

OPEN SESSION MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, May 18, 2020

ACOPY

CAROLE JULIUS, CHAIRMAN
DAVID SHEEDY, VICE CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM DOWLING, 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; Rebecca Johnson, Administrative Assistant

4:30 pm Carole Julius called the meeting to order.

Ms. Julius stated, due to the increasing concern surrounding the COVID-19, Coronavirus pandemic, this meeting will remain closed to the public. There are no scheduled Public Hearings and there will be no public comment period. Live video and audio of the meeting will be aired on Comcast local channels 6, 9 or 98. A live feed and recording of the meeting will also be posted on the EBCAM website, www.eb-cam.org.

Ms. Julius led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPOINTMENTS

Veterans Agent, Chris Buckley was present to give an update. Mr. Buckley stated there will be a Food for Vets Drive on Wednesday, 5/20/2020 at the East Bridgewater Jr/Sr High School from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. The purpose of the drive is to give out food boxed to local Veterans and collect food for the local food pantries. A food drive / collection will take place at the same time for residents to drop off nonperishable items. Mr. Buckley stated a 15-20 minutes long alternate Memorial Day service will be held at the Town Common on Thursday, 5/21/2020 and will be recorded by EBCAM. Flags will be placed on all veterans' graves by members of the Patriotic Activities Committee, American Legion and by himself.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Dowling made a motion to authorized Carole Julius, Chairman of the East Bridgewater Board of Selectmen, to execute and deliver the Project Funding Agreement and any amendments thereto for the Central Elementary School Project as well as make final, binding decisions with respect to such Project Funding Agreement, on behalf of the Town and to bind the Town to its terms and conditions. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve minutes of the May 4, 2020 4:30 pm Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to appoint Nancy Hill to the Old Colony Elder Services effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve the request from the Southeastern Regional Service Group to award a contract to W.B. Mason for Paper Supplies for a twelve-month period commencing on July 1, 2020. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve the Southeastern Regional Service Group DPW supplies contract award sheet commencing July 1, 2020 for a twelve-month period. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to renew Police and Fire Accident coverage for FY 21. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Noble stated this is only a 1% increase from last year's rate.

Mr. Dowling made a motion to appoint Sean Riley as a permanent member from an associate member on the Historical Commission due to a vacancy effective May 18, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius stated this vacancy was available due to Mary Ahern passing away. Mary Ahern was a member of the Historical Commission for many years and we are grateful for her service.

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve the 6-month Town Administrator review. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Julius read the Town Administrator review and it will be attached to the minutes.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Noble stated that today 5/18/2020 the Governor went over the reopening plan. The reopening has been posted on the Town's website. Mr. Noble stated guidance will be released through the Town's Public Relations firm.

As an employer, the Town must certify that the building is running safely. Mr. Noble stated the steps the Town has taken to be in compliance of the rules. The office has provided educational materials to staff, established physical barriers, and implemented signage to maintain social distancing guidelines for the anticipated reopening of Town Hall. Mr. Noble stated that we are open to suggestions to further the safety of the building and employees.

Mr. Noble stated that the Town did not receive the EPA Clean up grant for the Eastern State Steel property. We did however receive a DLTA grant for the zoning by law study.

Mr. Noble stated he's been in contact with the Superintendent at Southeastern Regional High School regarding their budget. They have withdrawn their budget they previously submitted due to the changing number from the State Aid. SERHS believes they're going to be working with a 1/12 budget. Mr. Noble stated he's not going to change the number in the budget because it's unknown.

Plymouth County received \$90,000,000.00 in CARES ACT money to be distributed to the 27 communities in Plymouth County. Mr. Noble stated that we are preparing a claim for submittal.

Mr. Noble is expecting a proposal from Comcast this week to settle. The next step would be to set up an executive session and bring the contract to the Board for approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The EB Garden Clubs annual plant sale has been postponed to a date to be determined. Since this is their only event that raises money, they hope to hold the plant sale in August.

Household hazardous waste day is scheduled at the Gordon Mitchell School Saturday, 5/30/2020 8am – 12pm. The COA is available to assist with SNAP or Fuel Assistance applications or help with their federal census. Fuel assistance applications are being accepted through May 29 for new applicants only.

The link to see the percentage of EB residents have completed the census if you want to look it up for the meeting. <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html> As of Friday 5/15 the MA self-response was 61.3 and the East Bridgewater self-response was 73.8.

Myles Heger, Chairman of the Republican Town Committee sent an email to the Selectmen's office stating: As we continue to steer through the Covid-19 pandemic, and look forward to the Annual Town Election on June 6th, 2020 The East Bridgewater Democratic and Republican Town Committee's will host Candidate's Night on May 27th, 2020. This year we are limiting Candidate's Night to the those running in the two contested races (Board of Selectmen & School Committee), the Chair's of the Democratic & Republican Town Committee, one additional member from the Democratic and Republican Town Committees, and the Staff member filming from East Bridgewater Community Access Media will be in attendance. We look forward to hosting the event, and encourage the residents of East Bridgewater to join us virtually by watching live on Channel's 6,9, or 98 or online at www.eb-cam.org. If you would like to submit a question for any of the candidates please email it to russ@eb-cam.org, mcheeger27@aim.com, or dwpmountains@comcast.net, please make sure you include your

name and address so we can properly acknowledge you during the question and answer portion of the presentation. We apologize for the inconvenience, but encourage you to watch, and Vote on June 6th, 2020. Contact the Town Clerk at 508 378 1606 if you'd like to vote absentee.

BOARD DISCUSSION

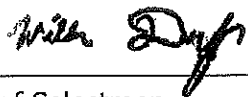
Mr. Noble reviewed the warrant with the Selectmen. There was a discussion regarding articles that can possibly be postponed and what the plan will be for 6/23/2020 Town meeting regarding social distancing. Mr. Noble stated that we're still looking for guidance from the State. The Town is still waiting to hear the amount the Town will be receiving from State Aid.

Ms. Julius stated her husband was hit by a car a week ago and is now home doing well. She thanked the community for the support they have shown them.

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm



Clerk

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator Brian Noble has demonstrated himself to be a competent and hardworking employee since his hire in August 2019. He approaches his job responsibilities ethically and professionally, interacting respectfully and competently with elected officials, staff, and the public. He has demonstrated the ability to manage the town's finances, working effectively with the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and Capital Planning Committee to protect the town's financial condition; his budgeting is transparent, and his proposals are easily understood. His personnel management skills are good, and he is actively engaged with the town's employees, meeting regularly with Department Heads and staff; he is visible in Town Hall and throughout the community. He has handled contract negotiations with skill and has a good understanding of Massachusetts General Laws and applies this knowledge to the operations of town government. He communicates effectively with the Board, providing details support for decisions that need to be made and carrying out the Board's agenda; he is always available to discuss issues and concerns with individual Board members.

At the time of this review, we are in the midst of a pandemic, and therefore no formal action plan was set for this evaluation period. It is recommended that a Board retreat be held at a future date to provide direction and identify formal goals and objectives.