

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES**

April 27, 2020

6:30PM

Zoom Meeting

Present: Anthony Renzoni, Tyler Gibbs, Robert Lavigne, Geri Herlihy, Chiara Barnes

Others Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager
Stephanie King, Assistant Town Manager
Stephen Madaus, Town Counsel
Liz Fotos, Town Recorder

Chairman Renzoni called the meeting to order and the Board waived the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Citizens Address**
2. **Appointments, Licenses, and Permits**
3. **Open, Set, and Close Town Meeting Warrant**

Mr. Lukes stated that there were no Town Meeting Warrant Place holders as of yet.

4. **Town Manager Update**

See Attached Town Manager Update dated April 23, 2020.

Chairman Renzoni asked Mr. Lukes if they could have a social media post regarding the bill so that they could further inform the public. He stated that it would travel well on social media.

Mr. Lukes stated that they will have to wait and see if the budget if WRSD goes to a 1/12 budget but that the Town budget will move forward. He stated that if it passes on Town Meeting floor remains to be seen. He stated that the first thing they would probably take out would be the capital purchases but that authorization of it would allow the Town Manager to move forward and not require him to do so. He stated as of right now we don't rely heavily on state aid and he thinks in general the Town will be okay. He stated that this could impact the Town for more than 1 fiscal year so the impact remains to be seen. Mr. Lukes thanked the Board of Selectmen and all the Boards and Departments. He stated that luckily no employees have tested positive, right now the Town is pretty much full staff and while this has been trying on everyone, everyone is doing a great job.

Sel. Lavigne asked if the budget moved to a 1/12th budget would union negotiations have to move forward.

Mr. Lukes replied that the Town was bound to those negotiations contractually.

Chairman Renzoni asked about the Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Lukes replied that it was not ready and they could either call a special meeting or address it at the May 4, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Lukes stated that he was going to turn over the meeting to Ms. King, the Assistant Town Manager.

Mr. Lukes left the meeting at 6:53PM.

5. Selectmen Minutes

None

6. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Sel. Gibbs stated that he had been contacted by a lot of graduating parents and students to see if we could do anything as a Town to make graduation special. He asked if there was something the Town could put any weight in.

Chairman Renzoni stated that Sel. Lavigne had reached out as well.

Sel. Lavigne stated that one thing they were thinking about was to have a banner on Main Street congratulating the seniors. He suggested reaching out to Jess Milliken with the EDC to see if there is something they could have the EDC involved with. He stated that it didn't look like the school committee was doing anything right now.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he thinks that they can move forward with the consensus to have a banner across Main Street. He stated that he thinks they can do more than that; he stated that they can look to do a social distancing parade from town to town to honor the graduating seniors and 8th graders. He stated that it needs to be for the entire region and it is the region's seniors that are graduating so they should extend it to all 5 towns.

Sel. Herlihy stated that a parent from Rutland offered to buy banners for all five towns and that she told her to contact the Light Department to find out what the measurements needed to be.

Chairman Renzoni stated that the Town has a Parade and Events Committee for the Memorial Day Parade and because this year will be a minimal ceremony to raise the flag they would have some event money left over that they could dedicate towards something. He stated that with a little coordination the towns can get the kids from point a to point b while maintaining safe distances.

Sel. Gibbs stated that he thinks this is great we are discussing it. He stated that there were also a lot of college seniors graduating as well and wondered about the language surrounding this.

Chairman Renzoni stated that they could do a Facebook post and get something out with The Landmark as well and start to have some ideas circulate. He stated that Holden could take the lead on this as they all felt that something should be done.

7. Citizens Address

Chairman Renzoni called Citizens Address again. He provided his cell phone number and confirmed with the Assistant Town Manager that there was no one waiting with their hand up on Zoom.

Chairman Renzoni stated that they would leave Citizens Address open and if someone wished to come on and speak they were welcome to throughout the meeting.

8. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Sel. Lavigne asked Ms. King to send a message to Chief Sherblom thanking him for his increased presence. He stated that he knows they had spoken about a bigger presence in the community and they have really embraced that with the social media presence, the story time with Sergeant Scully and the parade.

Sel. Lavigne asked Ms. King if they had any information from the School Superintendent with regards to what they are saving with heat and electricity.

Ms. King replied that they had not heard back yet.

Sel. Herlihy stated that the School Committee has a Business and Finance Subcommittee meeting and were working out the numbers for transportation, special education, and oil, it sounded like whatever savings they would realize they would roll into the expenses they would have going forward.

Sel. Lavigne stated that Worcester figured out their numbers within a week and two weeks later, the Board was still requesting these numbers. He asked if they could ask the Light Department to pull the data on usage so the Board could see the savings that way.

Sel. Herlihy stated that the School Committee was looking at a 1/12 budget so any savings would be put towards that.

9. Public Hearing- Street Layouts- Wachusett Valley Estate Subdivision Liberty Circle; Freedom Lane and Patriot Way

Chairman Renzoni read the Public Hearing Notice into record.

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **VOTED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE STREET LAYOUT OF WACHUSETT VALLEY ESTATES SUBDIVISION, LIBERTY CIRCLE, FREEDOM LANE, AND PATRIOT WAY AS PRESENTED BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Herlihy: yes; Barnes: yes; Lavigne: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Chairman Renzoni asked if there was any public comments. No members of the public were on the call.

Sel. Gibbs entered the meeting.

Mr. Madaus stated that this was a statutory process and the first step. He stated that the Board voted their intention of laying out the streets and then would defer to the Planning Board where they would make the motion at Town Meeting. He stated that they were working on the deed of easement as well.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **VOTED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE STREET LAYOUT OF WACHUSETT VALLEY ESTATES SUBDIVISION, LIBERTY CIRCLE, FREEDOM LANE, AND PATRIOT WAY AS PRESENTED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Herlihy: yes; Gibbs: yes; Barnes: yes; Lavigne: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO LAYOUT WACHUSETT VALLEY ESTATES SUBDIVISION STREETS (LIBERTY CIRCLE, FREEDOME LANE, AND PATRIOT WAY) AS PRESENTED (SEE ATTACHED) BY A ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Herlihy: yes; Gibbs: yes; Barnes: yes; Lavigne: yes; Renzoni: yes).

Citizens Address

Chairman Renzoni opened it back up for Citizens Address via cell phone and Zoom; no members of the public were present.

10. Water Meter Replacement Project

Director Woodsmall and Ryan Mouradian were both present on the call.

Chairman Renzoni asked if anyone needed any additional information about the project.

Sel. Lavigne thanked the Director for the additional information. He stated he was hoping that they would have the project outlined in a more descriptive way.

Mr. Woodsmall stated that they did receive Sel. Lavigne's comments and would incorporate them when it came time for the final draft and once meters were selected but as of right now they did not want to be locked in one way or another when it came time to

purchase the meters. He stated when it was in the final stages they would come back with a final policy.

Mr. Woodsmall stated that this was an educational presentation to make sure there are no red flags or hesitation moving forward. He stated that they have the Town Meeting vote for the appropriation of funding and a draft policy at this time. He stated that they will come back when they have the program and were ready to start installation.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he does not think they need a vote at this time. He stated that this is not just regular Selectboard work he stated that he thinks they have evolved to a place that they can move forward and while he did resist this in the past he thinks without any objection they can move forward.

Mr. Woodsmall stated that they would be trailblazers with regards to this as there are not any other communities that have a policy regarding this type of meter in the region.

11. Water and Sewer Rate Increase

Sel. Lavigne stated that he had asked for some additional information on this matter and he did not receive it yet. He made a motion to table this until the May 4, 2020 Board of Selectmen meeting. The motion was seconded by Sel. Herlihy.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE TO TABLE THE WATER / SEWER RATE INCREASE VOTE TO THE MAY 4, 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 7:05PM.** (Gibbs: yes; Herlihy: yes; Barnes: yes; Lavigne: yes; Renzoni: yes).

12. Selectmen Subcommittee

Chairman Renzoni suggested reaching out to the EDC with regards to the Graduation Parade.

Sel. Barnes replied that she would reach out.

Chairman Renzoni stated that they should reach out to Representative Ferguson to see about the vibe for easing the social distancing restriction.

Citizen Address

Chairman Renzoni opened it back up for Citizens Address via cell phone and Zoom; no members of the public were present.

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 27, 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 7:25 BY A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.** (Gibbs: yes; Herlihy: yes; Barnes: yes; Lavigne: yes; Renzoni: yes)

APPROVED: June 8, 2020