

TOWN OF WENHAM
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of May 12, 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 Tuesday May 12, 2020 at 5:30 pm virtually on zoom.

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.

Call to Order - With a quorum present, Mr. Wilhelm called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.
Selectmen present: Jack Wilhelm, Chair; John Clemenzi, Vice Chair; Catherine Harrison, Clerk
Also present: Anthony Ansaldi, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary

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.

Executive Session –Union Personnel

Vote: The selectmen voted unanimously by roll call vote to enter into executive session under M.G.L. Ch. 30A, § 21 (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and return to open session.

The selectmen returned to open session at 6:09 pm. The Chairman called for a recess until 6:30 pm.

Open session present: Jackie Bresnahan, Director of Administrative Services; Dianne Bucco Town Clerk; Chris Holak, Interim Finance Director; Sherrie LeBlanc, Treasurer/Collector; Janet Sacco, Asst. Treasurer Collector/ Payroll Benefits Coordinator; Public Nurse Maribeth Ting; Board of Health Chair Dr. Andrew Ting; Police Chief Perkins and Captain DiNapoli; Fire Chief Kavanagh and Deputy Chief Baxter; Jim Reynolds, Council on Aging Director; Steve Ozahowski, Assessor; Kim Butler, Library Director; Library staff; Gary Cheeseman, selectman candidate

Reports

- Town Administrator

- Departmental Weekly Updates During COVID-19 Crisis, May 12, 2020

This Thursday, May 14, the BOS will hold a special meeting at 5 pm to receive the results of the Citizen Engagement Survey conducted by GreatBlue in February/March 2020. The survey was paid for through a grant. A representative from GreatBlue will make a presentation.

- The Hamilton Selectmen are tentatively holding the June 20 date for their town meeting and June 25 elections.

Regarding Wenham holding a town meeting outside at the high school, at this time legislation does not allow a town meeting to be held outside of the town lines, but legislation keeps changing to accommodate town meetings during the pandemic.

Mr. Ansaldi, Fire Chief and Police Captain visited Gordon College as a possible venue for consideration to safely hold a number of residents when Wenham can schedule the town meeting

- Chairman

Mr. Wilhelm opined about town meeting saying he believed it was highly unlikely that Wenham would be able have a spring town meeting. He stated his opinion that a revised FY21 budget that incorporated reductions as a result of reduced state funding would be necessary within the next 3 weeks in order to allow the finance committee and board of selectmen to both

Approved 06.02.20

review and approve a revised budget and hold a warrant hearing the week before a town meeting. The regional school district also has to present their revised FY21 budget.

He believes Gordon College would be more desirable for physical distancing than the Buker school.

- Selectmen

Mr. Clemenzi said that he spoke with the owner of Wenham Pines that 4 units are in a state of purchase and construction would begin on more units.

Consent Agenda

A. Minutes – Open Session: April 21, 2020

Executive Session: November 19, 2019 #1; November 19, 2019 #2; December 2, 2019; April 21, 2020

Vote: The selectmen voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the consent agenda including the following: Open Session Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2020. Executive Session Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2019 #1, November 19, 2019 #2, December 2, 2019, April 21, 2019 Executive Session Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2019 #1, December 2, 2019 and April 21, 2019 will be held Executive Session Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2019 #2 will be released.

New Business

- Discussion & potential vote to extend Board/Committees Current Appointments by the BOS Expiring June 30, 2020
 - Committee/ Board list set to expire June 30, 2020

The BOS proposed to vote to extend appointments expiring June 30, 2020 to expire on September 1, 2020.

Those individuals will be contacted and asked to confirm their willingness to comply with the extended appointment through September 1, 2020 or wished to resign.

The selectmen are not authorized to appoint the Finance Committee. This does not impact incumbents.

Vote: The selectmen voted unanimously by roll call vote to extend the terms of all committee members appointed by the BOS, listed in the included spreadsheet, from June 30, 2020 through September 1, 2020.

- Discussion and potential vote on Police Dept. appointments: (1) Police Officer (1) Reserve Police Officer
 - Memorandum from Chief Perkins April 29, 2020 re Personnel Additions
 - Memorandum from Chief Perkins April 30, 2020 re 2020 Full Time/Reserve Hiring Process

Police Chief Perkins was present and spoke on the proposed appointments to fill the full-time office position and the part-time reserve officer position.

Chief Perkins identified because the police academy is closed due to the pandemic, the positions were posted internally and advertised outside of the department for trained candidates. These two candidates have the ability to go right to work to serve the public. These candidates were interviewed by the BOS who concurred on the recommendation.

Vote: the selectmen voted unanimously by roll call vote pursuant to M.G.L. C. 41, § 97A to appoint John Phillips of Salem, MA as full-time police officer for the Wenham Police Department beginning June 1, 2020.

Vote: the selectmen voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Daniel K. O'Connell of Peabody, MA as a reserve Patrol Officer for the Wenham Police Department beginning June 1, 2020.

- COVID-19 Discussion
 - Update from the Public Health Nurse Maribeth Ting

Ms. Ting reported that 15 residents tested positive for the COVID-19 virus and there are 2 reported COVID-19 related deaths in Wenham.

The Department of Public Health has updated their guidance for people suspected to have been in contact with confirmed COVID-19 case to be tested and not just self-quarantine.

Ms. Ting reiterated the importance to wear a face covering when unable to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet when out in public and for residents to continue to focus on safety. She opined and noted her own concern with the virus spreading as businesses open up.

Ms. Ting confirmed that access to testing is increasing and it was her experience that people were able to get tested get the results quicker.

Essex county is in the top three counties of Massachusetts with the highest COVID-19 cases and there is significant cause for concern in Essex County.

- FY20 Budget Update

Mr. Holak provided an updated revenue comparison sheet from FY10 to FY20 on April 30. The Town of Hamilton Assessments were received May 6 and will be include in the next update.

The town revenue is almost in line with collections at this time last year.

Approved 06.02.20

Mr. Clemenzi referenced the Legislative Round Table discussion with Senator Tarr and Representative Hill who advised the town that there is an anticipated shortfall in state revenue for FY21. Mr. Wilhelm noted his concern with first quarter revenue of FY21.

The remaining cash flow update was available; the Chairman passed over this report.

- FY21 Budget Update

Mr. Ansaldi reiterated that he is working on a draft 1/12 budget as well as a revised FY21 budget and will have drafts of what this may look like at the next meeting.

- Discussion and Potential reconsideration vote for Annual Town Election

Proposed change in the annual Wenham voting for Hamilton Wenham Regional School District Committee members

- COVID-19 Election Contingency Plan Town of Wenham April 21, 2020
- Email from J. Bresnahan to D. Bucco re Election Health Protocols May 6, 2020

Mr. Wilhelm reviewed that at the last meeting the BOS voted 2 to 1 for elections to be held on June 4 with the caveat that the vote would be reconsidered on at this meeting. Since last week, Mr. Wilhelm said he spoke with Michelle Bailey of the school committee and Dianne Bucco the town clerk and has a better understanding of the Town of Hamilton's election date later in the month on June 25. On a side note, Mr. Wilhelm noted that Hamilton has a bylaw for elections to be held the following Thursday after Town Meeting; Hamilton is considering a June 20 town meeting. He also referenced the regional school district agreement that the district may set its own date for the school committee elections, and observed that this has not been done in the past and could be discussed for next year.

Mr. Wilhelm proposed the selectmen vote to move the date of the Wenham annual elections to June 25 to coincide with Hamilton's elections. There has been no legislative change therefore elections must be held by June 30.

Mr. Clemenzi lost his internet connect prior to the vote.

VOTE: Mr. Wilhelm moved and it was seconded, to amend the date of the (Wenham) annual elections from June 4, 2020 to June 25, 2020. The motion carried by majority roll call vote with Mr. Clemenzi having lost his internet connection prior to the motion.

Mr. Clemenzi reconnected to the meeting.

Adjourn - *The selectmen unanimously adjourned by roll call vote at 7:30 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted By
Catherine Tinsley
5.19.2020