



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
REMOTE MEETING**

**Monday May 11, 2020**

Members Present: Shana M. Shufelt, Chair  
Brian T. Valcourt, Vice Chair  
Ann E. Boxler, Clerk  
Steven J. Ouellette  
Richard W. Brewer

Also Present: Timothy King, Town Administrator

Select Board Chair, Ms. Shufelt called the remote meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

**Chair's Announcement** – Under MGL Chapter 30A, section 20(f) – Meeting being recorded.  
*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 imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Westport Board of Selectmen is being conducted via remote participation. 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. The public was invited to join the meeting through the links provided at the time of posting.*

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Acknowledgments & Recognitions**

Members recognized the passing of the following citizens who contributed to the town:

- George Cataldo (Stage name The Silver Fox). Recreation Commission, Cable Advisory Board and was a Public Access Equipment Operator for the Town.
- Geraldine Millham. 40 years Westport Historical Commission, single-handedly saved the Town Farm.
- Katherine Preston. Historical Commission, Fair Housing/Housing Partnership Committee & the Sewer & Water Study Committee.

Members welcomed Senator Rodriques and Representative Paul Schmid who recognized Marlene Samson with a citation. She recently retired as the Town Clerk.

**2. Licenses**

**Public Hearing. Seasonal Trailer First Time Application** by new owner, Paul and Cindy Albernaz for a six month seasonal trailer permit for recreational purposes to locate a trailer at 18 East Beach Road, Assessor's Map 76A, Lot 78. Mr. Ouellette noted the area is an environmentally sensitive area. **MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to approve. Seconded by Mr. Brewer. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call. Ms. Shufelt reminded the new owner of items that are supposed to be removed by the end of the season.

### 3. Discussion

#### a. **COVID-19 updates and discussion**

Director of Public Health, Matt Armendo stated there are 59 confirmed cases and 34 recovered; 2 have passed. He is seeing a trend in the right direction and he encouraged people to keep doing what they are doing. He briefly mentioned the Governor's phased return to work- details are pending. Ms. Boxler noted that the group is working to phase employees back in sometime in June. The Town Hall will continue to operate but remain closed to the public.

#### b. **Representative Paul Schmid** Stressed the importance of the Census and the funding that is made available to the town from the Federal Government.

#### c. **Paul Jennings, DIMAN Regional School Committee**, Westport Representative and superintendent Elvio Ferreira were present. The discussion concerned the assessment to Westport. There was a 9.6% increase just for Westport alone. He stated the State rate for each student is \$15,301 per Westport student at DIMAN. The cost per Westport student in Westport is \$13,856. The actual assessment increase was just \$150K. Ms. Shufelt asked if DIMAN has prepared to decrease their budgets. Mr. Ferreira stated that they are working scenarios of 10-20% reductions at this time. After this process, the Department of Revenue will review. Mr. Jennings asked if there any projects for the students in town and that he would help to work out any details. He also said they are waiting to hear from the MSBA if they will have a new school. Mr. Jennings stated that there are generally 20 Westport students per grade but currently have 105 students as of October 2019. Mr. Jennings stated the communities will have a voice if there will be a new school.

#### d. **Town Elections**

Mr. Ouellette and Mr. Valcourt recused themselves from the conversation. The elections will happen before June 30 and with 20 days advance notification. Ms. Shufelt had asked Ms. Oliver, acting Town Clerk, what her preferences might be. She stated that having another week would be helpful in respect to June 16th or 23<sup>rd</sup>. She noted that for early voting, 690 requested ballots, yet only 459 have returned them. This represents a 69% return. Discussion ensued.

**MOTION** by Ms. Boxler to set town elections to June 23. Seconded by Mr. Brewer.

Mr. Brewer is concerned on the polling places. Ms. Oliver stated in changing the polling places, all voters would have to be notified and it may be problematic because people would not want to go to a new place. She recommended keeping them as they are. Mr. Armendo agreed. The members questioned how many poll workers will actually be willing to work. Mr. Ouellette asked about if the school furlough would influence the High School. Michelle Raposa stated the school could recall the custodial staff earlier. Betty Slade asked how will voters know about elections. Ms. Oliver stated they would put the date on the website, and asking people to spread the news. Ms. Shufelt noted June 23 is the voting day in Dartmouth also.

**The Board by a majority, voted 3-2-0** in favor with Mr. Ouellette and Mr. Valcourt abstaining.

#### e. **Hiring Freeze**



Mr. King felt it essential to institute a hiring freeze since funding in FY21 will be less than FY20. The Board will need to send a message that the fiscal challenges are severe. Mr. Brewer said it would prevent the Board's regular authority. Mr. Ouellette stated the Fire Department is the only department that does not need to go through the Board. Ms. Shufelt felt the same as Mr. Brewer that there does not need to be an official hiring freeze. The Board has the authority to hire or not. Mr. Brewer stated that the Board has the right to exercise their authority. Mr. Ouellette stated that no unnecessary hiring has been done and the last freeze was never lifted. Mr. Valcourt stated the Board already has the authority. Mr. King has been meeting with Department Heads on the potential cuts and he is pleased with the department's cooperation thus far.

**f. Landing Commission and the Gooseberry Landing.**

The parking area across from the Life Saving Station near Gooseberry Island known as the Horseneck Point Landing, is being used by crowds. The Landing Commission would like to reserve those parking spaces for residents. Especially with crowds at this time because of the COVID crisis, there is no distancing being practiced at this location. The Commissioners propose using beach parking permits at this landing for registered town beach goers through September. Discussion ensued over concerns of allowing the residents access. The police would be able to enforce.

**MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to support the Landing Commission request to allow permitted beach parking at West Beach (Horseneck Point Landing). Seconded by Mr. Brewer. Discussion ensued. Mr. Leach stated the people who typically did not buy beach passes are doing so now on the assumption the state beach will limit the number of parking. Ms. Oliver stated that they currently have a back log of 150 applications. Mr. King stated that the Board will have to schedule a public hearing to establish a fee. And the meeting will be scheduled by the first meeting in June. Mr. Ouellette amended his motion to direct Mr. King to schedule a public hearing to establish a fee for resident parking. Seconded by Mr. Brewer The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.

**4. Action Items**

- a. Approve Sale & Execution of Documents for Town of Westport, Massachusetts \$50,000,000. General Obligation School Construction Bond Anticipation Notes. The Bond is to pay for the borrowing. The bond market is a buyers' market with good terms for the town because of the COVID19. This is for short term borrowing. Discussion ensued. **MOTION** by Ms. Boxler to execute the sale. Ms. Boxler read the motion into the record. Mr. Valcourt seconded the motion. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.
- b. Ch61A request to release 0 Sodom Road Map 60, Lot 2C McGovern.  
**MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to release. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.
- c. Request from the Westport River Watershed Alliance to utilize the rear parking lot for electronic recycle day on Wednesday September 16 from 9-11. **MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to approve conditional on meeting the requirements of social distancing in September. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.
- d. Accept donations for the food pantry through the Recreation Department for a total of \$4,740 from: Richard Mobley - \$250; Nancy Mobley - \$250; Diana Taber \$20; Caroline Fenn - \$500; Marilyn L. Packard-Luther & Jeff Bull - \$200; Carol & James Constantine - \$100; Paul Cronin -

\$200; Thomas & Lorry Loughman - \$100; Donna Marie Amaral - \$100; Richard & Barbara Brewer (donated in honor of John Miller's 95th Birthday) - \$95; United Way of Greater Fall River - \$500; John Bullard - \$100; the Pitch Players \$35; Laura Medeiros - \$50; Charlotte & Francis Clegg - \$50; Westport Food Co-op \$2,000; Laura Bennet - \$50; Charles Deknatel \$30; Melissa Bonnano \$50; Richard & Audre Manchester \$60.

The Recreation Department is running this in collaboration with the Veterans service and the Board of Health. The Greater Fall River food pantry is donating much of the food they pick up weekly. Every Monday from 9-12 there is food distribution. People need to demonstrate their driver's license and remain in their car. Their goal is to hand out 100 bags of goods per week. There are 3 ways the community can help – any non-perishable goods are welcome. Secondly, by grocery gift cards in the amount of 15-25\$ are suggested. The third, monetarily to purchase more needed items. They are thankful for all the donations received and how generous the community has been and seeing people getting help.

**MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to accept the donations. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.

e. Accept donations for the Veterans:

Veteran's Gift Account Jerry LeBoeuf - \$10; Pauline and Charles Messier - \$20; Anonymous - \$20 and Normand and Freida Blanchette - \$150. **MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to accept the donation. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.

\$1,500 from the Westport Federal Credit Union for grave markers. **MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to accept the donation. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.

f. Request from the Westport High School to hang a banner over Main Road to congratulate the graduating class. **MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.

g. Request approval of Ch90 MassDOT Change order increases.

**MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to approve. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.

h. Request approval of Chapter 90 2019 Roadway Improvements Contract #2 Change Order.

**MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to approve. Seconded by Mr. Brewer. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.

i. Approval of the auditor Roselli & Clark letter of engagement.

**MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to approve. Seconded by Ms. Boxler. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.

j. Approval of 2021 OPEB Actuarial Analysis Engagement Letter.

Sherman Actuarial Analysis was requested to provide their letter; they did not raise their fees knowing the financial situation. **MOTION** by Mr. Brewer to approve. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.

## 5. Appointments and/or Resignations

a. Request by Police Chief for reappointment of officers Corey Mack and Luc Sauv .

**MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to approve the appointments. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.



- b. Request by Police Chief to appoint a part-time as needed EMD 911 dispatcher, Chloe Leite. **MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to approve the appointment. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.
- c. Resignation of Amanda Deane from the Recreation Commission. **MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to accept and send a letter of regret. Seconded by Ms. Boxler. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.
- d. Nomination of BOS as commissioner to SRPEDD.  
Mr. Ouellette has been the BOS rep for many years. As for SMMPO, he cannot continue this due to his new job. Another member will need to be appointed and attend the meetings.  
**MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to approve appointment to SRPEDD. Seconded by Mr. Brewer. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.
- e. Nomination of BOS Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) member. Mr. Ouellette cannot attend these meeting in Taunton at 1pm, and is not seeking reappointment. It is a regional representation not a Board representation and someone would need to be familiar with roadways.
- f. Appointment of an Interim Treasurer.  
Mr. King stated that over the past several years, it has been suggested combining the Treasurer/Collector positions. Tax Collector, Susan Brayton has expressed interest. If appointed interim Treasurer, the appointment would only be valid until elections in April 2021 and would take effect after the elections this June, when the incumbent Treasurer will vacate the office. Mr. Brewer stated this has been looked at by the auditor and Ms. Brayton is familiar with the Town.  
**MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to approve subject to an employment agreement and allow the Town Administrator to negotiate the agreement. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. Discussion ensued. Mr. Brewer also noted that the working group for Treasurer would need to be notified as well as the candidates. Mr. King will be notifying the screening committee and noted that he has notified the current Town Treasurer. On June 24 there will no longer be a treasurer. The reason this is interim is that a town meeting vote is needed to make the collector position an appointed position and then a vote. The town is protected until the next election.  
**The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.**

**6. Town Administrator Report**

Mr. King reviewed his April 27 report that was passed over the last meeting followed by the May 11 report.

**7. Minutes**

None.

**8. Bill Warrant**

**9. Selectmen Liaison Committee Reports.**

Members noted and updated any meetings that have occurred.

**10. Boards/Committees/Commissions Vacancy List**

As posted.

**11. Board Members Suggestions for Future Agenda Discussion / Action.**

None.

**12. Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.**

None,

**13. Question & Answers.**

None.

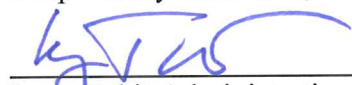
**14. Executive Session – Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to enter into Executive Session at 8:44 pm. and adjourn the regular session at its conclusion pursuant to the provisions of MGL c 30A section 21(a), Chair declares an open meeting will have a detrimental effect to:

- a. Conduct strategy in preparations for contract negotiations with non-union personnel (2).
  - b. discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining unions: AFSCME American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees Highway Union, WPA Westport Police Association, WPPFA Local 1802 Firefighters Union, Local LAW 254 Town Hall Unit (3).
  - c. Executive Session Minutes.
- Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor. **Roll Call Vote:** Shufelt, Aye. Valcourt, Aye. Ouellette, Aye. Boxler, Aye. Brewer, Aye.

### **Adjournment**

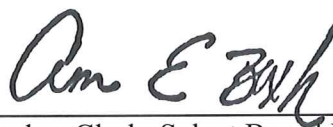
**Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:58 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call.

Respectfully submitted,



Lucy Tabit Administrative Assistant/  
Confidential Clerk

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_



Ann E. Boxler, Clerk, Select Board Member

### **Attachments to Agenda of 5/11/20:**

- 1a George Cataldo – Obit
- 1b Geraldine Millham Obit
- 1c Kathy Preston – Obit
- 2 ALBERNAZ EAST BEACH TRAILER
- 4a Bond BIDS
- 4B CH 61A McGovern lot 2c
- 4c WRWA 2020 letter
- 4d REC Monetary Donations for Food Pantry-1
- 4e VSO Donations
- 4f Banner Request WHS
- 4g Ch90 2019 MassDOT change orders
- 4h Chapter 90 2019 Roadway Improvements
- 4i Tony Roselli Agreement
- 4j OPEB
- 5a PD appt letter Sauv Mack
- 5b PD 911 EMD dispatcher C.Leite
- 5c Resignation Amanda Dean
- 5d SRPEDD BOS- Commission Appointment
- 5e SMMPO
- 5f Appointment of interim Treasurer
- 6 TA Report 042720
- 6 TA Report 051120
- 8 Bill Warrant 050620