

TOWN OF WENHAM  
Board of Selectmen  
Meeting of February 21, 2020  
Town Hall, 138 Main Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30 A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on Friday February 21, 2020 at 1 pm in the Selectmen Chambers, first floor.

The Town of Wenham has a three-member Board of Selectmen elected for three-year terms with one seat up for election each year. Catherine Harrison (2020); John Clemenzi (2021); Jack Wilhelm (2022)  
The Board of Selectmen serve as the chief executive body of the Town. The board's duties include in part appointing the Town Administrator and other board/committee members, developing goals and policies, preparing the town report, the annual budget, and presenting the warrant for Town Meeting.  
The Board typically meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in Town Hall. The BOS meetings are posted on the Town calendar. All meetings are open to the public and may be viewed on local cable channels HWCAM.org or YouTube HWCAM.

*Please be advised that this open meeting is being broadcast live and recorded by HWCAM for playback on Comcast channel 8 and Verizon channel 36. It will also be available for on-line, video on-demand viewing at hwcam.org. The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours before said meeting, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed. Items may be taken out of order and at times that differ from those listed below. Other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. All audience members wishing to address the Board of Selectmen must go to the podium microphone and give their name and address.*

**Call to Order** - With a quorum present, Mr. Wilhelm called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm  
Selectmen present: Jack Wilhelm, Chair; John Clemenzi, Vice Chair; Catherine Harrison, Clerk  
Also present: Anthony Ansaldi, Town Administrator; Jackie Bresnahan, Special Project Manager; Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary;

**Review & Potential Vote** to place draft articles on the Warrant for the April 4, 2020 Annual Town Meeting (ATM)  
Mr. Ansaldi referenced a PowerPoint presentation.

- Levy Limit Budget

*Vote: BOS voted unanimously to insert the Levy Limit Budget article onto the warrant for the April 4, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, subject to approval as to form by Town Counsel.*

- Usage of Free Cash to Balance the Budget

*Vote: BOS voted unanimously to insert the Usage of Free Cash to Balance the Budget article onto the warrant for the the April 4, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, subject to approval as to form by Town Counsel.*

- Usage of Free Cash for Capital Projects

*Vote: The BOS voted unanimously to insert the Usage of Free Cash for Capital Projects article onto the warrant for the April 4, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, subject to approval as to form by Town Counsel. This article included:*

- Council on Aging roof replacement \$21,000
- Fire SCBA (Breathing Apparatus) \$15,000
- Information Tech. Website upgrade \$13,000
- Iron Rail Septic System Design \$10,000
- Police Replacement Rifles (5) (year 1 of 2) \$7,000

- Transfer from Water Fund Surplus for Capital Project “Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System” (SCADA)

*Vote: The BOS voted unanimously to insert the Water Fund Surplus for Capital Project article onto the warrant for the April 4, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, subject to approval as to form by Town Counsel.*

- Water Irrigation General By-Law

*The BOS deferred this vote to the next meeting to clarify the language of the motion/article.*

Erik Mansfield, Water Superintendent was present and spoke to the irrigation article. He explained that this would prohibit any irrigation system (new or existing), not yet connected to town water, from being connected to town water.

- Demolition Delay General By-Law

*Vote: The BOS voted unanimously to inset the Demolition Delay General By-Law article onto the warrant for the April 4, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, subject to approval as to form by Town Counsel.*

Harriet Davis, Vice Chair of the Historic District Commission (HDC)/ Historic Commission (HC), spoke on the salient points of the demolition delay bylaw.

- The delay term is 6 months.
- Effective only on homes built in/before 1875
- The delay is not recorded with the Registry of Deeds.

The Selectmen asked for an estimated number of structures this bylaw may be applied to in town.

Ms. Bresnahan spoke on the process. The permitting office is the first department in the process with the application for a demolition permit. The HC determines if a structure is deemed historically significant.

A two-thirds majority vote of the HC is required to enact the bylaw.

- Election of Officers

*Vote: The BOS voted unanimously to insert the amended Election of Officers article onto the warrant for the April 4, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, subject to approval as to form by Town Counsel.*

*This article corrects typographical errors in the terms as listed in the previously approved motion.*

The BOS will complete the warrant Tuesday February 25

### **FY21 Budget Discussions**

- Override Article(s) Structure

The override to fully fund the Hamilton Wenham Regional School District and the town of Wenham is \$1,085,363.

The BOS discussed the override apportionments for the school and town and what breakdown was fair and equitable.

The total amount (town plus school expense budget) that is outside of Wenham's Levy limit is \$1,085,363. This is the total override amount. This override was apportioned between the town and schools by calculating what percentage the dollar increase in total budget was due to the towns (33.32%) and what percentage of the total dollar increase was due to the schools (66.68%). These percentages were applied to the override amount to determine what the school override number should be as well as what the town override number should be.

Mr. Wilhelm requested confirmation of options available to the town if the override fails. Town Counsel will be consulted.

It was thought that the town could hold a special town meeting and present another override.

*Vote: The BOS voted unanimously to apportion the total override of \$1,085,363; the town portion is 33.32% or \$361, 640 and the HWRSD is 66.68% of total Override or \$723,722.*

- Override Options

- Option 1: Separate override articles - If this override fails the loose-leaf article will be passed over.

1. Town \$361,640
2. School \$723,722

- Option 2: One article for \$1,085,363 - Contingency for loose leaf pickup – to assess an additional \$50,000  
Town \$361,640 and Wenham share of HWRSD \$723,722

Mr. Wilhelm supported two separate overrides and an article for loose leaf pickup.

Mr. Ansaldi reiterated that if the override does not pass there would be staff cuts and the DPW would be unable to perform the loose leaf pick up.

Mr. Clemenzi stated he was heavily opposed to any override but could be convinced for an operational override for the town this year if there was an exit strategy and projections for next years' budget. He added that it was fiscal irresponsibility to continue to budget dependent on overrides.

Ms. Harrison observed that Selectman Clemenzi had not expressed his opposition to the override during the previous discussions over the past several months and opined that not having an override was not feasible. In addition, Ms. Harrison understood the school committee was meeting Monday night to discuss the override structure and give input to the BOS and requested the BOS hold their vote until the next meeting to hear what the school committee has to say.

Mr. Wilhelm observed that there were no school committee members in attendance at the previous meeting to discuss the override and had hoped for some feedback at that meeting. He went on to point out that if there is no override the BOS would have to make major budget cuts including staff reductions.

*Approved 04.13.2020*

Mr. Ansaldi said he continues to meet with department heads on options to reduce the budget. Regarding the outlook for next year's budget, Mr. Ansaldi reminded the board that the town saw unexpected cost increases in i.e. insurance, trash pickup.

Mr. Wilhelm held this discussion to be continued to the next BOS meeting on Tuesday.

**Adjournment** - *The BOS unanimously adjourned at 2:27 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted By  
Catherine Tinsley  
3.18.2020