



## Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021  
Time: 6:30 PM – 6:57 PM  
Members Present: Chair Matt Mecum; Selectmen Jamie Underwood and Seth Ridinger;  
April Steward, Town Administrator; and Alison Mack, Administrative  
Assistant to the Board

The meeting commenced at 6:30 PM.

Financial Warrants were signed in agreement.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

After starting the meeting Matt Mecum stated that unless Town Counsel Stephen Madaus is able to show up and provides information, we will not be discussing non-profits and paying for details. He also added that we also may not be going into Executive Session for purpose two but that also depends on Stephen's arrival.

### **Discussion on non-profits and paying for details:**

Will not be discussing this information tonight. Will be pushed off to a different meeting once more information is gathered.

### **Discussion on the Board of Selectmen's Budget:**

Seth mentioned the law books in the Board of Selectmen's Chamber cost about \$3,400 a year to have. Ali reached out to the other departments and no one else said they use them, and Stephen said that he rarely uses them. Jamie stated that if we were to get rid of the books, he would still like to see that money stay in the budget. Ali investigated the online subscription, and it may end up costing more. Seth suggested relooking at it in the future. Seth stated we can reassess the printing budget later down the road once we start going paperless. April added that the Town Planner has been added to the Selectmen's budget, so it isn't just toner for Ali and herself anymore. Seth stated we should be cognizant of it for next year's budget.

### **Approval of meeting minutes 10/25/2021:**

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 10/25/2021 with the one edit, Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor.*

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

1. *Non-Binding Referendum Questions:* The Town Clerk confirmed that to include a non-binding referendum question generated by the Board of Selectmen onto the Annual Town Election ballot, the Board of Selectmen will need to hold an official vote approving the questions and she will then add the question(s) to the ballot no later than 35 days before

the election. She would prefer 90 days prior to be on the safe side. I will be reaching out to other municipalities on how they run their town-wide trash programs. The second one was to see if there was interest in a senior center.

2. *Rapid Test Kits:* The Baker-Polito Administration today announced contracts with COVID-19 at-home test manufacturers that will allow municipalities and eligible entities to begin the process of placing orders for rapid test kits for their constituents that utilize the state-negotiated prices on these contracts. These contracts build on an announcement earlier this month that the Administration secured 2.1 million iHealth Labs over the counter at home rapid antigen tests that were delivered to 102 cities and towns in Massachusetts with the highest percentage of families below the poverty level, according to US Census data. Municipalities are eligible to utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase test kits. I will be attending a webinar on Thursday, January 6th for guidance on purchasing and distributing the kits to Boylston residents. Matt added that the library has volunteered to be a location for pick up and it can be at the Town Hall and Fire Department as well. The only downfall is that there is no reporting requirement.
3. *ARPA Funds:* The town has received \$704,224.49 in American Rescue Plan Act funding. I have attached a quick reference guide from the US Department of the Treasury which quickly outlines eligible uses for the funds. Paying for the rapid test kits is an acceptable use through this funding. At this time, we have not utilized anything from this fund.
4. *FY23 Budget:* Most of the departments have submitted their FY23 budgets. Once all the information is collated, I will be distributing them at your next meeting on Tuesday, January 18th.

Seth asked how much we are looking at spending for the rapid test and Aprils responding it depends on how much we plan on purchasing. One case of 288 units/\$9.00 per unit would be \$2,592. Matt clarified that its 144 units with two tests per unit. If we were looking to buy three cases, that would be \$7,776. Seth added that he thinks it would be a good idea to get some feedback/wishlist from various departments to see what they might use this money for. Aprils stated that she will reach out and put together the information. Seth asked who ultimately makes the decision on what these funds are spent on. April stated that other communities have had the Board of Selectmen, some of it may fall on the Town Administrators desk, some communities are having a small board, and some are hiring consultants to help guide them. April stated that she is hesitant to spending the money because some communities spent it and then were told its not eligible for reimbursement, so they had to raise taxes to cover the costs.

At 6:57 PM, on a motion made by Jamie Underwood, the following roll call vote was recorded to go into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (closed to the public) after a 10 minute recess:

**Purpose 1: Per MGL c.30A, §21(a) (3):** To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining – *Boylston Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 5324*, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares.

**Purpose 2: Per M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a), (3),** to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, Boylston CP, LLC v. Town of Boylston, U.S. District Court, Central District of Massachusetts,

Docket No. 21-40132, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. The Board will not return to open session. Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Mack, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

**Meeting Materials**

Agenda

Town Administrators Report

Draft Meeting Minutes 10.25.2021

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