

# **Board of Selectmen**

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:06 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Jamie Underwood; Selectmen Matt Mecum and Seth Ridinger;

April Steward, Town Administrator

The meeting commenced at 6:00 PM.

Financial Warrants were signed in agreement.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting will be livestreamed from the *Zoom Application*.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86280024796?pwd=U1VmSFdjWjN0WDdXS1RTUEFJSEM0UT09

Passcode: 642440 Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +16468769923,,86280024796#,,,,\*642440# or +13017158592,,86280024796#,,,,\*642440#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1

346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 862 8002 4796 Passcode: 924402

International numbers available: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kewm9KvBEA

Confirming Member Access:

April Steward, Town Administrator recited the following:

Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative.

• Seth Ridinger: Yes

• Jamie Underwood: Yes

• Matthew Mecum: Yes

Staff, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative.

• Stephen Madaus: Yes

• Corey Higgins: Yes

### **Introduction:**

Chairman Jamie Underwood stated that per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 3, there will be an executive session to discuss collective bargaining with respect to the Fire Department Union. Doing so in open session may be detrimental to the Town. Jamie stated that there is intent to reconvene in open session to continue the meeting.

Next, Chairman Underwood turned the meeting over to Town Administrator April Steward for the rules and regulations of Open Meeting Law. April stated the following: Good evening everyone. This Open Meeting of the Board of Selectmen is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the "COVID-19 Virus."

In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible *physical* location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely. The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will feature public comment.

For this meeting, the Board of Selectmen is convening by video conference via Zoom App as posted on the Town's Website identifying how the public may join. Please note that this meeting is being recorded, and that some attendees are participating by video conference. Accordingly, please be aware that other folks may be able to see you, and that take care not to "screen share" your computer. Anything that you broadcast may be captured by the recording.

## **Meeting Materials:**

All supporting materials that have been provided to members of this body are available on the Town's website unless otherwise noted. The public is encouraged to follow along using the posted agenda unless the Chair notes otherwise.

## **Meeting Business Ground Rules (Jamie Underwood):**

We are now turning to the first item on the agenda. Before we do so, permit me to cover some ground rules for effective and clear conduct of our business and to ensure accurate meeting minutes.

- I will introduce each speaker on the agenda. After they conclude their remarks, the Chair will go down the line of Members, inviting each by name to provide any comment, questions, or motions. Please hold until your name is called. Further,
  - o Please remember to mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking.
  - Please remember to speak clearly and in a way that helps generate accurate meeting minutes.
- For any response, please wait until the Chair yields the floor to you and state your name before speaking.
- If members wish to engage in dialogue with other members, please do so through the Chair, taking care to identify yourself.

### **For Items with Public Comment:**

After members have spoken, the Chair will afford public comment as follows:

• The Chair will first ask members of the public who wish to speak to identify their names and addresses only.

- Once the Chair has a list of all public commentators, I will call on each by name and afford 3 minutes for any comments.
- Finally, <u>each vote taken in this meeting will be conducted by roll call vote.</u>

With the meeting now in open session, Chairman Underwood repeated that per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 3, there will be an executive session to discuss collective bargaining with respect to the Fire Department Union. Doing so in open session may be detrimental to the Town. Jamie again stated that there is intent to reconvene in open session to continue the meeting.

# **Town Planner Report to the BOS:**

Town Planner Paul Dell'Aquila stated that Rapid Recovery Grant work is now underway. He said that he and Town Administrator April Steward had attended a meeting with CMRPC two weeks ago. CMRPC is in the initial data gathering stage and they have circulated surveys to all businesses in the corridor. They are in the middle of background work and Paul will be able to provide a more robust update to the BOS next month.

Paul stated that there are zoning changes subject to a Planning Board public hearing coming up next Tuesday. There are placeholders on the Warrant for those potential changes. One of the changes would add outdoor dining as a use and another would move the driveway by-law from the General By-Laws to the Zoning By-Laws. There will also be language clean up related to the inclusionary zoning by-law, but there will be no change in the substance of the by-law.

Seth Ridinger asked about the inclusionary zoning by-law. He noted that 15% affordable units is listed, but 10% affordable units appears in brackets. Seth asked if this is a typo. Paul stated that 10% is the usual number seen in comparable by-laws and it corresponds to the 10% threshold that the State requires. 15% would accelerate the Town's progress and perhaps it was written that way intentionally by the Planning Board to help the Town catch up. The 10-15% difference would be marginal, but certainly wouldn't hurt. Paul said he would defer to the Planning Board on this matter. Town Counsel Stephen Madaus agreed that deferring to the Planning Board was appropriate and noted that currently the Town can only force 10% due to the conflicting terms in the by-law.

All members of the BOS thanked Paul for his efforts.

## **Town Administrator Report to the BOS:**

April Steward said that her first item was Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness. Along with the Town Planner, April met with the CMRPC to discuss pursuing a grant so that Boylston can become an MVP Community. The process will assess the Town's vulnerabilities, prepare the Town for climate change impacts, and build community resilience. This would be an internal process, not a public one. It would not take place until the beginning of 2022, allowing for a wrap-up of the Housing Production Plan process and development of the Master Plan. It is very important to pursue because if something happened due to climate change, and the Town is not identified as an MVP Community, Boylston could be negatively impacted with regard to receiving FEMA and NEMA assistance and grant money. It is something that the Town needs to move on, but it has been pushed out due to the Housing Production Plan and the Master Plan and, under the circumstances, it is feasible to wait until the start of 2022.

Secondly, April continued by providing a little more information on the American Rescue Plan. The ARPA has been coming out with more information from the federal government. Boylston falls under the category of non-entitlement units of local government because we are not a metropolitan city and we have less than 50,000 residents. Therefore, the Treasury will pay funds to the State of Massachusetts and the State will distribute the funds to the Town. The Treasury Department stated that program guidance for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund will be released in the coming weeks. April has a meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> with regard to funding. More information will be coming, we just need to keep it on our radar and determine what would be the best use of the funds for the Boylston community.

April's third item for review was VOIP. April met with the Town's IT provider to discuss switching over from the Town's current phone system. Making this change would allow calls to be forwarded to any device and allow staff to access voicemails remotely. The update would be covered under CARES Act funding to complete the Town's ability to work remotely while providing necessary access to service the Boylston community. It is significant to note that the Town's current provider, Nortel, is no longer in business and it is becoming difficult to find parts for our existing phone system. Updating is something to do sooner rather than later and, if it is done now, it will be paid through CARES and the cost will not be taken out of Boylston's coffer.

Lastly, with input from Selectman Mecum, April provided an update on the Regional Vaccination Clinic. During the first week open, with very short notice, 1,501 individuals were vaccinated. Without the pooling of resources and contributions from all involved communities, this would not have been able to happen. 1,500 doses will be available for the upcoming week. The clinic will continue to vaccinate by appointment and will also be working off a standby call system. Information and links can be found on the BOS Page of the Town Website. We are now in Phase 3, allowing for individuals 16 years old and over to be vaccinated. The Regional Clinic is currently offering the Moderna vaccine, which is only approved for those 18 and over.

Matt thanked April, Fire Chief Joe Flanagan, and Health Agent Dennis Costello for all the time they are spending at the regional clinic. Matt also made special note of the town EMTS who are generously donating their time to assist at the clinic. It is part of the Town's obligation to contribute in this way to continue to ensure that we receive dedicated appointment slots for Boylston residents. Matt said that he has posted the appointment link to Facebook. We need to continue to fill appointment slots in order to continue receiving appointment times. As the eligibility pool is larger now, hopefully we can continue to do that. Matt reiterated that although 16+ are eligible for vaccinations, the Regional Clinic is only offering the Moderna vaccine, which can only be given to those who are 18+. Council on Aging lists are up to date; anyone who has requested help obtaining an appointment has gotten one. Matt next shared some State data, as of last Thursday: 54.8% of Boylston residents have received at least one shot – slightly higher than the state and national average. Of the 75+ population, 96% has been vaccinated, of the 65-74 age group 100%, 65% of the 50-64 age group, almost 60% of 30-49, 42% of 20-29, and 4% of 0-19 (only 16+ is eligible so that data is obviously skewed a bit). It's all good news. The Town and the Lions Club are here to help – people just need to reach out if they need assistance.

Chairman Underwood thanked both April and Matt for their continuing work connected with vaccination efforts.

Selectman Ridinger wished to revisit the Town phone system discussion. Seth stated that it is wonderful that there will be federal money to cover the transition to VOIP. He then asked what the monthly cost will be to maintain the system once the upgrade is complete. April said that the cost is based on perks, lines, and minutes. Right now, the phone system cost is approximately \$9,000-\$9,500 per year. April estimates that the maintenance cost of the new system may run approximately \$8,500 per year. The Town may be looking at a potential cost savings, but April is still pulling together figures and does not have solid information yet.

# Town Clerk Report to the BOS with Regard to Remaining a Single-Precinct:

Town Clerk Dawn Porter stated that the BOS needs to discuss whether Boylston should remain a single election precinct or add a precinct. Even if the BOS chooses to remain a single precinct, a vote is still required by the State. This discussion only comes up every 10 years in conjunction with the Federal Census. It's a legal requirement that every municipality redraws new precinct boundaries and submits them to the Local Election District Review Committee. Dawn will need to file reports later in the year, including an official town boundary description, and evidence of a vote.

The federal government starts to look at consideration of re-precincting in the vicinity of 4,000 residents. The Massachusetts State requirement to split into two precincts is 6,199 residents. Currently, Boylston fluctuates around a 5,000-resident population.

Dawn advises that she sees no benefit to Boylston splitting into two precincts right now. It would add substantial cost to elections and the Town would run into space issues. The Town is managing fine right now and, especially with the continuation of vote-by-mail and early voting offsetting election day voting, Dawn doesn't foresee any issues arising in the near future. Dawn advises that the Town should remain a single election precinct.

Dawn did add that even if we choose to stay one precinct, Boylston is approaching a population level that warrants improvements to the voting process. Many towns in Massachusetts have chosen to begin using poll pads. Without getting into too much detail, Dawn noted that poll pads would speed up check-in and check-out, allow for improved accuracy, and provide quicker access to elections data and results. Dawn indicated that she would like to discuss the use of poll pads at another meeting and would like to see an Article on the 2022 Town Meeting Warrant for purchase of poll pads.

Seth Ridinger asked if any local towns had recently added a precinct. Dawn said not that she was aware of. She gave examples of West Boylston having two precincts, Berlin one, and Northborough having multiple. She reiterated that adding a precinct would unnecessarily increase election costs and cause logistics problems.

Seth agreed that it seems unnecessary and noted that he had never experienced long lines or delays while voting in Boylston.

Chairman Underwood joked that the Board should move on to a vote and they could discuss reprecincting again in ten years. Jamie asked for a motion for Boylston to remain a single precinct. Seth made a motion that Boylston remain a single precinct town. Matt voted yes, Seth voted yes, and Jamie also voted yes. All in favor, motion passes. Jamie thanked Dawn for bringing this to the Board's attention.

# **BBRSD Central Office Lease Agreement:**

Next, Chairman Underwood said that the Board needs to vote to approve the BBRSD Central Office Lease Agreement. It is a 10-year lease, with the office remaining at its current location on the second floor above the Police Department.

Seth made a motion to vote to approve the BBRSD Central Office Lease Agreement, Matt seconded. Matt: Yes, Seth: Yes, Jamie: Yes. All in favor, motion passes.

### **Review of Annual Town Meeting Warrant:**

Chairman Underwood indicated that it was now time to move on to a review of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

April stated that the Warrant is in a basic draft form. She is planning to move articles around for better flow. For example, all of the zoning articles will be placed together, all of the free cash articles, etc., in order to make more sense to voters. Because of this restructuring, the Warrant may look a little different when it is again reviewed in two weeks.

April Steward: The first ten articles don't ever really change. These are the articles that are necessary for the town to function – payment of bills, payment of employees, and such.

Article 11 involves the revolving fund that was instituted last year for building inspectors to be paid from. The decision has since been made to pay the inspectors by stipend, so the account needs to be dissolved. If there are any monies left, it will be turned into Free Cash on June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year (as long as the Town votes to rescind the fund).

In Article 12, you can see that anything bolded has been modified and has gone up by a 2 ½% increase. The Senior Library Assistant position needs to be added onto the classification schedule. The Town previously had the position, without a title. COA Coordinator Community Outreach will be moved to Grade 8; it was lower and had to be moved to fall into the right grade. Everything in Schedule B was bumped up by 2 ½% COLA increase, except inspectors who went up via increasing the stipend.

Every year the Town tries to add to our commitment to post-employment benefits. In Article 14, \$25,000 would be moved from free cash to OPEB.

Article 15 involves a matching grant from the Fire Department. They are asking for \$9,053 from Free Cash to go towards a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for SCDA equipment.

In Article 16, the Fire Department would pull money from the Ambulance Receipts Reserve Account to pay for a \$1,000 annual stipend for on call volunteers on the overnight on call group and the increase in hourly pay that was discussed. This will go through the budget process.

The Board voted earlier this year to rescind a vote from the Annual Town Meeting last year because the Real Estate Fund didn't have as much money in it as thought. There are actually two separate articles: In Article 17 you see the rescinding of the vote from last year and in Article 18 you see it being put back on the Warrant for this year.

Article 18 puts the vote back on the Warrant and authorizes the funds to come from Free Cash. \$80,000 was requested last year; this year we will be asking for \$100,000. This will actually be a million-dollar project that the Town will begin to slide into to get started.

Article 19 rescinds a vote for \$80,000 for the Flagg Estate and asks for reappropriation from Free Cash this year.

Article 21 is printed in red because the Town is supposed to pay \$44,725 for Year Two of the Master Plan, but we received a grant to cover some of the cost. April has asked CMRPC for a modified invoice reflecting the grant so that this can be budgeted appropriately. April asked for Matt's assistance in pushing the CMRPC for accurate numbers through his participation on the Master Plan Steering Committee. The Town needs the number in order to budget appropriately.

Seth asked if the grant had covered all or most of the cost. April said yes it had; there is approximately \$6,000 left to pay. She just needs to know the exact, correct amount.

Article 22 involves the Inclusionary Zoning Bylaw. April is just waiting for the hearing on the 27th so that she can get the appropriate language into the article.

Article 23 was drafted by Stephen Madaus about outdoor dining in the commercial district. Jamie asked why it was limited to 3 parking spaces. Stephen said that he had chosen the number three because it seemed a reasonable number to use, it was not based off a formula or set in stone.

Matt said that the restaurants will have to comply with any ratios in place anyway, so maybe it's not necessary to mention a specific number at all.

Jamie said that the businesses that would avail themselves to this have more parking spaces than necessary for their capacity limits. These restaurants have a capacity limit of 99; over 99 sprinkler systems must be installed.

Stephen indicated that he will change the wording to "required spaces"

Discussion about outdoor dining and parking continued. Attorney Madaus noted that the Town has the opportunity to be as accommodating or restrictive as the Town desires. All, including Town Planner Paul Dell'Aquila, agree that they should defer to the Planning Board to discuss. There will need to be a special permit process and businesses will be reviewed on a case-by-case

basis by the Planning Board. Alcohol served outside triggers an amendment to existing alcohol licenses and the Select Board will weigh in on this aspect.

Matt indicated that he doesn't want to cause confusion for businesses trying to get their feet back on the ground and April said the Town needs to position itself so that businesses can continue with outdoor dining by special permit as it is helpful to their success.

Article 24 gives the Town permission to purchase property at 85 Sewall Street. Attorney Madaus and April have re-written the authorization to borrow and purchase inside the same article. Article 25 will be stricken because it is repetitive.

Seth suggested that the specific size of the property be added into the article – approximately 30.5 acres. April agreed that they could be more descriptive, but also noted that a map of the property will be provided at Town Meeting. Maps will be on file at the Town Clerk's Office and as handouts at Town Meeting. It was decided that wording with regard to the specific property size will be included in the article.

#### Article 25 will be removed.

The wording around the property's purchase price was discussed. As currently drafted, it is listed as 1 million dollars; 950,000 purchase prices, the remainder to cover additional closing costs, etc. Selectmen Mecum and Ridinger feel that the 1 million price tag may sound scary to voters. Jamie asked if it could be written as \$950,000 plus closing costs and fees. Matt answered that an actual number needs to be listed. April indicated that she would bring the number down to about \$980,000; she doesn't anticipate that the full million would be used in any case.

Articles 26, 27, and 28 involve parcels of Town-owned land that the Town has no current use for. Article 26 references 3.7 acres off School Street, land running through the "H" intersection. An RFP process must be followed, allowing boards authorization to sell if the right opportunity presents itself.

Articles 27 and 28 reference the remaining parcels left from the Fuller purchase for Cross Street roadway modifications (the Federal Express intersection). These parcels are no longer necessary for roadway purposes, so the Town can authorize them for sale. In their role as Roadway Commissioners, the BOS can vote that these two parcels are no longer necessary for roadway purposes. A vote will be placed on the next BOS Meeting Agenda.

Seth noted that he is apprehensive about putting these three articles on the warrant. The 3.7-acre parcel referenced in Article 26 was brought before the Town in 2018 and voted down. As Boylston is still in the middle of the Master Plan process, Seth suggests waiting to discuss this parcel until the Plan is complete. He doesn't think it is wise to prematurely make permanent alterations to the character of the area. Seth has learned from the Master Plan visioning sessions that residents want to be careful about types of development and they don't want to make too many curb cuts that could drastically change traffic flow. This piece of land is also a buffer for School Street residents; it provides relief from the development taking place on Route 140. Rushing this decision could

send the wrong message to the Town. Jamie and Matt agreed that moving too quickly on this may not be wise as two developments are on the horizon near Federal Express.

Jamie noted that the other two parcels are small areas that will not be hugely developed. He feels that the people should be able to decide what they want to do with these parcels and selling them is a way to help offset the cost of the Master Plan. In fact, the properties may not be worth anything and the Town may not get anyone to bid on them. Jamie would like to leave it to the Town to decide what to do with those two parcels.

Matt noted that Highway Superintendent Steve Mero wants to hold off on a decision about the "H" intersection property until after the 290 bridgework is complete to see the full traffic impact. Matt said that for this reason, he would like to wait on that parcel. As far as the two other parcels, Matt said options for what can be done with the properties are very limited.

April stated that Parcel 14 could hold some potential, but Parcel 13 has draining easements. Maybe an abutter would purchase 14 as a buffer. April reminded the Board that it had originally intended to sell off the land not used for roadway purposes to try to recover some of the initial cost of the purchase.

Matt said that he is fine with the sale of the Cross Street parcels but would like to hold off on the "H" intersection property. Jamie and Seth agreed.

It was determined that April will remove Article 26 and keep Articles 27 and 28.

Attorney Madaus said that an outline of applicable zoning for these parcels should be available for residents at Town Meeting.

In Article 29, the Highway Department is asking for \$50,000 to procure a Mack dump truck with a plow, sander, and wing.

In Article 30, the Highway Department is asking to purchase a zero-turn mower to replace aging equipment.

The Highway Department is asking for the modification of an existing by-law regarding roadway debris in Article 31. They would like to increase the criminal penalty from \$50 to \$100 and add that snow, grass, and leaves should not be pushed into the roadway.

Seth asked if the article is just to prevent people from putting debris in the road. April said that there are increased instances of private plows pushing snow from driveways into the roadways and the Highway Department would like to be able to do something about preventing this.

Article 32 is modification on common driveways. Stephen said there is a provision in Boylston's General By-Laws about driveways; anyone seeking to do a curb cut must get permission from the BOS acting as Roadway Commissioners. There is also a provision regulating driveways serving more than one single-family or more than one two-family reserved for the Planning Board. Recently the Town has had some common driveways installed without a review process. There

should be a review procedure in place. There needs to be a review of common driveways to ensure proper signage, prevent overloading, and preserve public safety. Stephen drafted a proposal for the Planning Board's consideration that would apply also to commercial developments. This is an important step, as there is nothing currently in our zoning by-laws. The general by-laws can be left as is since this is appropriate for the Planning Board.

Stephen asked April's opinion as an EMT. April said that this will help with density and safety issues and noted that properties can definitely be more difficult to locate at night.

Stephen said there will be more creative lots and common driveway proposals coming up, so this is an important starting point. The review process will be drafted by Stephen for the Town Planner and the Planning Board as a jumping off point. The proposal will be included in the Planning Board hearing on the  $27^{\text{th}}$ .

Articles 33-42 are being put forward by the Board of Assessors. All the articles reference provisions afforded to a town through Massachusetts General Law, but they must be adopted by local option if the Town wants to institute them. Someone from the Board of Assessors will read the articles and explain them to voters. They have to do with the ability to give abatements and tax exemptions to people who qualify for particular state programs.

Attorney Madaus spoke in general about the articles and Section 5, Chapter 59, of MGL. Section 5, Chapter 59, reads that all property in the Commonwealth is subject to taxation except for (1.) Property of the United States, (2.) Property of the Commonwealth, (3.) Property of charitable institutions, and then the section continues on for approximately 74 additional clauses that can be accepted by towns. Many of these articles are clauses in Section 5, Chapter 59. The Assessors should provide an explanation to each in handout form and should speak to each article. April will ask that the Assessors provide a synopsis on each article.

Article 43: The Town Clerk and the Facilities Manager are working together to take hold of the Town's records retention process and storage. Currently there is no easy access to Town records. Bob has researched a system for moveable shelves on wheels using smaller boxes. There are also ceiling and water issues in the storage room that need to be repaired. Dawn and Bob are asking for \$25,000 from Free Cash to repair the room, get it in order and organized, and purchase storage racks.

Article 44 asks for \$25,000 from Free Cash to renovate the lower level of Town Hall. Parks and Recreation will be moved there once flooring is installed, water damage is repaired, and the walls are painted.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, providers of services sent various bills through email rather than in physical form. Some of these emails went into April and Ali's junk mail and were not initially seen. There are four outstanding bills that need to be paid, including one from Ace Temperature Controls who did repairs to the Flagg House. That bill was sent to a post office box that used to be owned by Y.O.U., Inc. The Town can't pay bills outside of the current fiscal year. Article 45 asks that these outstanding bills be paid out of Free Cash.

Article 46 asks that \$25,000 be taken from Free Cash for renovations at the Historical Society (Old Town Hall). There are major heating and cooling issues. We are asking that \$25,000 be put aside for repairs or replacement of the heating/cooling system.

The last Article, 47, asks that the Town raises and appropriates money to take care of the budget for FY 22. Sums will be ready in time for printing. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, the Finance Committee is meeting to discuss final recommendations for the budget.

Chairman Underwood asked if there were any questions.

Seth requested that wording be made consistent as far as transferring from available funds in the Treasury. April and Stephen are already in the process of addressing this.

<u>Review and Approval of 4/5/2021 Meeting Minutes:</u> Rebecca Walker has not had the time to complete the minutes due to her other responsibilities in the Clerk's Office. Minutes will be reviewed at the next BOS Meeting.

## **Miscellaneous Items:**

Seth said that he has been made aware that there are a lot of accidents at the intersection of Cross and Linden Streets; it is used as a cut through, and people don't realize there is a stop sign there. Perhaps additional signage is needed. Seth would like to look into this more with the Highway and Police Departments. Jamie and Matt agree.

Matt said that although he has not yet spoken with April to discuss the technology necessary for hybrid zoom/in-person meetings, he has been made aware that the School Committee is starting in-person meetings in the Tahanto Auditorium. Matt says the School Committee has figured out a system for in-person and remote participation. Matt will speak with Jim Spencer and get more details so that the BOS can piggyback onto the School Committee's system. Jamie said that getting back to in-person meetings is necessary as Town Offices are open to the public and the BOS should follow suit.

Matt said that it is almost May, and the BOS needs to discuss plans for forming a search committee for Police Chief. They want to ensure enough overlap time for adequate knowledge transfer. Jamie noted that in some Police Chief searches, Chiefs from other towns participate in the interview process. Matt and Jamie said that the panel should be made up of people from Town, and Boylston should also draw in people from other towns to participate. It will take time to get things in place, so planning should start sook. April indicated that she would talk to Matt offline about some ideas. Jamie asked that the Police Chief search be added to the BOS's next meeting agenda.

Matt stated that he is disappointed that Memorial Day has been canceled, given that the BOS had supported the idea of keeping plans in place. Matt feels that the decision to cancel was premature and wishes that it was not insinuated that the Board of Selectmen had anything to do with the decision to cancel. The Board had wanted to wait until closer to Memorial Day to make a decision. Jamie was also shocked by the decision as he felt that the Board had some good ideas in place with regard to ways to space out and expand activities to ensure safe social distancing. Jamie and Matt are confident that things will look different at the end of May; Matt noting that the mask mandate

will be rescinded soon. The Selectmen feel that the Town should have stuck with the decision to move forward; the decision was made based on information available today, not on information that will available closer to Memorial Day.

Chairman Underwood asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

At 8;06 PM, Matt Mecum made a motion to adjourn. Seth seconded. Voted all in favor. Matt: Yes, Seth: Yes, and Jamie: Yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn A. Porter Town Clerk

# **Meeting Materials:**

Agenda	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Town Administrator's Report	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Building Inspector's Report	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Town Planners Report	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Remote Participation Script	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
BBRSD Lease	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Reprecincting Information	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Warrant For 2021 ATM	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office