



Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Thursday, June 25th, 2020
Time: 8:03AM – 8:48 AM
Members Present: Chair Jamie Underwood, Selectmen Matt Mecum and Seth Ridinger; April Steward, Town Administrator; Stephen Madaus, Town Counsel, and Alison Mack, Administrative Assistant to the Board
Attendees: Interim Chief of Police, Robert Thomas

The meeting commenced at 8:00 AM.

Financial Warrants were signed in agreement.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

*Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Boylston Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings.

The meeting will be livestreamed from the Zoom Application:
Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87103417438>

Or iPhone one-tap : US: +19294362866,,88262218810# or +13017158592,,88262218810# Or Telephone: Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 929 436 2866 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 Webinar ID: 882 6221 8810 International numbers available:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87103417438>

Confirming Member Access:

April Steward, Town Administrator recited the following:

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

- Jamie Underwood: Yes
- Matthew Mecum: Yes
- Seth Ridinger: Yes

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

- Town Counsel, Stephen Madaus: Yes
- Alison Mack: Yes

Introduction: April Steward started off the meeting by stating 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 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,
 - 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 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 colloquy 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, each vote taken in this meeting will be conducted by roll call vote.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes: The minutes of 06/13/2020 and 06/15/2020 were presented.

Matt Mecum made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 06/13/2020 and 06/15/2020, Jamie Underwood seconded. Roll call vote: Matt: Yes and Jamie: Yes.

Re-Organization of the Board:

Matt Mecum mentioned that last year it was discussed to get back to the person whom was up for reelection to be the chair; this would be Jamie. Seth stated that assuming Jamie wants the job, he would second it.

Seth Ridinger made a motion to appoint Jamie Underwood as Chair of the Boylston Board of Selectmen for the upcoming year, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor. Roll call vote: Seth: Yes, Matt: Yes, and Jamie: Yes.

Jamie made a motion to have Matt Mecum as Vice-Chair and Seth Ridinger as Clerk, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor. Roll call vote: Matt: Yes, Seth: Yes, and Jamie: Yes.

Discussion with Interim Police Chief Robert Thomas on plans/needs to be implemented after July 1st, 2020:

During the last Board of Selectmen's Meeting, the Board voted to have Sergeant Robert Thomas appointed as the Interim Chief starting on July 1st, if the legislation to give current Chief Sahagian does not go through. Robert thanked the Board and congratulated Seth Ridinger on his win as the newest member of the Board of Selectmen.

Jamie stated that the Board does have a few items they are unsure about and would like to discuss those with him; down one officer and plans to cover this, stipend, etc. Robert responded that he will be moving to the day shift and they will backfill the 3-11 PM shift. The only request is that he is allowed to take some ordinance to help alleviate the guys working too much; he does not want them working double after double if he can help them out.

Matt suggested figuring out a compensation/stipend for the additional duties that Sergeant Thomas will be taking on. April agreed and brought up that the last stipend for an Interim that was paid out was about \$300 – 20 years ago. Matt suggested April getting together with Sergeant Thomas to discuss, get some feedback and then figure out a conclusion for Monday night's meeting. April brought up to the Board that the legislation for Chief Sahagian has moved a few steps through the process and they are just making sure that if it is not on the Governor's desk by June 30th, they will be moving forward with the process.

Sergeant Thomas discussed a proposed Legislation by the Governor that will significantly affect the town; Police Officer Standards Accountability and Approved Training bill. It will significantly affect our town financially and they would like to have it done by July 31st if passed; each officer will have to go through additional trainings and become recertified. Towns would be responsible for giving towns monetary compensation; currently we have \$7,500 for training and that will get eaten up really quickly by the 10 officers. It's currently going through the State House right now

and they are hoping that it will go through before July 31st. House #4794. Sergeant Thomas stated it's still going through the chain at the state house. It is going to be trimmed and reorganized; some good, so bad. He does not see if being ready by Monday. House 4794.

Vote to Approve 1/12th budget:

Matt asked that for July 2020, our grand total is almost \$3.2 million. April responded yes. The Board will have to approve one month at a time; the board will have to prove on a monthly basis and then the State will have to approved it on their end.

Matt Mecum made a motion to approve a 1/12th budget if needed on July 1st, 2020, Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor. Roll call vote: Seth: Yes, Matt: Yes, and Jamie: Yes.

Vote to Approve Year End Transfer for Wiring Inspector Salary:

April stated that the dollar amount is \$186.12.

Matt Mecum made a motion to approve the Year End Transfer of \$186.12 for the wiring inspector salary, Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor. Roll call vote: Matt: Yes, Jamie: Yes and Seth: Yes.

Appoint Joe Mikielian as the Assistant Building Inspector:

April state that Joe is the retired Building Commissioner for the City of Worcester; looking to have him appointed as the Assistant Building Inspector for when Tony Zahariadis is out on vacation.

Matt Mecum made a motion to appoint Joe Mikielian as the Assistant Building Inspector, Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor. Roll call vote: Matt: yes, Jamie: Yes, and Seth: Yes.

Appoint Dr. Baker as Associate Member for Planning Board:

Matt stated that the importance of naming Dr. Richard Bakers as an Associate Member of the Planning Board is so we can remain a member of the CMRPC.

Matt Mecum made a motion to appoint Dr. Baker as Associate Member for the Planning Board, Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor. Roll call vote: Matt: Yes, Jamie: Yes and Seth: Yes.

Vote to Approve/Sign 1-Year Employment Contract; Fire Chief :

Jamie mentioned the reason we are looking at a 1-Year Employment contract with the Fire Chief is due to the unknown climate in the following years; renegotiate once we see a change. Seth Ridinger asked what the final percentage increase was, April responded 2.5%.

Matt Mecum made a motion to approve the 1-Year Contact for Fire Chief Joe Flanagan, Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor. Matt: Yes, Seth: Yes, and Jamie: Yes.

Matt mentioned that as a board he would like them to set specific goals at the July 13th meeting; each board member to bring about 6 goals. Jamie and Seth agreed.

Matt then congratulated Seth on his win as the newest Member of the Board and welcomed him. He also thanked Jim Wood for all his years of service. Jamie added that Jim was a great mentor to him, and he learned a lot from him over the years and Seth thanked Jim for his years of service to the Town.

April asked the Board if we could get some updates from the Board of Health at the July 13th meeting; asking for a report from them for the next meeting. Jamie stated it's a great idea; Matt suggested giving them until the July 13th meeting to put something in writing. Jamie stated that he will reach out to the BOH today to give them as much time as possible. April stated that she has a boiler point that is 25 pages long from the State.

Seth asked what the protocol for Town Meeting will be and Jamie described the meeting before where the Board meets and goes through the warrant. As the newest member he will most likely take standard business articles and Matt and Jamie could do the others. Stephen and April added in a few more details for Seth to make sure he is prepared.

At 8:48 AM Matt Mecum made a motion to adjourn, Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor: Roll call vote: Matt: Yes, Seth: Yes, and Jamie: Yes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Mack, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

Meeting Materials

Agenda

On File in The Board Of Selectmen's Office