
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION – October 5, 2020
ROOM 03 – TOWN HALL
7:00 PM

PRESENT: Chairman William E. Kingkade, Jr. and Selectmen Michael K. Walsh, Selectman Thomas J. O’Loughlin and Town Administrator Richard A. Villani.

Also present: IT Director, Chris George.

1. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin: To sign the warrant, UNANIMOUS.
2. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of September 28, 2020 as submitted. UNANIMOUS.
3. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 28, 2020 as submitted. UNANIMOUS.
4. Invitation to Speak – NONE.
5. Town Administrator, Richard A. Villani and IT Chris George were present to recommend to the Board a change of location for the Special Town Meeting to the High School. The Town Administrator advised the Board that Superintendent McIntyre agreed to allow the use of the High School Auditorium and Cafeteria for the Town Meeting. The advantages are that it is one location, ample parking, the needed remote technology would be more reliable and we have already conducted the June Annual Town Meeting at the High School. The Board members were in agreement with holding the Special Town Meeting at the High School. They also reviewed a Certification from Town Moderator Mike Noferi requesting the Special Town Meeting be held through remote participation as well as in person participation. Mr. Kingkade read an Order that the Special Town Meeting be held both through in-person and through remote participation, including, but not limited to, by means of the Keypoint video or telephone conferencing platform. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin: In light of the current state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I move, pursuant to the executive authority granted to the Board of Selectmen by the General Court, that: a warrant be prepared and issued that calls for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for 7:00p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2020 and Tuesday November 10, 2020 to be held both through in-person and through remote participation, including, but not limited to, by means of the Keypoint video or telephone conferencing platform. UNANIMOUS. Mr. Kingkade read an Order to relocate the Special Town Meeting to the Milford High School. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin:

In light of the current state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I move, pursuant to the executive authority granted to the Board of Selectmen by the General Court, that: The Special Town Meeting scheduled for 7:00p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2020 and Tuesday November 10, 2020 be held at the Milford High School, 31 West Fountain Street, Milford. UNANIMOUS.

6. Christina Seaver, a Senior at Lasalle Academy, was present to discuss her request for Cares Funding for her Fair Chance Program which is for providing access to Blackstone Valley Tech students for popular Social Science AP classes. She has identified students at BVT who require updated internet access. She is seeking the sum of \$9,750.00 to purchase routers/hot spots for these students. Christina has worked with Superintendent Michael Fitzpatrick who is in agreement with the proposal. The Selectmen thanked her for her hard work in preparing her proposal and commended her for giving back to students at Blackstone Valley Tech. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O'Loughlin: To accept the request for Cares Funding up to \$9,750.00 to purchase routers for sixty (60) students at Blackstone Valley Technical High School. UNANIMOUS.

7. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Update Sidewalk - Bike Trail Sacred Heart Church - I was asked to update the Board on the status of the work to be done on the sidewalk on the Bike Trail near Sacred Heart Church. Highway Surveyor, Scott Crisafulli informed me they have painted the "Walk Bike Only" in six (6) locations along the sidewalk. They have ordered additional signage to also be installed on the sidewalk.

B. Complaints Gathering at the Bubble- Board of Health Director, Jackie Murphy informed me she spoke with the owner of the John Smith Bubble on Sumner Street. They have one-way traffic in the building, camps and games by appointment/reservation only, and all spectators have to wait outside. All persons inside have to wear masks. Everyone has to sanitize on the way into the facility. The fields are sanitized after every camp.

C. Walgreen's Closing Drive Thru Testing Site - Walgreens is closing the Milford drive thru testing site on Friday Oct 9. They are transitioning to locations with drive thru windows in preparation for the cold weather. Unfortunately, the Milford Walgreens does not have a drive thru so the Walgreens that will be supporting the drive thru testing will be located in Bellingham, Franklin and Medway.

D. Eversource- As the moratorium on utility disconnections for non-payment for commercial customers ended on September 1, 2020, Eversource has informed the Town they are resuming some collections activities which have been suspended since the pandemic began in March. They have worked collaboratively with state regulators, their peer utilities and consumer and low-income advocates to ensure they struck the right balance on timing, flexible payment programs and protections before resuming these

activities. Disconnect notifications resumed for business customers in Massachusetts on September 29, and disconnections for non-payment are planned to resume for business customers on October 27. If any customer is struggling to pay their bill or is worried about paying in the future, the most important thing they can do is contact Eversource at 866-861-6225. They will work one-on-one with our business customers and are offering a special, flexible payment arrangement — with no down payment for eligible customers — and up to 12 months to pay. Once enrolled and as long as payments are made, customers are protected from service disconnection for the duration of the plan. Eligible small commercial customers that enroll in and complete a payment plan may also qualify to receive two bill credits equal to two months of past bill charges.

8. Mr. O’Loughlin informed the Board that Mrs. Cossette who lives near the Bike Trail sidewalk expressed her thanks to the Board, Highway Surveyor, Police and Fire Chiefs and Town Engineer for their assistance in working to make the sidewalk safer for pedestrians.
9. The Board members next reviewed the draft Special Town Meeting Warrant. Regarding Article 7 sponsored by the Walden Woods Association, Mr. O’Loughlin stated he thinks the Town needs to take a serious look at this article as he is concerned about pedestrian safety as people still have to walk along Route 85 before they reach the bike trail. Regarding Article 11 sponsored by the Board of Assessors, Mr. O’Loughlin asked why the Board of Assessors could not solicit legal assistance through Town Counsel if they need legal services for appraisals and Appellate Tax Hearings. He is concerned about setting a path where independent Boards hire their own legal counsel. The Board requested the Board of Assessors provide a Memo as to the basis of their request for funding. Regarding Article 17 sponsored by Lauren Wilton, he asked if the Board could cosponsor the Article. All Board members agreed. Regarding Article 30 sponsored by the Personnel Board, he asked why the date January 1, 2029 is included in the Article. He asked the Town Administrator to get clarification. Mr. Kingkade said he met with School Committee Chairman John Erickson, Jen Parsons, former Chair and other School Committee members. He said they had a “great meeting” and cleared the air.” He also met with Finance Committee Chairman, Chris Morin, Finance Director Zach Taylor and Town Administrator Villani and all agreed to reach out to the School to ask if they had capital articles to be added to the Warrant.
10. The Board discussed whether the Animal Control Officer should report to the Police Chief or Town Administrator. Mr. Kingkade said this was a topic of discussion in the past and he wanted to solicit opinions from the Board. Mr. Walsh said in his opinion the Animal Control Officer should report to the Town Administrator. Mr. O’Loughlin stated he has been involved in Wellesley where the ACO did report to the Police Chief. In his opinion it should

remain under the jurisdiction of the Town Administrator. The Board agreed to continue having the ACO report to the Town Administrator.

- 11.** Town Administrator Villani provided a recommendation for the appointment of a new Human Resources Director. He, along with Finance Director Zach Taylor and former HR Director, Maureen Giffin are recommending Kristin Melpignano. Mr. O'Loughlin had prepared an excel spread sheet comparing all the candidates using the requirements of the job description. He agreed that Ms. Melpignano was a strong candidate for the position. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O'Loughlin: To appoint Kristen Melpignano as the Human Resources Director at Level 2, Step 7 under Article 2 with a starting salary of \$83,962.00, subject to approval of the Personnel Board. UNANIMOUS.
- 12.** Town Administrator Villani advised the Board that there is a need to correct the starting hourly salary of Jason Vaz, who was appointed as a Building Custodian at the September 28th Selectmen Meeting. As he is currently working for the Town as a Building Custodian part time, the Board needs to adjust his salary to the next step under Article 2. Mr. O'Loughlin stated that his step daughter is engaged to Jason Vaz. He called the Ethics Board and was advised he can participate in the appointment. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O'Loughlin: To adjust Jason Vaz's starting salary to Level I, Step 2 under Article 2 with a starting salary of \$18.76 per hour. UNANIMOUS.
- 13.** The Board reviewed a request from Peter Scandone, Chairman of the War Memorial Renovation Committee requesting the appointment of Vincent Cifizzari and Ronald E. Howland to the Committee. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O'Loughlin: To appoint Vincent Cifizzari and Ronald E. Howland to the Committee. UNANIMOUS.
- 14.** The Board reviewed a request from Town Clerk Amy Neves requesting the Board vote to approve any funds from an Election Grant received by the Town for costs for conducting elections. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O'Loughlin: To accept the Election Grant. UNANIMOUS.
- 15.** The Board reviewed a request by the Milford Knights of Columbus for a Permit to Obstruct to participate in its annual Tootsie Roll Drive to raise monies to benefit the physically and mentally handicapped. They are requesting permission to hand out tootsie Rolls and collect funds at the intersection of Routes 16 and 109 on Saturday, October 10, 2020 from 8:30 AM to 2 PM. Police Chief has reviewed this request and has no concerns. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O'Loughlin: To approve the Permit to Obstruct to hand out tootsie Rolls and collect funds at the intersection of Routes 16 and 109 on Saturday, October 10, 2020 from 8:30 AM to 2 PM. UNANIMOUS.

16. The Board reviewed a request by Dale Winkler, Scouting for Food Drive Coordinator, for a Permit to Obstruct for permission to use the Municipal Parking Lot located next to the Food Pantry on Saturday, November 14, 2020 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM to conduct their annual Scouting for Food Drive. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin: To approve the Permit to Obstruct for the Scouting for Food Drive Coordinator, for permission to use the Municipal Parking Lot located next to the Food Pantry on Saturday, November 14, 2020 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM to conduct their annual Scouting for Food Drive. UNANIMOUS.

17. Town Counsel Charles Boddy, Jr. and Town Treasurer Chris Pilla Were scheduled to be present to discuss the possible designation of and disposition of property on Bandy Lane. Mr. Pilla requested the matter be passed over at this time.

18. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin: To accept the resignation of Margaret Myatt as a member of the Commission on Disability. UNANIMOUS.

19. The Board reviewed correspondence from Dr. Richard Heller questioning, non-Milford resident, Peter Scandone, currently serving as Chairman of the War Memorial Renovation Committee. Dr. Heller also questioned the cutting of trees at Draper Park as well as the possible removal of benches that were donated by individuals and businesses when Draper Park was renovated a number of years ago. Mr. Walsh, a member of the War Memorial Renovation Committee, said the Committee is aware of the issue with the benches and it will be discussed at their meetings. The Board also requested Town Counsel Boddy to respond to Dr. Heller’s questioning a non-Milford resident serving on the Committee.

20. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE – NONE

21. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin: To adjourn the Selectmen’s meeting at 7:56 PM, UNANIMOUS.

Richard A. Villani
Minutes Recorder

William E. Kingkade, Jr. Chairman

Michael K. Walsh

Thomas J. O’Loughlin