

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
July 20, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman James Athanas at 7:00 PM, using Zoom Video Communication (Video Conferencing App) at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89853727076?pwd=czhVTEc1cmxHd3FZS29nZXlac2FjZz09>

Meeting ID: 898 5372 7076; **Password:** 384396; **Dial by Phone:** 1-646-558-8656

Board Members Present: Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon, Collins and Melia. Also Present: Adam D. Gaudette, Town Manager.

Chairman Athanas asked all attendees to mute their microphones unless they are speaking or wish to speak. Inappropriate comments and/or disruptive behavior would result in immediate dismissal.

Chairman Athanas read the following aloud: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings of the Northbridge Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Town Manager Gaudette introduced Russell Collins as the newest member of the Board of Selectmen replacing Daniel Nolan, who did not seek re-election. **1) Town Manager asks for Nominations for Chairman.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to nominate Alicia Cannon to the position of Chairman. Vote yes/Unanimous. **2) Chairman asks for Nominations for Vice-Chairman.** A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Melia to nominate Charles Ampagoomian as Vice Chairman. Vote yes/Unanimous. **3) Chairman asks for Nominations for Clerk.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to nominate Russell Collins as Clerk. Vote yes/Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None

PUBLIC HEARING/None

APPOINTMENTS/By the Board of Selectmen: Election Officers: Democrat, Republican and Unenrolled/Vote to appoint. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Athanas to appoint the Democrat, Republican, and Unenrolled Election Officers as listed in the Selectmen's agenda packets. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Building, Planning and Construction Committee (BPCC): H. Warren Fairbanks III/Vote to appoint. Charmain Cannon asked Mr. Fairbanks to talk about his interest in serving on this committee and to provide some background information about himself. Mr. Fairbanks stated that he worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as the Associate Vice President of Facilities and Capital Planning Emeritus and is a registered engineer with 40 years of experience including 28 years in public procurement and management of public projects. Selectman Ampagoomian stated he reviewed Mr. Fairbanks' resume in depth and expressed his appreciation for him coming forward to volunteer for the BPCC. Selectman Melia stated that Mr. Fairbanks will be a tremendous asset to the BPCC. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Collins to appoint Mr. H. Warren Fairbanks III to the Building Planning and Construction Committee. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Super Records Access Officer and Board of Registrars: Linda Zywień, Acting Town Clerk. Mrs. Zywień stated that being appointed as the Super Records Access Officer and to the Board of Registrars is mandated due to her holding the position of Town Clerk and requires a formal vote by the Board. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Athanas to appoint Mrs. Zywień as the Super Records Access Officer and member of the Board of Registrars. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Board of Selectmen Designees: Present List for August 17, 2020 Meeting Appointments. Town Manager Gaudette stated that the Board will be asked to vote for Selectmen representation on various Boards and Committees at the next meeting as listed in the memo provided.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

United Presbyterian Church, 51 Cottage Street, Whitinsville, MA/Application for a Weekday Entertainment License for Worship Services with Live Music on Church grounds on Wednesdays from 6 PM to 7 PM as follows: August 5, 12, 19, 26 and September 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Present: Leslie Reichert. Ms. Reichert explained that with the current COVID guidelines, it is suggested that worship services be moved outdoors. After doing some research, they received permission to use the church grounds and a neighbor's yard. She stated that they do plan to have an amplifier for the music, but it will be for acoustics and keyboards. Selectman Ampagoomian asked if they have a rain date. Ms. Reichert replied that they do not and would just plan for the following scheduled Wednesday. Selectman Melia asked if she anticipates any issues with the neighbors due to crowds or noise. Ms. Reichert said that they have plenty of parking and do not anticipate large crowds. A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the United Presbyterian Church's request for a Weekday Entertainment License for Worship Services with Live Music to be held on Church grounds on Wednesdays from 6 PM to 7 PM as follows: August 5, 12, 19, 26 and September 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church, 315 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA/Request to erect a monument at Pine Grove Cemetery commemorating the Armenian Community. Present: Peter Bedigian. Mr. Bedigian stated that there have been discussions on erecting a monument in Town to commemorate the historical value of the Armenian community. The Pine Grove Cemetery was suggested and found to be a good option. After finding a good location within the cemetery, the Department of Public Works was contacted, and they confirmed it was a good location. Mr. Bedigian explained that they have a rendering of the type of monument they are looking for, which will be 40 x 60-feet when completed. Chairman Cannon asked Mr. Bedigian to explain the significance of the monument and what it means. Mr. Bedigian responded that the monument will represent the Armenian people going back in time and will be a commemoration and recognition of the genocide and the historical escape to Whitinsville and other communities. Chairman Cannon also asked what the significance of the pillars is. Mr. Bedigian stated that there are religious aspects to it, such as the trinity. Selectman Athanas asked who will be required to maintain the monument. Mr. Bedigian responded that they plan to have a landscaper involved with the design and for the Church and the Armenian community to be involved in the maintenance. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Athanas to approve the Armenian Church's request for a monument to be erected at Pine Grove Cemetery commemorating the Armenian Community. Vote yes/Unanimous. Mr. Bedigian announced that he would like to keep coordinating with the Friends of Pine Grove Cemetery, along with the Town and DPW, to keep everyone in the know.

End of Year Transfers/Vote to transfer funds to balance the FY2020 Employment Benefits Line (Additional Medicare Costs). Present: Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant. Mr. Vaidya explained that this is a transfer we have had in the past and a vote to approve will avoid an end of the year deficit. The Medicare line number is based on the number of employees throughout the year and it can fluctuate, which resulted in a negative amount for the line item. Town Manager Gaudette added that the line item the money is coming from had some surplus funds, which is the payments to Uxbridge for our Regional Veterans

Services Administrator along with payments to veterans that meet a certain requirement, which can also fluctuate. A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the transfer of funds to balance the FY2020 Employment Benefits Line (Additional Medicare Costs). Vote yes/Unanimous.

Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Center/Vote to renew the Intermunicipal Agreement for Recycling Services and the License Agreement between the Town of Northbridge and the Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Center for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Town Manager Gaudette explained that this is an annual agreement, which covers the staffing of the recycling center. Selectman Ampagoomian noted under Section 11, it states that damages to the property are to be fixed promptly and suggested adding the words - weather permitting. Town Manager Gaudette stated he was comfortable with the language under Section 11, since it states promptly, meaning its not going to sit around and linger but said he will see about changing the wording. Mr. Ampagoomian stated that he is also concerned with number 12(f). Mr. Gaudette explained that they keep containers at the property and the residents come in and dump their items. Once the containers are full, Blackstone transports the containers to the facility. Mr. Ampagoomian asked about 12(h) and stated he has an issue with it. Town Manager Gaudette explained that the recycled items that are soiled or materials not accepted so the staff can reject them, but we have had instances where people have dumped items at the gate and Blackstone has helped with getting rid of the items. Anything out of the ordinary we pay a small fee, which Blackstone has been great in assisting with. Selectman Ampagoomian asked about Section 20 and Northbridge not having any rights if we wish to terminate the agreement. Town Manager Gaudette explained that he believes that language is stated that way because Blackstone needs to hire staff to operate the facility and bring in equipment and they need to plan for all that. Selectman Athanas suggested approving this agreement and making changes for next year. A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Melia to renew the Intermunicipal Agreement for Recycling Services and the License Agreement between the Town of Northbridge and the Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Center for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Conservation Agent Services/Vote to renew the Intermunicipal Agreement for Conservation Agent Services between the Town of Northbridge and the Town of Upton for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023. Town Manager Gaudette stated that this is a renewal but is a year early due to a change last fall where the Northbridge Conservation Commission approved more hours for the agent and Upton did the same this Spring. Town Manager Gaudette explained they added more hours, which brings the split to be 50/50 split. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Collins to renew the Intermunicipal Agreement for Conservation Agent Services between the Town of Northbridge and the Town of Upton for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Membership in the Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition/ Vote to renew the Intermunicipal Agreement for Stormwater Management Services between the Town of Northbridge and the Town of Spencer for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025. Town Manager Gaudette explained that we are part of the Central Mass. Stormwater Coalition and there is a mandate that Towns are required to follow. In 2008, the permit was renewed, and towns were fined for not meeting the conditions of the mandate and felt it would be beneficial to pool resources rather than reinvent the wheel. Town Manager Gaudette stated that our responsibility has been \$4,000 dollars a year to cover the expenses once the grants expired, this year the coalition decided to reduce it to \$1,000 dollars to allow any town to partake and in years two through five will go back to \$4,000 dollars. Town Manager Gaudette reminded the board that the idea is for towns to meet the EPA requirements for stormwater management. A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Melia to renew the Intermunicipal Agreement for Stormwater Management Services between the Town of Northbridge and the Town of Spencer for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Fall Annual Town Meeting [October 27, 2020]/Vote to close the warrant on Friday, August 28, 2020 at Noon. A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Melia to close the warrant on Friday, August 28, 2020 at Noon. Vote yes/Unanimous.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: Key Meetings Attended: Tuesday, June 29, 2020 – Attended the tabulation of the Annual Town Election to see Ballot Question results. Wednesday, July 1, 2020 – Participated virtual Lt Governor's Weekly Zoom call for Town Managers. Wednesday, July 1, 2020 – Weekly Construction Conference Call for Lasell Field Project. Wednesday, July 1, 2020 – Conference Call for Balmer Elementary School Project (irrigation). Thursday, July 1, 2020 – Met with Staff to provide a plaque in recognition of outgoing Town Clerk Doreen Cedrone. **Congratulations Doreen!** Monday, July 6, 2020 – Site visit at 32 Purgatory Road to inspect right-of-way wash-out at property owner's request. Tuesday, July 14, 2020 – Met with Chairman Jay Athanas as well as met with incoming Selectman Russ Collins. Wednesday, July 15, 2020 – Met with Selectman Tom Melia. Wednesday, July 15, 2020 – Attended the Lasell Field Weekly Construction Project Meeting on site. Friday, July 17, 2020 – Attended a site visit meeting with DPW staff and representatives from Pleasant Street Church to discuss flooding on Cross Street. Friday, July 17, 2020 – Held a Department Managers Meeting. **FY2021 Budget and Spring Annual Town Meeting:** The voters at the June 23rd Annual Town Meeting approved a \$47,000,000 budget for FY2021 as well as balanced FY2020 with transfers. The voters also approved multiple capital projects including the Middle School Boilers. The Town still awaits news from the State on the FY2021 Cherry Street amounts. With the State approving a 1/12th budget for July and August, we are not expected to know the State Aid amounts until say September 1st. **COVID-19:** The Board of Health reports again that there are no new cases this week. That means there have been no new cases since June 23rd and only 12 cases since May 26th. The last Press Release was issued on June 30, 2020 stating that the Town had experienced 312 confirmed cases, which is the same number being carried by the MA Department of Public Health in their report this week. **Balmer School Building Project:** Project construction by Fontaine Brothers continues with precautionary measures in place per State construction guidelines for construction projects moving forward during the pandemic. The majority of the site work has been completed allowing for work to begin in the interior of the building (framing, etc.). The Town Manager has been participating in the discussion of irrigation of the athletic fields with the project design team and Whitinsville Water Company. The next School Building Committee is scheduled for next week July 21, 2020. **Fire Station Project (Feasibility Study):** The voters at the June 23rd Annual Town Meeting approved the borrowing of \$18,968,000 for the project unanimously and the Debt Exclusion Question was approved at the Annual Town Election on June 30th. The BPCC has met since and authorized the Town Manager to proceed with the drafting of an RFQ for OPM services. The BPCC will discuss the project at their next scheduled meeting on July 29, 2020. **Lasell Field Turf Project:** The GC Green Acres (GA) continues construction during the pandemic using proper safety/health protocols. The following is an update from the latest Field Report: a) The turf contractor (Sprinturf) has begun infilling with crumb rubber. Activitas is working on a punch list with some minor issues (excess fiber length, straighten linework, etc.). b) The storage units were delivered and have been installed. c) The stone below the bleacher area has been installed and graded. d) The concrete pavement that was damaged due to track asphalt paving has been replaced with new concrete. The concrete curb cut at the maintenance gate has been installed. Green Acres will need to cut back the asphalt in Linwood Avenue and repave a small portion so that it is flush with the concrete curb cut. A weekly construction conference call was held this past week on Wednesday, July 15th. Substantial completion is expected by August 28th.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/Chairman Cannon 1) asked about the graduation for the High School Graduation ceremony and if the bleachers at Lasell Field would be completed in time. Town Manager Gaudette stated that the school is aware that they will not be completed in time, and he is unsure of what their plan is. **Selectman Melia 1)** offered condolences on behalf of the Board of Selectmen to the Doldoorian family for their loss of "Coach D" who many residents had as a coach and teacher and he was also a Council on Aging Board member at the time of his death. **2)** offered condolences to the family of

Harold Gould, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Melia continued stating that Mr. Gould is known as a local lawyer, military veteran, politician and a long-time moderator. **3)** thanked the Northbridge voters for electing him on June 30th, to his 5th term on the Board of Selectmen and stated he will continue to vote for what he feels is best for the citizens of Northbridge. **Selectman Ampagoomian 1)** expressed his condolences to the Doldoorian family. **2)** expressed his condolences to the Gould family. **3)** welcomed Mr. Collins back to the Board of the Selectmen. **Selectman Collins** thanked the voters for electing him to the Board of Selectmen and thanked the Board for welcoming him back. **Chairman Cannon 1)** requested an update on algae reports from Mr. Pickart **2)** reminded residents about the School Building Committee meeting tomorrow night, July 21, 2020 at 6:30 PM to discuss irrigation on Vail Field, and the meeting information can be accessed through the School's website. **3)** announced that the Meals on Wheels program is looking for volunteers to deliver meals to seniors in Town. Anyone interested can reach out to the Senior Center and ask for Bill to register.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

CORRESPONDENCE/None

EXECUTIVE SESSION/None

Chairman Cannon announced that the next meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2020 at 7 PM virtually.

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mrs. Athanas to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Collins, Clerk

/mjc

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

July 20, 2020

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

- 1) Town Manager asks for Nominations for Chairman
- 2) Chairman asks for Nominations for Vice-Chairman
- 3) Chairman asks for Nominations for Clerk

-No Documentation

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. PUBLIC HEARING

III. APPOINTMENTS/By the Board of Selectmen:

A. Election Officers: Democrat, Republican and Unenrolled/Vote to appoint

-Copy of election officers listing

B. Building, Planning and Construction Committee: H. Warren Fairbanks III/Vote to appoint

-Copy of talent bank application

-Copy of resume of Warren Fairbanks

C. Super Records Access Officer and Board of Registrars: Linda Zywiec, Acting Town Clerk/No documentation

D. Selectmen Designees: Present List for August 17, 2020 Meeting Appointments

-Copy of memorandum listing representation of Boards and Committees

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT

V. DECISIONS:

E. United Presbyterian Church, 51 Cottage Street, Whitinsville, MA/Application for a Weekday Entertainment License for Worship Services with Live Music on Church grounds on Wednesdays from 6 PM to 7 PM as follows: August 5, 12, 19, 26 and September 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Present: Leslie Reichert

-Copy of application for Entertainment License

-Copy of Revenue enforcement and protection attestation

-Copy Workers' Compensation Affidavit

-Copy of Certificate of Liability

-Copy of incorporation Certificate

-Copy of emergency contact information

-Copy of approval for property usage

-Copy of logistic plans

-Copy of license routing slip

F. Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church, 315 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA/Request for monument at Pine Grove Cemetery commemorating the Armenian Community Present: Peter Bedigian

-Copy of letter requesting the commemorative monument

-Copy of sketch of the monument

- Copy of potential location of monument
- Copy of map of potential location

G. End of Year Transfers/Vote to transfer funds to balance the FY2020 Employment Benefits Line (Additional Medicare Costs). Present: Town Accountant Neil Vaidya.

- Copy of memo for end of year transfers

H. Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Center/Vote to renew the Intermunicipal Agreement for Recycling Services and the License Agreement between the Town of Northbridge and the Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Center for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

- Copy of Agreement for Recycling Services and the License Agreement between the Town of Northbridge and the Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Center for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

I. Conservation Agent Services/Vote to renew the Intermunicipal Agreement for Conservation Agent Services between the Town of Northbridge and the Town of Upton for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023.

- Copy of Intermunicipal Agreement for Conservation Agent Services between the Town of Northbridge and the Town of Upton for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023

J. Membership in the Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition/ Vote to renew the Intermunicipal Agreement for Stormwater Management Services between the Town of Northbridge and the Town of Spencer for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025.

- Copy of Intermunicipal Agreement for Stormwater Management Services between the Town of Northbridge and the Town of Spencer for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025

K. Fall Annual Town Meeting [October 27, 2020]/Vote to close the warrant on Friday, August 28, 2020 at Noon/No documentation

- VI. DISCUSSIONS/None**
- VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/No documentation**
- VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/No documentation**
- IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**
- X. CORRESPONDENCE/None**
- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**