

**SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
MONDAY, April 6, 2020**

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present: Town Administrator Steven Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz. Participating remotely were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Michael Nelson, , Acting Director of Public Health Gina McNeely, Board of Health Chair Al Cummings, Finance Committee Chair Jen Audley, Administrative Assistant Ann Stuart, Town Planner Walter Ramsey, and Fire Chief John Zellman.

Meeting Being Taped

Votes May Be Taken

Chairs open the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken.

Approve Joint Selectboard, Finance Committee and Board of Health Minutes of March 30, 2020 if available

Boutwell makes the motion that the Selectboard approve the Joint Selectboard, Finance Committee and Board of Health Minutes of March 30, 2020 . Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz – Aye

Boutwell makes the motion that the Board of Health approve the Joint Selectboard, Finance Committee and Board of Health Minutes of March 30, 2020 . Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings – Aye

Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Board of Selectmen will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment

None

Personnel Board

Approve Cell Phone Stipend Authorization Request for Chelsey Little effective 03/30/20

Nelson makes the motion to approve the standard Cell Phone Stipend Authorization Request of \$5.77/wk for Chelsey Little retroactively effective to 03/30/20. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Discussion of Article 32 on the May 2, 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant regarding increasing the liquor license quota. Consider Rationale, licensing and number being requested

- Ellis states that the request for three additional licenses in the Town's central business district would be too limiting. He, Bogusz, and Ramsey met last week to discuss this issue.
- Ramsey explains that the central business district only covers the strip of Avenue A, the center of Millers Falls, and Montague City by the fair. Other communities (i.e., Palmer, North Attleboro, Athol) are requesting for licenses that are not limited to specific locations, and Ramsey feels that it is within our reason to do the same.
- Boutwell asks for clarification regarding on-premise or off-premise licenses; Ramsey states that they are on-premise and can be tied specifically to restaurants if that is the goal of the community.
- We still have four available licenses for Liquor Stores, Beer & Wine; we are over quota on All-Alcohol licenses, two of which are petitioned by legislature.
- Ellis states that Article 31 is for an All-Alcohol permit for The Upper Bend, and suggests asking for four licenses rather than asking for two pieces of legislation to be pushed through.
- Ellis will work with Counsel and recast Articles 31 and 32 into a new article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Update on Town response to COVID-19

- **Operational Updates**
 - Ellis states that when reporting COVID-19 episodes, the Town can create a "counter," but cannot say a specific individual or a person in a building has been confirmed as positive.
 - According to McNeely, DPH's preferred practice with regard to data reporting includes maintaining confidentiality of positive cases.
 - Chief Zellman states that more tests sites are coming out, but the numbers are likely inaccurate as not every case is formally tested.
 - Ellis suggests having the BOH determine whether or not to post the Maven data with a caveat that there is a potential that there is an understatement of the prevalence of the disease.
 - *Nelson makes the motion to continue to share the Massachusetts Department of Public Health county level numbers, but avoid releasing local level numbers due to the fact that they may be under-reported and inaccurate, that there probably are a lot more cases, and that the better route to go is to instead focus on continuing to give the message to the community about the precautions they should be taking to prevent the virus from spreading. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Cummings - Aye*

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- McNeely states she has been trying to get some businesses to put up plexiglass barriers to protect their cashiers. Walgreen's has put them up. Nothing is in place as of yet at Cumberland Farms or Exxon. Family Dollar is being difficult.
- *Nelson makes the motion to authorize the Acting Health Director in consultation with the Chair of the Board of Health to deliver to any business that does not have appropriate protective shields in place a notice to do so and to get them in place; and if they are not in place by 12 noon on this coming Friday, that the Health Director in consultation with the Chair of the Board of Health has the authority to close the businesses until they are in compliance. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Cummings - Aye.*
- Roberta Potter and the Council on Aging have an excellent program up and running in which the volunteers are adhering to a set of standards relative to how they shop and deliver food to seniors. They delivered 60 bags of groceries and have continued with their monthly brown bag program. Anyone who knows of an elderly resident who needs an outreach call may contact the Board of Health, the Selectboard Office, or the Council on Aging.
- Closings of the playground structures at parks and the skate park have been implemented; there were very few instances of people creating issues of noncompliance.
- **Town Meeting and Election rescheduling**
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to change the Town Election Day to Monday, June 22. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
 - *Nelson makes the motion to postpone Town Meeting from May 2 to Saturday, June 13, 2020 due to the ongoing pandemic response. Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
- **Update and any relative actions relative to State level orders or changes**
 - Ellis reads aloud for the record a request for changes through The Act to Address Challenges faced by Municipalities and State Authorities resulting from COVID-19.
 - *Nelson makes the motion to extend the due date for real **estate** and personal property taxes from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020 consistent with and is limited by the authority that is granted in The Act, to extend the due date for property tax exemptions from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020 consistent with and is limited by the authority that is granted in The Act, and to waive interest and other penalties for late payment of any excise tax or fee associated with a Town bill with an original due date on or after March 10, 2020 consistent with and is limited by the authority that is granted in The Act (under authority of The Act, this waiver is only in effect if the late payment is received before June 30, 2020). Seconded by Boutwell, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
 - This motion does not include the Fire District for Turners Falls, and Municipal Lighting and Fire for Montague Center. Ellis states that the Treasurer/Collector will forward copies of these motions to them for consideration.

Town Administrator's Report

- **Update on Burn Dump Cap and Solar Field Project**

If ready, review and approve lease agreement with Kearsarge, LLC for Burn Dump Cap and Solar Field Project

Ellis reports that we have a design for the capping and the estimated cost is in the \$2.2 to \$2.4 million range. Kearsarge is ready to act on Phase 2, which is the Burn Dump Cap. We are working on the pilot agreement and we should see a copy of the lease either next week or the week thereafter.
- **Topics not anticipated in 48 hour posting**

None

Other/Parks and Recreation

- The **Peter Cottontail's Extravaganza** originally scheduled for this Saturday has been changed to a **Peter Cottontail's Social Distancing Drive By Tour**. This event will take place this Saturday at 10 AM and will probably include a police escort. A route will be published on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page by Friday at the latest.
- The Parks and Recreation Department would like to add a fourth movie night this summer on July 31 at Peskeompskut Park. This item will be added on next week's meeting agenda.

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the Board of Health Meeting at 8:25 PM. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Aye

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