Jon Babcock.

ADJOURN

Motion by Dowling, second by Sheedy to adjourn. All were in favor, 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm

Clerk

Board of Selectmen