

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
June 8, 2020

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman James Athanas at 7:00 PM, virtually using Zoom Video Communication (Video Conferencing App) at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81760884697?pwd=L1c2TzMyZDlaaFg4SGhlN05sRU1Cdz09>.

Meeting ID: 817 6088 4697; Password: 827066; Dial by Phone: 1-646-558-8656.

Board Members Present: Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon, Melia and Nolan. 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.

Call Meeting to Order: 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES A. 1) May 18, 2020. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the May 18, 2020 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING/None.

APPOINTMENTS/ B. By the Town Manager: Linda Zywień, Acting Town Clerk (effective July 6, 2020). Town Manager Gaudette advised the Board that he is recommending Linda Zywień for appointment to the position of Acting Town Clerk due to the pending retirement of Doreen Cedrone. He added that Mrs. Cedrone, who has been our Town Clerk for many years, will be retiring this summer. He also mentioned she has been a great asset to the Northbridge community and her last day in the office will be July 3rd with an actual retirement date of September 14th, after exhaustion of her accrued time. Mrs. Cedrone then thanked all Selectmen, Election Workers and Registrars past and present for their support and sent a special thanks to Ann Riley for assisting the Town Clerk's Office. She also thanked the Town Manager for his hard work. Continuing, she voiced her sadness about having to say goodbye, noting it has been a pleasure being part of the team. Doreen then thanked Linda for joining the team 8 years ago with polite ambitions and being ever so gracious along with her many helpful contributions to the office. In closing, Ms. Cedrone said she has thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the community over the years. Next, Mrs. Zywień thanked the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager for this opportunity saying she has enjoyed her time here. Linda then thanked Doreen for her dedication to teamwork and mentoring her adding that with Doreen's hard work there will be a seamless transition. Selectman Melia congratulated Mrs. Cedrone on her retirement and stated she has done a remarkable job from the beginning. Selectman Ampagoomian stated he remembers when Mrs. Cedrone was appointed as Assistant Town Clerk and added that Mrs. Zywień will be great. Selectman Cannon thanked Mrs. Cedrone for her years of service and congratulated Linda. Selectman Nolan stated Mrs. Cedrone will be missed and added both women are professional, organized, and innovative. A motion/Mr. Melia seconded/Mrs. Cannon to appoint Linda Zywień as Acting Town Clerk effective July 6, 2020. Vote yes/Unanimous.

RESIGNATIONS: 1) Dan O'Neill, Northbridge Historical Commission. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mrs. Cannon to accept the resignation of Dan O'Neill from the Northbridge Historical Commission and send a letter of appreciation. Vote yes/Unanimous. **2) Suzanne Fregeau, Board of Registrars.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian seconded/Mrs. Cannon to accept the letter of resignation of

Suzanne Fregeau as a member of the Board of Registrars and send a letter of appreciation. Vote yes/Unanimous.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

Bond Anticipation Notes: 1) Department of Public Works Facility (\$2 million) and 2) Lasell Field Turf Project (\$1 million)/Vote to sign. Present: Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant and Julie Harris, Treasurer/Collector. Mr. Vaidya advised that the total borrowing is for \$3 million. \$2 million of it is for the Department of Public Works and \$1 million is for the Lasell Field Turf Project, which is not a permanent borrowing. Ms. Harris stated 3 banks submitted bids for the borrowing and Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank was awarded the bid at a rate of .88% for the \$3 million, which is a great rate and our financial advisor was very pleased as well. Town Manager Gaudette stated that in working with the Friends of Lasell Field one rate was 4.5% and one was 3%, which was expected. Chairman Athanas asked what the anticipated savings will be on the interest rate. Town Manager Gaudette stated that we are not yet borrowing for the second portion of the Lasell Field project, but we are instead borrowing as we go and can't calculate the projected rate. A motion/Mr. Melia seconded/Mrs. Cannon to award the sale of \$3,000,000 Bond Anticipation Notes dated June 26, 2020 payable June 25, 2021 to Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank at a rate of 0.88%. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Spring Annual Town Meeting [Postponed to June 23, 2020] / Vote positions on warrant articles. Chairman Athanas stated that the Town Manager will review all warrant articles and Board members will vote their positions after his review is completed. **Article 1 (Prior year Bills).** Town Manager Gaudette stated that there a few small invoices to be paid under this article. **Article 2 (Snow and Ice).** Town Manager Gaudette stated that this article is to balance the current FY2020 budget, a majority of which is for snow and ice. **Article 3 (Omnibus Budget).** This is a housekeeping article. **Article 4 (FY21 Sewer Enterprise Budget).** This is a housekeeping article. **Article 5 (FY21 Water Enterprise Budget).** This is a housekeeping article. **Article 6 (Chapter 90).** This is a housekeeping article. **Article 7 (Compensated Balance Agreement).** Town Manager Gaudette stated that this will authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into agreements with banks. **Article 8 (Revolving Accounts)** – Town Manager Gaudette explained that this caps the spending limits for revolving funds. **Article 9 (Pine Grove Operating Budget).** Transfers from the Pine Grove Trust to run Pine Grove Cemetery. **Article 10 (Reserve CPA Funds).** These funds are reserved for future preservation projects. Town Manager Gaudette stated that the Committee is meeting Wednesday to set the dollar amounts for town meeting. **Article 11 (Community Preservation Act Funds).** Appropriates funds to the Community Preservation Committee for expenses associated with implementing the CPA. **Article 12 (Overlay Surplus).** Transfer from Overlay Surplus for property revaluations. **Article 13 (Response Action Plan).** Additional testing for the Quaker Street Landfill to comply with the Immediate Response Action Plan. **Article 14 (Sewer Enterprise Fund).** To replace the primary Logic Controller System and 3 Rockdale Raw Sewerage Pumps. **Article 15 (Capital Projects).** Funded by Water Enterprise Fund and from unexpended balances from water capital accounts, this is in addition to an article approved last year for water infrastructure. **Article 16 (Capital Projects).** Capital Projects funded by free cash, Ambulance Receipts, unexpended Pine Grove account balances, and unexpended capital account balances. Selectman Athanas asked what our remaining balance is for the cemetery accounts since we acquired them. Town Manager Gaudette stated that we still have over \$300,000 dollars in a capital fund and remain conservative with those funds and will continue to maintain that amount. **Article 17 (Building Maintenance Fund).** Transfer funds from the Building Maintenance Fund, which are collected through the solar project pilot agreements for the Green Community Application and the Cellular Alarm Upgrades. **Article 18 (School Committee).** Transfer funds from the Building Maintenance Fund for new stairway treads at the High School and the repair of the sprinkler pipe system at the High School. **Article 19 (School Committee).** Replace two boilers at the Middle School. Town Manager Gaudette stated that the School Committee has applied for funding through the MSBA, which was awarded with a rate of 58.58% being funded by MSBA and remaining amount paid for by the Town of approximately \$1.2 million, which will

be coming from free cash. Selectman Athanas asked what the timeframe is for these repairs. Town Manager Gaudette stated that construction needs to happen when the students are out for the summer, so it is planned to happen in the summer of 2021. **Article 20 (School Committee).** This article will authorize the School Superintendent to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with State agencies for foster care transportation. **Article 21 (Eversource Easements).** Authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant easements to National Grid and Eversource for the new Balmer School. **Article 22 (Fire station Authorization).** Authorization to borrow for the purposes of designing and constructing a new Fire Station at 1681 Providence Road, contingent upon passing of debt exclusion at the Town Election. **Article 23 (Petition – Amendment to the Zoning Bylaw).** Town Manager Gaudette stated that the petitioner has notified the town that this article will be passed over and they will continue to work with the Planning Board and Zoning Board on developing changes to the current zoning to allow for potential Planned Unit Development in the Industrial zone. A motion/Mrs. Cannon, seconded/Mr. Melia to support Articles 1 through 22 of the Spring Annual Town Meeting warrant. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mrs. Cannon, seconded/Mr. Melia to pass over Article 23. Vote yes/Unanimous.

DISCUSSIONS/None.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: 1) **Town Meeting Update:** Scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2020; will be releasing protocols for it. 2) **Town Election Update:** Scheduled for Tuesday June 30, 2020 at the High School Field House. Guidance and protocols to be determined. Currently gathering supplies and staff support. 3) **Town Hall Reopening Update:** Currently waiting for more guidance, establishing guidelines, and ordering supplies for individual departments. Implementing staggered return over the next weeks with services by appointment. Phase 3 will include more information regarding opening Town Hall to the public. 4) **Lasell Field Turf Project:** The project is moving forward without delay, drainage project reports and the Building, Planning & Construction Committee will be meeting Wednesday, 7 p.m. 5) **Fire Station Project:** The fire department will be hosting a virtual Q & A presentation on Thursday June 18th at 7 pm on Zoom and will allow for questions. A postcard will go out this week with information about the public forum. Selectman Cannon asked about town meeting plans and what other towns are doing. She also asked about the seating arrangements and whether we have a contingency plan. Town Manager Gaudette stated that the #1 protocol right now is to move the location of the town meeting from the auditorium to the gym, which would allow for more room, and chairs would be spaced 6 feet apart and the bleachers are available with any additional overflow being put in the auditorium. Staff will be assisting and guiding residents. The State advised we couldn't move the meeting as it is already posted. Mrs. Cannon suggested getting fans to keep it cool in there as it does warm up. Selectman Ampagoomian asked for an update on the protest and Mr. Gaudette responded that it was a peaceful protest that started at Balmer School and down to the Memorial Park. It was reportedly attended by 100-120 people and the town should be proud that it was peaceful.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: **Selectman Melia/1)** reported that we have a resident, Mrs. Mary Bouvier, that will be 100 years old on June 14th, and wished her a happy birthday on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. **2)** offered condolences to the Gaudette family on the passing of Barbara Gaudette, who was a long-time, dedicated, and energetic volunteer in town. **Selectman Ampagoomian/1)** asked about the Plummer's Corner signals. Mr. Luchini stated that there is currently a plan with an upcoming grant study for that intersection. **2)** asked if there is any excess asphalt that can be used for Pine Grove Cemetery. Mr. Luchini stated he would keep that in mind if there is any extra. **Selectman Cannon/1)** asked about Prescott Road and what the timeframe is for it to be paved. Mr. Luchini stated that Mr. Shuris is working with the Water Company, but he is not sure if the entire road is getting paved. **2)** mentioned that after the storm there were washouts all along the road and asked if we will see improvements after paving up top. Mr. Luchini responded that there will be a better pitch, but it will not necessarily fix the draining. **Selectman Athanas/1)** asked how the asphalt pricing is. Mr. Luchini replied that the state has not released the number yet and he can't go out to bid without that number but will let him know as soon he has it.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mrs. Cannon to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/Board Members Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon, Nolan and Melia.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dan Nolan", written in a cursive style.

Daniel Nolan, Clerk

/mjlw

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

June 8, 2020

The public is invited to attend/join this meeting from your computer, phone or tablet.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81760884697?pwd=L1c2TzMyZDlaaFg4SGhlN05sRU1Cdz09>

Meeting ID: 817 6088 4697

Password: 827066

Dial by Phone: 1-646-558-8656

Please mute your microphone unless you are speaking or want to speak. Inappropriate comments and/or disruptive behavior will result in immediate dismissal.

- I. Call Meeting to Order:** 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.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES A. 1) May 18, 2020**
-Copy of May 18, 2020 meeting minutes
- III. PUBLIC HEARING**
- IV. APPOINTMENTS/ B. By the Town Manager: Linda Zywiec, Acting Town Clerk (effective July 6, 2020)**
-Copy of Cover letter, resume and application for the Town Clerk position

C. RESIGNATIONS: 1) Dan O'Neill, Northbridge Historical Commission
-Copy of letter of resignation

2) Suzanne Fregeau, Town Registrar
-Copy of letter of resignation
- V. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT**
- VI. DECISIONS:**
D. Bond Anticipation Notes – 1) Department of Public Works Facility in the amount of \$2 million 2) Lasell Field Turf Project in the amount of \$1 million/Vote to sign. Present: Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant and Julie Harris, Treasurer/Collector
-Copy of Bond Anticipation vote

E. Spring Annual Town Meeting [Postponed to June 23, 2020] / Vote positions on warrant articles

- Copy of Spring Annual Town meeting warrant
- Copy of positions paper

VII. DISCUSSIONS

VIII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

F. Town Meeting Update/No documentation

G. Town Election Update/No documentation

H. Town Hall Reopening Update/No documentation

IX. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/No documentation

X. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

XI. CORRESPONDENCE/None

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None