

REMOTE PARTICIPATION MEETING MINUTES

For

Select Board Members

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

5:15 p.m.

All meetings of the Select Board are recorded except Executive Session

Date of this Meeting: October 20, 2020

Pursuant to the 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 imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of Southwick Select Board is being conducted both at Town Hall and via remote participation by some members. 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 the Order. Despite our best efforts, we are not able to provide for real-time access, and will post a record of the meeting on the Town's website as soon as we are able.

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Russell S. Fox-Remote
Vice-Chairman, Doug Moglin-Remote
Clerk, Joseph J. Deedy-Remote
Chief Administrative Officer, Karl J. Stinehart-Town Hall
Cindy Pendleton, Administrative Assistant-Town Hall

OTHERS IN REMOTE ATTENDANCE:

Dennis Hackett	Sue Gore
Hope Trembley	Paul Connolly
Chief Bishop	Chief Anderson

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments: None

Payables, Payroll and Minutes:

- The Board acknowledged Payables Warrant #2110B, dated 10/20/2020, in the amount of \$3,274,079.80.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Deedy, seconded by Mr. Fox (Vote-Unanimous) to to accept the Open Session Minutes I for 10/13/2020. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Moglin-Yes, Mr. Deedy-Yes and Mr. Fox-Yes.**
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Deedy, seconded by Mr. Fox (Vote-Unanimous) to to accept the Open Session Minutes II for 10/13/2020. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Moglin-Yes, Mr. Deedy-Yes and Mr. Fox-Yes.**
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Deedy, seconded by Mr. Fox (Vote-Unanimous) to accept the Executive Session Minutes II for 10/13/2020. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Moglin-Yes, Mr. Deedy-Yes and Mr. Fox-Yes.**

5:45 p.m. Board of Assessors

RE: Tax Classification Hearing FY21 Continuance from 9/29/2020, 10/6/2020, & 10/13/2020

Pursuant to MGL Ch. 40, Section 56; Ch. 56; Ch. 58, Section 1A; Ch.59, Section 2A, 5C and 5 I and Mass DOR (IGR) No. 20-8, Pages 10 and 11.

- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Deedy, seconded by Mr. Fox (Vote – Unanimous) to open the FY2021 Tax Classification Hearing. Mr. Moglin read the legal ad in its' entirety. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Moglin-Yes, Mr. Deedy-Yes and Mr. Fox-Yes.**

The Board invited the Board of Assessors in for the Tax Classification Rate Hearing for FY2021. The Assessors recommended a single tax rate. The Select Board and Board of Assessors felt a single tax rate would best serve the community.

- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Deedy, seconded by Mr. Fox (Vote – Unanimous) to close the FY2021 Tax Classification Hearing. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Moglin-Yes, Mr. Deedy-Yes and Mr. Fox-Yes.**

- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Deedy, seconded by Mr. Fox (Vote – Unanimous) to adopt a minimum residential factor of 1 for the FY2021 tax rate. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Moglin-Yes, Mr. Deedy-Yes and Mr. Fox-Yes. (Mr. Connolly-concurred).**

Meeting Discussion Items, Action Items, Bills, Mail, Correspondence, Vendor and/or Personnel Contracts, Personnel Decisions, Policy Adoptions, Payroll Actions, Old Business, New Business, Etc.-Possible Motions/Votes:

- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote-2-Yes, Mr. Deedy abstained) to approve an additional "J Day" race for The Wick 338 on 11/8/2020. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Moglin-Yes, Mr. Fox-Yes, Mr. Deedy abstained.**
- Southwick Public Library request for elimination of fines: The Board will review before next meeting.
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Deedy, seconded by Mr. Fox (Vote-Unanimous) to approve a contract extension for the Director of Assessment Sue Gore. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Moglin-Yes, Mr. Deedy-Yes, Mr. Fox-Yes.**
- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Deedy, seconded by Mr. Fox (Vote-Unanimous) to authorize the DPW Capital Equipment Line Item use for an acquisition of a new chipper unit. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Moglin-Yes, Mr. Deedy-Yes, Mr. Fox-Yes.**

Old Business & Dates to Remember:

- Approve Conservation Restriction for the Greens East Subdivision on College Highway-on hold
- Road Name Change Southwick Hill Road to Iron Horse Lane – waiting on hearing date
- Adhoc Cable Advisory – 2 letters of interest and 1 verbal. **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Deedy, seconded by Mr. Moglin (Vote-Majority) to appoint Susan Fox, Paul Connolly, and Bob Horacek to the Cable Advisory Committee. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Moglin-Yes, Mr. Deedy-Yes, Mr. Fox-abstained.**

Old Business & Dates to Remember cont.:

- Green Energy Program
- High Speed Internet Committee—Municipal Light Plan Option and Ownership of Poles/Light Fixtures
- SPD Lt. Recruitment Process-pending Chief contract
- Short greetings video for 250th festivities to Southwick, England – Mr. Fox will contact the Anniversary Committee.
- Reduction in 2021 Liquor License Fees- **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Deedy, seconded by Mr. Fox (Vote-Unanimous) to have Mr. Fox and the Administrative Assistant set the fees accordingly. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Moglin-Yes, Mr. Deedy-Yes, Mr. Fox-Yes.**

New Business:

Mr. Stinehart:

- Town Counsel is working with the buyer of the American Inn regarding the sale of the complex
- Mr. Stinehart and Town Accountant Laura Fletcher have finalized the Community Compact Grant for IT submission to the State, purposes and continuing efforts to secure the network.
- Secretary to Inspectional Services starts 10/21/2020. As Melissa Bridges transitions to Accounting she will also assist in training.
- Carol DellaGuistina will be retiring from her position 11/19/2020 from P/T Accounting Technician. The position has been posted.

Mr. Fox:

- Requested to move meeting night to Mondays. The Board has no problem and the 1st meeting on a Monday will be 11/9/2020.

Mr. Deedy:

- The Common Victuallers License at Coward Farms has requested to move due to traffic. Mr. Deedy will take care of it.

Being no further business to be brought before the Board **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Deedy, seconded by Mr. Fox (Vote-Unanimous) to go into Executive Session at 5:50 p.m. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Moglin-Yes, Mr. Deedy-Yes, Mr. Fox-Yes.**

Executive Session

5:47 p.m. Police and Fire Chiefs

Executive Session RE: M.G.L. Chap. c. 30A, S21 (2) & (3) Ch. 214, Section 1B and; CMR 29.03 (1) (b). Police, Dispatch, DPW and Clerical Units.

Exceptions #2 & #3

Exception #2: XX Move to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, and to:

XX not to reconvene into Open Session

Move to go into Executive Session to conduct collective bargaining sessions, with nonunion personnel and to:

XX not to reconvene into Open Session

Move to go into Executive Session to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, and to:

XX not to reconvene into Open Session

Exception #3: XX Move to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and that the Chair declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the body, and to

XX not to reconvene in Open Session
(Chair Must Declare).

Move to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, and that the Chair declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the body, and to:

XX not to reconvene into Open Session
(Chair Must Declare).

RE: Ch. 214, Section 1B

A person shall have a right against unreasonable, substantial or serious interference with his privacy. The superior court shall have jurisdiction in equity to enforce such right and in connection therewith to award damages.

Respectfully submitted,

Sondra S. Pendleton
Administrative Assistant

Cc: Town Clerk