

Board of Selectmen
October 15, 2020

Via Zoom Remote Conferencing*

Approved via Zoom
on 11/5/20 by
RC, SW, JK
08

Robert Czekanski, Chair
Stanley Wysocki
Jonathan Keep
Don Lowe, Town Administrator
Jenny Jacobsen, Town Secretary

Chairman Czekanski called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Ms. Jacobsen announced that the meeting is recorded.

Update on Negotiations with Lovecraft Inc. 58 Main Street

Mr. Czekanski recapitulated the Town of Bolton's voting history related to the cannabis industry. As a Town that voted in favor of the referendum in November of 2016 Bolton is legally obligated to permit this kind of business within our borders. In May of 2018 Bolton passed marijuana zoning bylaws in anticipation of getting applications. Mr. Czekanski explained the role of the Board of Selectmen in the process. Mr. Wysocki and Mr. Keep voiced agreement with Mr. Czekanski's depiction. Mr. Lowe added that if the Town did not vote for the zoning bylaws in 2018, this type of use would be as-of-right and could be conducted anywhere in Town. Mr. Lowe informed the Board and the public he and Town Counsel met with representatives of Lovecraft to discuss a potential Community Host Agreement (CHA). It was productive meeting, but more discussions will be needed. We anticipate having a draft CHA in the near future.

The Board heard questions and comments from several residents: David Bergsbaken, Michael Gagnon, Shannon Becker, Pat Clark, Krista Dimatopoulos, Lou Varadi, Rebecca DiPippo and Daniel Crump.

Update from Fire Department

Chief Legendre addressed the Board to provide an update on the busy year that they've had which included the merger of the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services. The Chief discussed the work related to the recent storm when the department responded to 16 calls in two hours. There have been three fatal accidents on 495 since August. 24% of call volume is vehicle accident response. Chief Legendre noted a dip in call volume after the stay at home order. All EMS training is now virtual. The Department has been using a training simulator. Advanced Life Support program is advancing forward. The department received the upgraded medications license. The Chief reported that in the next 30 days two vehicles up and running at the paramedical level. The Cadet program is up and running. The waiver expires December 31st of this year. Chief Legendre is working with OMS regarding the waiver renewal. The Chief updated the Board on the status of grants including the three Cares Act submissions.

Sign at 711-713 Main Street

Elizabeth Landry appeared before the Board to request approval for a sign to be hung for a new shop, Natural Kitchen Sink Candle Co. The sign will be made of wood. The business hours will be Wednesday – Saturday 10a – 7p and Sunday 10a – 5p. Board had no objections. The business will be opening the first week of November.

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Keep the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to approved the sign for Natural Kitchen Sink Candle Co. to be located at 711 Main Street. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-no, Czekanski-yes)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

DPW Director Update

The deadline was close of business on October 12th. 30 resumes were submitted. 13 applicants will be interviewed.

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Lowe informed the Board that he has ordered 4 air purifiers for the Town Hall (2), the DPW office and the senior center.

Mr. Lowe noted that the statewide rolling average for positive Covid testing is 1.2. Bolton is up 3 cases to 17.

MASSWorks Update

Mr. Lowe updated the Board following the walkthrough on the project. One thing that was noted is that the painting of the bicycle lanes has not been done. Lights have been accepted by the Town. Partial retainage was released.

Halloween Update

Mr. Lowe announced that the Board of Health voted to discourage door to door trick-or-treating this Halloween and recommends following Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for safe celebrations this season.

Mr. Lowe announced the 3rd virtual coffee with the Town Administrator event on Friday October 16th.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS

Public Service Announcements

Mr. Wysocki announced that neighboring communities have high numbers of Covid cases and urged residents to wear masks, wash hands and follow the CDC guidelines.

Mr. Wysocki reported that following the Tri-Town meeting the Town of Bolton has added a Tri-Town meeting link to the homepage which includes school committee representative emails and the chat log from the Tri-Town meeting. There was a lot of discussion about communication and the hybrid vs. remote models of education. There will be another Tri-Town meeting in the next month. The public should feel free to reach out to the Selectmen with concerns.

Election Warrants

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Keep the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to execute the warrant for the 2020 state elections. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Selectmen will sign the warrants by Monday, October 19, 2020.

Outdoor Liquor Licenses

On a motion made by Wysocki and seconded by Keep the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to extend temporary liquor licenses for up to sixty days after the state of emergency ended. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Bills/Payroll Warrants

On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to approve the bills/payroll warrants FY21-8 & FY21-8A. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Minutes

Board reviewed changes.

On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to approve the minutes of August 12th, September 10th and September 24th, 2020. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)

On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted by roll call 3-0 to adjourn at 8:27pm. (Wysocki-yes, Keep-yes, Czekanski-yes)

Respectfully submitted by J. Jacobsen.

**All attendees participated remotely via Zoom Remote Conferencing pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A Section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place.*