

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Monday, May 4, 2020

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.

ACTION ITEMS

Acting Police Chief Paul O'Brien, Sergeants McLaughlin, Flint and Jenkins were present to ratify the MOA with the Superior Officers and the Town. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Noble and the officers for the smooth negotiations on both sides.

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve the contract between the Town of East Bridgewater and Superior Officers for 6/30/2019 - 6/30/2022 and to authorize Brian Noble, Town Administrator to sign on the Selectmen's behalf due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Lieutenant Phil Woolf, Captain Jeffery Kelly and Fire Chief Tim Harhen were present. Mr. Noble stated the Fire Fighters Union contract has been delivered and signed by the Firefighters Union. Mr. Noble stated that negotiations for the upcoming contract should begin shortly as this contract is set to expire on 6/30/2020.

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve the contract between the Town of East Bridgewater and the Firefighters Union for 6/30/2017 - 6/30/2020 and to authorize Brian Noble, Town Administrator to sign on the Selectmen's behalf due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0.

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve minutes of the April 21, 2020 4:30 pm Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve but not release minutes of the April 21, 2020 4:55 pm Board of Selectmen's executive session meeting. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Dowling made a motion to set the Annual and Special Town Meeting to June 23, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Mr. Sheedy seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Noble stated there may be a change in State Law BILL H 4572 reducing the quorum requirements from 150 down to 15.

APPOINTMENTS

Veterans Agent, Chris Buckley was present to give an update. Mr. Buckley stated he spoke with the Patriotic Activities Committee and they have voted to cancel the traditional Memorial Day services. The alternate service will be 15-20 minutes long and will be recorded by EBCAM. He stated flags will be placed on all veterans' graves by members of the Patriotic Activities Committee, American Legion and by himself. This will be scheduled recognizing social distancing guidelines.

Mr. Buckley stated there will be a Food for Vets Drive on 5/20/2020 at the East Bridgewater Jr/Sr High School from 10:00 am -12:00 pm. The purpose is to give out food boxed to local Veterans. A food drive will take place at the same time so residents can drop off nonperishable items.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Noble gave an update on absentee ballots. He stated the information is also posted on the Towns website. The deadline for absentee and early voting for the Town Election which is scheduled for 6/6/2020 is 6/5/2020 and the last day to register to vote is 5/27/2020. Mr. Noble stated the form is available online and is by mail in only. For more information residents can contact the Clerk's office 508-378-1606 or visit the Towns website. Mr. Noble stated that he was pleased to present the Firefighters Union and Superior Officers Contract to the Selectmen and is making movement on the Patrolmen's Contract.

He stated that even though we're in the middle of a pandemic the Town plans to adopt the Green Community standards.

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 the claim for submittal.

Mr. Noble stated the Town received a \$18,000 CARES Grant for an AEROCLAVE cleaning unit the Fire Department will be using to sterilize equipment.

The Board of Health's working group sub-committee has been meeting to discuss the reopening of the Town. Steps have been taken to make the Town Hall, COA, and Library more friendly and protective. Glass shields will be installed, and cloth masks have been ordered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DeeDee Rogers chairman of the Democratic Committee is planning on hosting the annual candidate's night at Town Hall May 27, 2020, sticking to the social distancing guidelines and gathering restrictions. Ms. Rogers plans to only have the contested races attend candidate's night. They will have more information to follow.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Ms. Julius stated Rose Culp of Happy Frog designed a sign that writes "We are EB Strong" to support the two-food pantries. There are 250 signs distributed around town, more are available for \$15.00 and are delivered by Boy Scout Troup 29.

Mr. Sheedy stated the East Bridgewater YMCA is also having a food drive.

Mr. Dowling thanked Fire Chief, Tim Harhen for keeping everyone updated during the windstorm last week. He stated there were many residents that lost power.

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm

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Board of Selectmen