

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

November 2, 2020

Recorded from Town Hall, 139 Main Street, Rowley, MA

1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Cliff Pierce; Vice Chairman Joseph Perry; Clerk Deana M.P. Ziev; David Petersen; Robert Snow (Town Administrator Deborah Eagan, Assistant Town Administrator Amy Lydon)

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Pierce called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. He read the following:

Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law this meeting will be conducted by remote participation to the greatest extent possible. The public may not physically attend this meeting, but every effort will be made to allow the public to view and listen to the open session portion of the meeting in real time. Persons who wish to do so are invited to watch the open session portion of the meeting on Rowley Community Media TV / listen live on the RCM page on the Town's website at www.townofrowley.net or join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone by using the link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/926580181> can also dial in using your phone by calling [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122) and using access code 926-580-181. In the event that live transmission proves infeasible, an audio or video recording, transcript or other comprehensive record of the open session portion of the meeting will be made available on the Town's website as soon as possible.

ELECTION BUSINESS

1. Tuesday, November 3, 2020 Election Day voting hours at St. Mary's Hall, 202 Main Street is 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Chairman Pierce read the following:

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 Election Day voting hours at St. Mary's Hall, 202 Main Street is 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss Retiree health insurance renewal

Chairman Pierce read the following:

We need to renew the Town's retiree health insurance for 2021. MIIA has provided us with the Medex 2 renewal, which has a slight decrease in the health portion of the plan (-1.11%) and a slight increase in the prescription portion of the plan (1.57%) for an overall plan increase of 0%.

Debbie is asking the Board for authorization to renew the retiree Medex 2 insurance.

The Board will need to vote by roll call.

Dave Petersen moved to authorize Deborah Eagan to renew the retiree Medex 2 insurance, Bob Snow second, all in favor, roll call vote– Bob Snow – aye; Joe Perry – aye; Dave Petersen – aye; Deana Ziev – aye; Cliff Pierce – aye.

2. Review Zoning Board of Appeals application from GTS Realty, LLC for a special permit and/or a variance for relief of a 15-foot abutter side setback for parking spaces at 285 Newburyport Turnpike

Chairman Pierce read the following:

The ZBA has sent the Selectmen a copy of an application filed by GTS Realty for additional parking on the northwest side of the property. The application is being filed because of the 15-foot setback. The application is attached. The ZBA will be taking up the application during a virtual public hearing on November 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Does the Board have any comments that they would like to send to the ZBA?

The Board did not have any comments on this application.

3. Review Earth Removal Permit Application submitted by Robert Nixon, Manager, Falcon Ridge Associates LLC for the removal of earth at 430 Wethersfield Street and set application public hearing date

Chairman Pierce said he is an abutter to this project, so he has a conflict of interest, and he asked Vice Chairman Joe Perry to take over this agenda item.

Vice Chairman Perry read the following:

The Board has received an application from Robert Nixon to remove 3,500 cubic yards of earth from Lots 2, 3, 4, and 23 as shown on Assessors' Maps 9 and 12 located at 430 Wethersfield Street.

The Board needs to review the application and determine that it is complete. The application has a number of documents attached to it from the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board, however, there is no operation plan or re-use plan. The Board may consider asking the applicant for this information, which is listed in the Earth Removal Bylaw under D. PROCEDURE a. and D. PROCEDURE b. (operation plan and re-use plan). (A copy of the Bylaw is attached.)

Eagan said she reached out to the applicant's attorney, Jill Mann, about this incomplete application on Friday. She said she got a response from Mann's assistant today who asked if they should resubmit an application or just answer the questions. Eagan said

she asked them to resubmit an application that includes the missing details, and to withdraw this application without prejudice. She said she hasn't heard back yet about this.

Bob Snow moved to postpone any action on this application, Dave Petersen second, all in favor, roll call vote— Bob Snow – aye; Joe Perry – aye; Dave Petersen – aye; Deana Ziev – aye. Cliff Pierce – RECUSED

Pierce said the Falcon Ridge development site is a mess with all the recent water. He said he ran into Rob Nixon who assured him they would try to pave on Friday, and in the meantime they would have a street sweeper come in. He said people need to be patient with this a little while longer.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Route 1 and Central and Glen Streets

Chairman Pierce read the following:

We have been informed by the State that they are actively working on a plan for the intersection of Route 1 and Central and Glen Streets. Selectman Bob Snow attended a virtual meeting last week and received an update on the Route 1 and Central and Glen Street projects. He will update the Board on the project.

Snow said last week he attended the MPO meeting, which works on the transit program with MassDOT and the Federal Department of Transportation. He said after the meeting he had a lengthy discussion about this intersection with Mr. Freeman from MassDOT and another representative about this project. He reminded the Board that this is a State project, and the Board has little impact on the timeframe for doing the project. He said MassDOT set up the website to receive comments, and they received nine comments, which is many more than they usually receive. He said Senator Tarr and Representative Hill have also pushed for this project to be moved forward. He said the design phase of this project is 25% complete. He said with the pressure from Tarr and Hill, this project has been moved to 2021/2022, from the initial plan of 2025. He said he felt good after this meeting that the project will happen in 2022.

Perry said he has been a Selectmen for ten years, and this first came up when the Police Chief was killed at the intersection. He said it is great that the project has been moved from 2025 to 2022, but he thought it would move forward sooner. Snow said when he was the Chair of the Board of Selectmen seven years ago, he went to the intersection with Representative Hill and MassDOT and at that time, the number of accidents was low. He said the Board has pushed for this since that time, and it is great progress to get this moved into 2022. He said every intersection in the State has a project being pushed for, and he thinks we have done a remarkable job in moving this forward. Perry said he agrees that we have taken this to the point that we have a date, and he appreciates the work that has been done on this. Snow said he will be following up with the State until this project is done.

Larry White asked if the design is being done for the four way stop light, rather than the other proposal for a rotary. Snow said the design is for the stop light. Pierce thanked Snow for moving this project forward, and it's good that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

2. Update on Mill Road Bridge project

Chairman Pierce read the following:

The State is moving forward with the repair of the Mill Road Bridge. MDOT's contractor is scheduled to start working on Monday, November 9, 2020. They are planning to run either two or three shifts if necessary to get the work done swiftly. They will also work on Veterans Day, November 11.

The contractor will have a compressor on site and a light tower. The Rowley Highway Department will be sending notices to the neighbors alerting them that there could be some construction noise issues during the week of November 9. The two residents who live on the western side of the bridge have been notified and are satisfied with the plan. The Police and Fire Departments are aware of the plan.

Pierce said this project is moving along at an extraordinary speed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for Town residents on Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Rowley Highway Department, 40 Independent Street
2. Massachusetts Department of Transportation informational website on the Route 1 at Central/Glen Streets Improvements. Virtual Online Meeting and informational website at: www.tiny.cc/RowleyInt and <http://tiny.cc/MassDOTRowleyIntersection>

ADJOURN

Chairman Pierce called for a motion to adjourn. Bob Snow so moved, Deana Ziev second, all in favor – aye- roll call vote – Bob Snow – aye; Joe Perry – aye; Dave Petersen – aye; Deana Ziev – aye; Cliff Pierce – aye.

Meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lydon
Assistant Town Administrator

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Meeting memo regarding Election Business

2. Meeting memo regarding New Business #1: Discuss Retiree health insurance renewal
3. MIIA Renewal proposal for 1/1/2021-12/31/2021
4. Meeting memo regarding New Business #2: Review Zoning Board of Appeals application from GTS Realty, LLC for a special permit and/or a variance for relief of a 15-foot abutter side setback for parking spaces at 285 Newburyport Turnpike
5. Zoning Board of Appeals application from GTS Realty, LLC for a special permit and/or a variance for relief of a 15-foot abutter side setback for parking spaces at 285 Newburyport Turnpike
6. Meeting memo regarding New Business #3: Review Earth Removal Permit Application submitted by Robert Nixon, Manager, Falcon Ridge Associates LLC for the removal of earth at 430 Wethersfield Street and set application public hearing date
7. Earth Removal Permit Application submitted by Robert Nixon, Manager, Falcon Ridge Associates LLC for the removal of earth at 430 Wethersfield Street and set application public hearing date
8. Meeting memo regarding Old Business #1: Update on Route 1 and Central and Glen Street
9. Draft plan for light at intersection of Route 1, Central and Glen Streets
10. Meeting memo regarding Old Business #2: Update on Mill Road Bridge project
11. Meeting memo on Announcements