

TOWN OF WENHAM
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of April 13, 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 Monday April 13, 2020 at 5:30 pm virtually on zoom.us.

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 via Zoom and recorded for playback 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 participants wishing to address the Board of Selectmen must indicate so in the Zoom meeting chat.

In response to the Covid19 Virus pandemic, the Massachusetts Governor closed all non-essential businesses and issued stay at home advisory. To comply with the Governor's orders that there be no gatherings, this meeting took place virtually. It was confirmed all could be heard and votes would be taken by roll call.

Call to Order - With a quorum present, Mr. Wilhelm called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

Selectmen present: Jack Wilhelm, Chair; John Clemenzi, Vice Chair; Catherine Harrison, Clerk

Also present: Anthony Ansaldi, Town Administrator; Jackie Bresnahan, Director of Administrative Services; Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary

Public Input – There was none.

Announcements

1. Resident Requests for Property Exclusion from Mosquito Spraying

Residents interested in submitting requests for property exclusion from mosquito spraying, should the Board of Health need to take action this year, may visit the Board of Health page of the town website for links to the forms for submittal directly to the Department of Agricultural Resources. Submitted requests will go into effect fourteen (14) days from the date the request is made and expire on December 31st of the same calendar year.

Town Managers Report

Weekly Departmental update - Mr. Ansaldi reviewed weekly update from staff during the State of Emergency was in the meeting packet. Employees are (still) working remotely, at town hall, alternating schedules, and a combination of all of these.

Consent Agenda

- Meeting Minutes:
 - Open Session – February 18, 2020; Jt FinCom, February 21, 2020; February 25, 2020; March 17, 2020; March 27, 2020
 - Executive Session – March 27, 2020 to be held not for release.

Vote: The BOS voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve all items in the consent agenda and to hold the executive session minutes of March 27, 2020.

Appointments

- Constables
 - 1. David A. O'Leary
 - 2. Scott R. Janes

Vote: The BOS voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint David A. O'Leary and Scott R. Janes as Constables for a term beginning April 13, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

- Discussion and Potential Approval to change Health Insurance Providers for employees

Ms. Harrison introduced this agenda item and reviewed that the town was given a health insurance rate for Harvard Pilgrim with an increase of almost 15% for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21). The Town Administrator worked with MIAA (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association) and found a similar health insurance with significant savings to the town and employees.

Mr. Ansaldi reported MIAA can offer the town health insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield. The increase would be 7% and save the town \$60,000. MIAA is also the town's insurance carrier for Property & Casualty / Worker's Compensation Coverage.

The Public Employee Committee compared the two policies and reported the differences were minimal and approved the switch. It was noted that Blue Cross/Blue Shield is the largest health insurance provider in Massachusetts.

Vote: The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call vote to authorize the Town Administrator to sign a letter of agreement with the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association for their services in providing employee health insurance for the Fiscal 2021 year based on rates provided in the April 9, 2020 quote.

COVID-19 Discussion

- Update from the Board of Health & Public Health Nurse

Marybeth Ting, Public Health Nurse, was present and gave an update on the COVID19 conditions in Wenham. Ms. Ting reported one new case of COVID19 for a total of 7 confirmed cases to date. Testing for the virus continues to increase and more positive cases are anticipated.

Ms. Ting reiterated if a resident is told by their provider they have or presumably have COVID19 virus and to isolate, to please notify the Public Health Nurse at 978 468 5520 Ext 4 for assistance. Ms. Ting stressed the importance for people to stay home but if they go out for essential business to wear a face mask and wash their hands and maintain physical distancing.

The BOS will meet jointly with the Hamilton Board of Selectmen at 6:30 pm to discuss the annual town meeting/ town election dates and financial impact of the State of Emergency to joint programs.

Adjourn – *The BOS voted unanimously by roll call to adjourn at 6 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted By

Catherine Tinsley

4.15.2020