



Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Monday, June 15th, 2020
Time: 6:00 PM – 6:27 PM
Members Present: Chair Jim Woods; Selectmen Matt Mecum and Jamie Underwood; April Steward, Town Administrator; and Alison Mack, Administrative Assistant to the Board

The meeting commenced at 6:27 PM.

Financial Warrants were signed in agreement.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes: The minutes of 06/03/2020 were presented.

Matt Mecum made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from Monday, June 3rd, 2020. Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.

Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen, Alison Mack mentioned she made a mistake on the meeting minutes and put Monday, June 3rd instead of Wednesday, June 3rd, requested the board to amend their vote.

Jamie Underwood made a motion to amend the meeting minutes to say Wednesday, June 3rd instead of Monday, June 3rd. Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.

Common Victual License Request for Central Street 119 Realty LLC dba Bay Path Barn:

Jamie Underwood made a motion to approve the Common Victual License for Central Street 119 Realty LLC, to do business at Bay Path Barn, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.

BOH to file with Attorney General's Office / Moving Annual Town Meeting:

Jamie Underwood made a motion to have the Board of Health file with the Attorney General's Office our reason for postponing Annual Town Meeting, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.

Discussion on Candidates and Vote to Appoint an Interim Police Chief effective July 1st, 2020:

Matt Mecum stated that he wants to make it clear that when they started this process months ago, they Town meeting was still scheduled for its regular meeting date in May; we filed the Special Act and the Board of Selectmen was going to give it to a certain date in early April/May and that is when they would appoint an Interim Police Chief. Matt then asked that once we get to July 1st,

whoever we appoint tonight becomes the interim Chief, and then we are starting a search for a new full time Chief, correct? Jim Wood stated he thinks that would be right. Jamie mentioned that the only thing that would hold it up is if everything regarding the current Chiefs legislation passed and we just need a signature. Matt clarified that any time after June 30th, 2020 the Board of Selectmen will be moving forward with a search committee for a new Chief of Police for the Town. Jamie stated that if everything passes through the House and Senate by the 30th, at that point in time they know it has been signed and approved; they could continue with the current Chief. The board continue to discuss the different options and then transitioned into discussing the candidates for the role.

Jamie started off the conversation with stating that Candidate Number 3 has already been involved when the Chief has gone on vacation, he does have the education, and knows the town well. He feels as though the other officers would fall into the same role that they would when the Chief did go on vacation so it wouldn't be anything new to the department; little disruption as possible. Jim stated that he agreed.

Matt asked what shift each of the four officers were on and how much disruption would be caused by moving an officer out of their position to cover the interim. Jim stated that is something that the interim Chief will have to deal with.

Matt stated that some of the officers have been here longer than others, but the ones that haven't been here that long have jumped in with both feet, continued their education and taken on new challenges; closes the gap on longevity and experience. Jim stated that he is okay with Candidate number 3. Matt stated that this is not towards Candidate number 3; with everything going on in the world right now, the biggest responsibility that the interim Chief is going to have is community policing and relationships; whoever we choose, that should be a very strong quality. Jim suggested meeting with the candidate they choose prior to the Annual Town Meeting to discuss what is expected from a community policing role.

April stated that they will be doing a full search for the new Police Chief. April suggested having a panel of peers; area Chiefs and one or two officers from the Boylston Dept. Matt stated that he wanted to make sure it was clear that if anything happens with the current Chiefs bill, this all halts. Jim stated to the residents at home, the reason for keeping the candidates as numbers is to keep it as confidential for the candidates whom applied.

Jamie Underwood made a motion to appoint as of July 1st, 2020, Officer Thomas at the interim Chief for the Boylston Police Department, Matt seconded. Voted all in favor.

Matt Mecum made a motion that the BOS instruct the current Chief of Police to work with the appointed interim Police Chief over the next 15 days to bring the Officer up to speed before June 30th, 2020. Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.

April suggested that the Board consider speaking to the interim Police Chief prior to Town Meeting and mentioned that there was a stipend for the interim Police Chief last time this occurred and asked the Board to also consider discussing a stipend.

Joint Meeting with Finance Committee and Final Review of Warrant: Pushed to 06/29/2020
Vote to reduce the quorum for Town Meeting if it needs to be rescheduled: Pushed to 6/29/20
Vote to reschedule Town Meeting in preparation if quorum isn't met : Pushed to 6/29/20

April mentioned that she will be meeting with a group tomorrow at Tahanto to scout out the area for the Annual Town Meeting.

At 6:27 PM, Matt Mecum made a motion to adjourn, Jamie Underwood seconded, Voted all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Mack, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

Meeting Materials

Agenda

06/06/2020 Meeting Minutes

Letter to Attorney General's Office

On File in The Board Of Selectmen's Office

On File in The Board Of Selectmen's Office

On File in The Board Of Selectmen's Office