



OPEN SESSION MINUTES  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Monday, February 8, 2021

CAROLE JULIUS, CHAIRMAN  
DAVID SHEEDY, VICE CHAIRMAN  
PETER SPAGONE JR, CLERK

REMOTE MEETING  
175 CENTRAL STREET  
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

RECEIVED TOWN CLERK  
21 FEB 22 AM 10:04

Members Present: Carole Julius, David Sheedy and Peter Spagone Jr.

Members Absent:

Others Present: Brian Noble, Town Administrator and Rebecca Johnson, Assistant to Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen

6:31 pm Carole Julius called the meeting to order.

Ms. Julius led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### APPOINTMENTS

Fire Chief, Timothy Harhen was present to give an update on the Fire Department and COVID-19 response for the Board of Health. Chief Harhen provided the latest COVID-19 numbers. He stated 105 confirmed cases, 22 probable cases, and may come up slightly as more results come in. The overall numbers are down from last week but Town is still considered a high risk community. Chief Harhen stated the First Responders received their first vaccination on January 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and scheduled to receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose on February 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Chief Harhen stated Phase 2 has started on February 1<sup>st</sup> and the EBFD and Board of Health each ordered 200 doses, and neither were allocated any vaccines. Both departments will continue to order vaccines every Monday. Once vaccines are received a clinic will be held either Wednesday or Thursday at the Community Center for those that are 75+ older. Chief Harhen stated the BOH will work with West Bridgewater to vaccinate both school districts.

Chief Harhen announced the Town's website now has a "Vaccination Appointment Registry". There is also a "Vaccine Hotline", 508-378-1610 OPTION 1 for those who do not have email or internet access. He stated the Board of Health including himself is doing everything they can to get vaccines for residents. The Board of Selectmen commended Chief Harhen and the Board of Health for all their works and efforts.

Chief Harhen stated we have the opportunity to apply for a Staffing For Adequate Fire And Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. He briefly went over grant and stated the Government provides funding for hiring new firefighters. Funds given will cover salary and benefits 100 percent over 3 years.

#### OPEN FORUM

Ms. Johnson stated no emails were received for public comment.

Town Clerk, Susan Gillpatrick stated residents who have yet to return their Town census to please do so. Ms. Gillpatrick stated the last day to obtain nomination papers is Wednesday, February 17, 2021. The last day to return papers is Friday, February 19, 2021. Ms. Gillpatrick stated the positions available and that will be on the ballot are: One - Town Clerk (3yrs); One - Board of Selectmen (3yrs); One - Assessor (3yrs); Two - School Committee (3yrs); One - Housing Authority (5yrs); Two - Library Trustees (3yrs); One - Board of Health (3yrs); One - Board of Health (1yr to fill a vacancy); Two - Planning Board (3yrs), One - Planning Board (1yr to fill vacancy). Please call the Town Clerk's Office with any questions. 508-378-1606.

## ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to accept the resignation of the Public Health Nurse, Lisa Royale effective 1/25/2021. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

The Selectmen thanked Ms. Royale for her service to the Town.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve but not release minutes of the January 4, 2021 6:15 pm Executive Session Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve but not release minutes of the January 25, 2021 4:00 pm Executive Session Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021 4:30 pm Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021 4:00 pm joint Board of Selectmen and Board of Health's Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to approve schedule for 2021 Annual and Special Town Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to open Town Meeting Warrant. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Noble stated he is looking for the Board of Selectmen to close the Town Meeting Warrant on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Ms. Julius stated each Selectmen individually met with Town Administrator regarding his performance review. She briefly went over process and stated this is the first review given for Mr. Noble. Each review is submitted to Town Counsel who then compiles them into a document for public record. Ms. Julius stated as a Board they identified areas that Mr. Noble is very good at such as the budget, customer service and very high standard for his work ethics. The Selectmen also recognize areas for some improvement such as communication and team building. Mr. Noble extends his gratitude to the Board of Selectmen for their input and kindness.

Mr. Sheedy made a motion to accept compilation of the performance review. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Noble commended Timothy Harhen, Fire Chief and Sue Mulloy, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Health for their works and efforts in establishing the "Vaccination Appointment Registry" on Town's website and "Vaccine Hotline". He stated over 130 residents signed up.

Mr. Noble stated the Treasurer/Collector's office has been dealing with fraudulent unemployment claims. Melissa Morrisey, Treasurer/Collector was present and stated from April through July the State was not reviewing the unemployment claims and that the automated system would just approve anything that came through. She commended Assistant Treasurer, Megan Crosby for her work and efforts to protest all claims.

Mr. Noble stated the Town is approved to move other post-employment benefit (OPEB) trust account funds into state retirement board trust fund (SRBTF) effective March 1<sup>st</sup>.

He stated the School Roof will be out to bond again in July. He mentioned refinancing the school debt for the high school. Which will save about \$4.4 million dollars.

Mr. Noble stated he submitted a document to the Board of Selectmen regarding the Gladys Farren Cottage and how the Town will proceed on selling or moving it, he's awaiting feedback.

He stated Senator Timilty's office has reached out regarding the Governor's budget and what he foresees the House and Senate proposes.

Mr. Noble gave an update on the RFP – Engineering Services. He stated firms are requesting more time. He recommends extending the deadline from Friday, February 12 to Friday, February 26.

Mr. Spagone Jr. made a motion to extend the engineering RFP to Friday, February 26. Seconded by Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Noble stated he received lawyers review on the proposal put out to bid on Leland Farm property currently held by the Lipinski Family. The bid was authorized at Town Meeting. The bid package is ready, and the deadline will be March 1, 2021.

Mr. Sheedy made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to post Leland Farm bid as of February 9, 2021 12 pm. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS / STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Johnson announced the Selectmen's Office will be collecting donations for the "Cans for Cupid" food drive until February 12<sup>th</sup>. The donation box is located in the lobby directly outside office.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Selectmen's Meeting Monday, February 22, 2021

Selectmen's Meeting Monday, March 8, 2021

#### BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Sheedy stated the Town Planner is a brand-new position and recommends a committee(s) to review all the resumes and conduct interviews. This committee should consist Building Commissioner, Patrick Franey, Planning Board Member, Roy Gardner, Conservation Commission Member, Claire Yocum, Director of Public Works, John Haines, Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman, Robert Looney or Zoning Board of Appeals Clerk, Kevin Marchant and a contractor. The final candidates to be presented to the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Julius suggested the Town Administrator be involved in the process as the Town Planner will report to him. Mr. Spagone Jr. recommended to add Director of Assessing, Paula Wolfe. There was a brief discussion on received resumes.

Mr. Spagone Jr. thanked Ms. Johnson for organizing food drive collection in Town Hall. He stated he met with the Recreation department regarding a stipend set forth for the Temporary Recreation Commission Assistant and the needs of the commission. Mr. Spagone Jr. would like to post position on Town website to get someone in the Town. Mr. Noble stated the estimated cost would be between \$3,500 - \$5,000 depending number of hours and months for the person to complete project.

Mr. Sheedy made a motion to move position forward to Personnel Board. Seconded by Mr. Spagone Jr. All were in favor. 3-0

Mr. Spagone Jr. commended Town Administrator, Brain Noble, Recreation Commission Members, John Shea and Theresa McNulty for their works and efforts in creating temporary job description.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

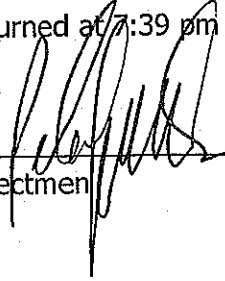
The Selectmen were entering into Executive Session Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, § 21 (a)(2) to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiation with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining & litigating position of the public body as the chair so declares and not return to open session.

Ms. Julius made a motion to move into Executive Session and not return to open session, Mr. Sheedy seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Julius: Aye, Mr. Sheedy: Aye, Mr. Spagone Jr: Aye. All were in favor, 3-0

ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm

  
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Board of Selectmen Clerk