
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION – August 23, 2021

ROOM 03 – TOWN HALL

7:00 PM

PRESENT: Chairman Michael K. Walsh and Select Board members Thomas J. O’Loughlin and Paul A. Mazzuchelli and Town Administrator Richard A. Villani.

1. Mr. O’Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Mazzuchelli: To sign the warrant, UNANIMOUS.
2. Mr. O’Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Mazzuchelli: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of August 9, 2021 as submitted. UNANIMOUS.
3. Mr. O’Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Mazzuchelli: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of August 9, 2021 as submitted. UNANIMOUS.

4. Invitation to Speak – Vincent Cifizzari provided the Board with a letter requesting the names of three veterans killed in action be added to the Memorial Wall at Draper Park.

Jamie Wheelock told the Board that the Town website does not have email contacts for some employees nor does it have a list of vacancies. He said the online meeting packets are incomplete.

5. The Board had a scheduled Public Hearing with Kevin Ribeiro, owner of Central Gas and Market, Inc., of 186 Central Street and his attorney Michael Norris to discuss whether he violated MGL c 138, section 77 by closing his business and not using the alcoholic beverage license granted to him. Attorney Norris said Mr. Riberio sold the “dry goods” to two individuals, but not the alcohol license. When he was in Brazil, the two individuals purchased alcohol at BJ’s. He said Mr. Riberio is trying to “get rid” of the two individuals and he will then run the store as he has done in the past. He asked the Board to issue a Warning to Mr. Ribeiro. Town Counsel Boddy told the Board that Health Inspector Joan Clarico inspected the premises and food was being served without a license and she discovered that alcohol was also being sold that was purchased at BJ’s. He said there are problems, in that, while Mr. Ribeiro was in Brazil, food was being served as was alcohol. Alcohol can only be purchased from a licensed wholesaler. He also did not have his license posted on the premises. Mr. Ribeiro did close the business once he was notified and was cooperative with the Town. Town Counsel advised the Board that discipline can be in the form of a written warning, suspension of the license or revocation of the license. Attorney Norris said he agreed with the facts recited by Town Counsel. He said his client took steps

to eliminate the problem. The store has been closed since July. Mr. O'Loughlin said Mr. Ribeiro can file to change the manager. He cannot let others run the store. Mr. Mazzuchelli said a license is a privilege. Mr. Ribeiro said he has run the store for eleven years with no issues. His intention is to run the store as he has in the past. Health Agent Clarico said there was miscommunication between the Buyers of the equipment and Mr. Ribeiro. Mr. Walsh asked how Mr. Ribeiro could go to Brazil when he is the manager of the business. Mr. Ribeiro said the two individuals were not supposed to open the store. Attorney Norris said they are trying to work out a resolution with the two individuals who purchased the equipment, and if they cannot, he will seek a restraining order in Superior Court. Mr. O'Loughlin suggested continuing the Hearing until September 27, 2021. Attorney Norris asked if he could come back to the Board if the two individuals have vacated the store. Mr. O'Loughlin said he could operate the store, but not sell alcohol. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Mazzuchelli: To continue the Hearing to September 27, 2021 at 7:00 PM. UNANIMOUS.

6. The Board met with School Committee Chair, Meghan Hornberger and School Committee members, Matt Zacchilli, John Erickson, Chris Wilson, Michael Aghajanian and Jen Parsons to discuss filling the vacancy on the School Committee. They reviewed the Letters of Interest and Resumes from the five (5) applicants, Robyn Bratica, Margaret McIsac, Douglas Parke, Brendan Rickert and RJ Sheedy. Mr. Erickson informed the Board that one of the applicants, RJ Sheedy is his nephew and he filed a Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest with the Town Clerk. He said he believes he can vote objectively on this matter. Ms. Hornberger moved that the Select Board and School Committee agree to use the following process to fill the vacant seat on the Milford School Committee. The goal is to define a thorough and transparent process while filling this vacancy promptly. The Select Board and School Committee will schedule a special meeting to interview all applicants. Each applicant will be given two minutes to provide an introduction. Each Board will have the opportunity to ask each candidate two questions. Our boards will then evaluate each applicant using an agreed upon rubric. Those scores will be combined to determine the highest scoring applicant. I propose the following criteria for the evaluation rubric: Background including education and professional experience, Interview responses, Interpersonal and communication skills, Commitment to the position. Following the interview process both boards will then vote together to appoint an individual to fill the vacancy. Mr. O'Loughlin said he is opposed to the motion. He said this is an elected position and the public has vetted the matter and the person appointed will serve until April 2022. Mr. Aghajanian seconded the motion. The members discussed the motion. Mr. Mazzuchelli said we have five (5) good candidates and he would agree with the interview process. Mr. Erickson said two (2) of the applicants have run for office already. Mr. O'Loughlin said two (2) of the applicants have received hundreds of votes. Mr. Wilson said the interview process is a transparent process. Mr. Aghajanian said he would like to give

the applicants an opportunity. Ms. Parsons said she is concerned that if an appointment is not made, it would leave just six (6) members and is also concerned on the timing of the interview process. Mr. Mazzuchelli said he does not want this matter to “linger on.” Mr. Erickson said the Select Board did appoint individuals to the Housing Authority, Board of Assessors and Sewer Board without interviewing. Mr. Zacchilli said he is in favor of speaking with all applicants, but “two minutes is not enough.” All five applicants have had an opportunity to reach out to all Board members. The members took a Roll Call Vote. Mr. O’Loughlin, Mr. Mazzuchelli, Mr. Walsh, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Erickson and Mr. Mazzuchelli vote NO to adopt the Interview Process. Ms. Hornberger and Mr. Aghajanian voted YES. IT IS A VOTE. (7 opposed, 2 in favor). Mr. O’Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Mazzuchelli: To appoint RJ Sheedy to the vacant School Committee position. The members took a Roll Call Vote. Mr. O’Loughlin, Mr. Mazzuchelli, Mr. Walsh, Ms. Parsons and Mr. Erickson voted in favor of appointing Mr. Sheedy. Ms. Hornberger, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Aghajanian and Mr. Zacchilli voted in opposition to appointing Mr. Sheedy. IT IS A VOTE. (5 in favor, 4 opposed).

7. Human Resources Director, Kristin Melpignano, was present to review a proposed Background Check Policy and Procedure, an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) as well as provide an update on the Salary and Wage Compensation Plan. She advised the Board she will discuss the Background Policy at the next Select Board meeting. She reviewed the benefits of having an EAP and said the EAP will provide free confidential assessments and counselling as well as other services to employees. She secured quotes and the Insurance Advisory Committee, after reviewing the quotes and Plans, voted 6 to 2 to adopt the EAP 5 Sessions Plan proposed by ESI. Mr. O’Loughlin said an EAP is needed. Mr. Mazzuchelli said it is “like having a Life Coach.” Mr. O’Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Mazzuchelli: To authorize the HR Director, through the Town Administrator, to contract with ESI for the EAP 5 Session Plan. UNANIMOUS. Kristin next updated the Board on the Wage Classification Plan Study. The Town received three (3) bids. The Personnel Board voted to award the contract to GovHR USA. Mr. O’Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Mazzuchelli: To award the Pay and Classification Study to GovHR USA. UNANIMOUS.

8. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – August 23, 2021

A. National Grid Work- I have been informed by National Grid they will begin work in the transmission right of way in Milford beginning in September to improve the Millbury to Milford transmission line. This will include installing a fiber optic wire to improve reliability. They will also be mowing brush and trimming trees to access transmission structures.

B. Memorial Hall Project – We have completed repairing and repointing all the joints for the masonry in the front of Memorial Hall. I want to thank Facilities Director Carlos Benjamin for his work in overseeing this Project.

C. Town Hall Painting Project – The painting of the exterior of Town Hall began on August 16th. We estimate it will take six (6) weeks, depending on the weather, to complete this Project. Town Engineer, Mike Dean and Facilities Director, Carlos Benjamin, will be overseeing this Project. We are having employees park in the lot across from the Youth Center so as to provide parking for the public in the Town Hall lots. I appreciate everyone's patience while this Project is being done.

D. Hurricane Henri – I received a Report from Fire Chief Nelson regarding the impacts of Hurricane Henri. There were two (2) power outages which were quickly restored by National Grid. There was minimal tree damage. I want to recognize Fire Chief Nelson, Fire Department Personnel, Police Personnel, Tree Warden Chuck Reneau and Highway Surveyor Scott Crisafulli and his workers for their efforts during the storm.

E. Fino Field Pool Public Forum – I have been informed by Parks Director, Jim Asam the Fino Field Pool Public Forum has been rescheduled for Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 6:30 PM at the pool.

9. Mr. O'Loughlin informed the Board the next meeting with Amazon is scheduled for Wednesday. He further advised Select Board member, Paul Mazzuchelli, and the Board of Health are working on a Noise Policy for the Town. Mr. Mazzuchelli said the Policy will "mirror" the DEP sound meter levels. He will bring the final draft of the Policy before the Board for review and approval.
10. The Board reviewed an Application by Lynn Principe of High Hopes for a Permit to Obstruct for a road race to raise monies for a local charity on Saturday, October 9, 2021. The race begins at 10:00 AM. The Police Chief has reviewed and approved this event. Mr. O'Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Mazzuchelli: To approve the application for a Permit to Obstruct to High Hopes for a road race to raise monies for a local charity on Saturday, October 9, 2021 at 10:00 AM. UNANIMOUS.
11. Mr. O'Loughlin stated he received notice the Firefighters Memorial will be held at the Birch Street Fire Station on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 9:00 AM and the public is invited.
12. Mr. O'Loughlin informed the Board a resident on Water Street reached out to him regarding flooding on Water Street. He informed her the Town has received a Grant of \$700,000.00 to rebuild the culvert.

13. Mr. Mazzuchelli advised the Board that the culvert on South Main Street “flooded badly” in the last storm. He asked the Town Administrator to inform Highway Surveyor, Scott Crisafulli of the flooding.

14. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE – NONE.

15. Mr. O’Loughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Mazzuchelli: To adjourn the Select Board meeting at 8:55 PM, UNANIMOUS. ROLL CALL VOTE: Selectmen Michael K. Walsh, Thomas J. O’Loughlin and Paul A. Mazzuchelli all vote in the affirmative to go into Executive Session to meet with Attorney Jed Nosal, re: Water Company Update.

Richard A. Villani
Minutes Recorder

Michael K. Walsh, Chairman

Thomas J. O’Loughlin

Paul A. Mazzuchelli