

Board of Selectmen
April 16th, 2020
Via Zoom Remote Conferencing*

Stanley Wysocki SW
Robert Czekanski RC
Jonathan Keep JK
Don Lowe, Town Administrator
Jenny Jacobsen, Town Secretary

Approved via Zoom
on 5/7/20
by

Mr. Wysocki called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY TOWER

Chief Nelson requested the placement of a Public Safety Tower to be constructed at the transfer station on Forbush Mill Road. The Board reviewed a photo of a similar tower and the proposed location behind the existing Scout Barn. Chief Nelson explained that this is a part of a long effort to upgrade the Town's Police and Fire repeaters. A new radio vendor has provided a quote for brand new equipment at the West Berlin site and a new tower with equipment at the transfer station. It is grant funded aside from shelter, a/c, heating, power and connectivity. The location was approved by the DPW director. Mr. Lowe commented that \$287K from a previous article to replace the tower on Berlin Road was not used for that purpose as he was able to push through a grant in working with Nashoba Regional Dispatch. This project would go a long way to improve the dead spots in town. The estimated cost which the Town would need to appropriate for costs not included in the grant including a shipping container or outdoor enclosure, an HVAC system, national grid coming out to run the power supply and some fencing adds up to \$26,569.50. In a separate discussion if we did a \$25K from Advisory Reserve Transfer we could contract for this work. If the Selectmen approve the tower tonight, Mr. Lowe can work with Advisory. We are limited to Town properties for the placement of the towers. This is a 5-6 month project so if we move quickly it could be completed before the snow falls.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 to approve the placement of a Public Safety Tower at the transfer station at the proposed location. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

EVENT APPROVAL

Mark Walter informed the Board of the rescheduling of their previously approved 2020 Bicycles Battling Cancer charity ride to Saturday, August 22, 2020. Police Chief had no issues.

On a motion made by Keep and seconded by Czekanski the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 to approve the rescheduling of the 2020 Bicycles Battling Cancer charity ride to Saturday, August 22, 2020. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

SENIOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Mary Ciummo, representing the Friends of Bolton Seniors, invited the Town to celebrate Bolton Seniors in the Month of May. She requested that the Selectmen read the proclamation. She explained that this year will be very different than in years past. Second graders will make drawings which will be mailed to seniors in lieu of May baskets. This year's theme is "Make Your Mark".

Chairman Wysocki read the proclamation into the record.

**Senior Appreciation Month, May 2020
A Proclamation
"Make Your Mark"**

Whereas, the Town of Bolton includes a growing number of older Americans who make countless contributions to our community every day; and

Whereas, the Town of Bolton is stronger when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds are included and

encouraged to make their mark; and

Whereas, the Town of Bolton recognizes the importance of the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of its citizens; and

Whereas, the Town of Bolton can support our community members by:

- promoting independence, inclusion, and participation;
- engaging older adults through education, recreation, and service; and
- connecting people with opportunities to share their time, experience, and talents.

Now therefore, the Board of Selectmen of Bolton, Massachusetts do hereby proclaim May 2020 to be Senior Appreciation Month. We urge every resident to take time during this month to recognize older adults and the people who support them as essential members of our community.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 to approve proclamation as read. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

SECTIONS 10(A)(I-III) AND SECTION 11, CHAPTER 53 OF THE Acts of 2020

Tax Collector, Michelle Carlisle* recommended the adoption of both sections and explained that this allows the Town to extend the due dates beyond June 1, 2020. Payments may be made no later than June 29th to avoid penalties.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 that the Select Board accept the local option in Section 10(a)(i-iii), Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 to extend the due dates of Property Tax (Real Estate and Personal Property) Tax Bills under G.L. c. 59, §§ 57 and 57C from May 1, 2020 to a date not later than June 1, 2020. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 that the Select Board accept the local option in Section 11, Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 to waive interest and other penalty for late payment of any (motor vehicle) excise, tax or other charge added to a tax for any payments with a due date on or after March 10, 2020 where payment is made after its respective due date but before June 30, 2020. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Lowe reported the numbers of COVID-19 cases in the state of Massachusetts were 8,750 new tests conducted for a total of 140,773. There are 2,263 new cases for a total 32,181. There were 137 deaths for a total of 1,245. We have one reported confirmed case in Bolton.

Governor Baker joined the coalition of 7 northeastern states that was formed to work together on initiatives and timing. The stay at home order has not yet been pushed out. The Town of Bolton will at a minimum will follow the Governor's directive.

MassWORKS Update

The project is back in full swing. The driveway connections should be done by April 17th. The paving should be complete by May 15th. The mast arms should be installed by June 30th.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS

Public Service Announcements

Mr. Wysocki announced Earth Day's 50th anniversary on April 22, 2020 and the Bolton Clean-Up effort. Trashbags can be dropped off at the transfer station between April 15th – 25th during regular transfer station hours. No sticker is required. Please continue to maintain social distance.

Tadmor deeds

Board reviewed the open space deed for the Tadmor and 649 Main Street subdivision. Board had no questions.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 to execute and approve the open space deeds. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Meeting dates

Board reviewed proposed meeting dates: May 21st, June 11th, June 25th, July 9th, August 20th & September 10th in 2020.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 to accept the Selectmen meeting dates as proposed by the Town Administrator. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Execute and Close the FY21 Town Meeting Warrants

Mr. Czekanski noted that with Article 21 was changed to reduce the amount of the feasibility study to 1.5 million dollars.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 to reconsider Article 21. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 to favorably recommend Article 21. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Mr. Lowe reviewed the minor edits that were made to the Annual Town Warrant specifically to reference the original date and the new date in the Greeting. Also in Article 3 the numbers came from the Town Accountant. Minor changes were also made to Article 20 and 23. The dollar amount has been changed from \$650,000 to \$550,000 due to negotiations with the owner of the property. Counsel has also made changes to allow us the latitude to use a portion for municipal usage.

The Board had no questions.

Chairman Wysocki commented that the Board of Selectmen had the opportunity to revote Article 21 and inquired if the Advisory Committee would like to chime in.

On a motion made by Bolye and seconded by Myerson the Board voted by roll call 4-0 to reconsider Article 21. (Boyle-yes, Myerson- yes, Hurd- yes, Lauer-yes)

On a motion made by Bolye and seconded by Myerson the Board voted by roll call 4-0 to approve Article 21. (Boyle-yes, Myerson- yes, Hurd- yes, Lauer-yes)

Mr. Lowe offered the opportunity to reconsider Article 23 to the Advisory Committee. No motion was

made. Mr. Wysocki stated for the record that he is still opposed.

Mr. Lowe noted that the ballot question is now in article 25 that was not in the previous draft.

On a motion by Selectman Czekanski seconded by Selectman Keep, and on a roll call vote with Czekanski, Keep, Wysocki (3) in favor, and none (0) opposed, the following vote was approved 3- 0:

WHEREAS, the disease caused by the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19") is a contagious, and at times fatal, respiratory disease, spreading throughout the world;

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the Bolton Board of Selectmen issued a Declaration of a Local State of Emergency with respect to the COVID-19 outbreak;

WHEREAS, the Annual Town Election (also known as the "annual meeting for the election of town officers") is currently scheduled for May 11, 2020, per the Code of the Town of Bolton;

WHEREAS, it is unknown at this time how long restrictions on public gatherings will be in effect;

WHEREAS, Bolton residents and Town officials need time to plan for the Annual Town Election amid the disruptions to daily life, the workplace, and municipal meetings imposed by the COVID-19 outbreak;

WHEREAS, Bolton residents should be able to participate in the Annual Town Election, and Bolton Town officials should be able to work at the Annual Town Election, without risking their health or potentially contributing to the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2020 authorizes the Board of Selectmen to postpone the Annual Town Election as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak to a date not later than June 30, 2020, following consultation with the local election official and the chief operating officer of the municipality as to logistics and feasibility; and

WHEREAS, following consultation with the Town Clerk and the Town Administrator as to logistics and feasibility, the Board of Selectmen has determined that the Annual Town Election may be held on Monday June 29, 2020, at the Nashoba Regional High School Auditorium in Bolton.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Bolton hereby postpones the 2020 Annual Town Election to Monday June 29, 2020, at the Nashoba Regional High School Auditorium in Bolton.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 to place the ballot question regarding the Taggart property on the ballot for June 29th. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 to close FY21 Town Meeting Warrant. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Bills and Payroll Warrants

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 to approve bills/payroll warrants: W20-21 and W20-21A. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Other Business

Doug Storey addressed the Board with concerns about the ability to hold Town Meeting in the auditorium. His analysis showed with social distancing the room could only hold 110 people. He recommended that the Town be considering alternatives mentioning the Gymnasium and the Stadium at the school. Mr. Lowe commented that since the item is not on the agenda the conversation could be taken off line and it can be placed on the agenda for May 7th.

Minutes

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 to approve the regular session minutes of March 12, 2020 and March 26, 2020. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Executive Session

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board of Selectmen voted to roll call 3-0 at 7:54 pm to enter executive session in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21 (a), Purpose 6, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, the Taggart land off of Forbush Mill Road, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Board and the chair so declares, Purpose 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for the AFSCME, Council #93, DPW Unit and with Bolton Police Union, Local 286, Massachusetts Coalition of Police, IUPA, AF as the Chair finds that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Board's bargaining position. The Board will convene in open session for the purpose of adjournment only.

Board exited executive session at 8:24 pm.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Keep the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call 3-0 to adjourn at 8:24. (Czekanski-yes, Keep-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Respectfully submitted by Jenny 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.*

