

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

November 23, 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 Natalie Lovett)

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman Pierce called the meeting to order at 1:01 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](http://www.townofrowley.net) or join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone by using the link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/303786053> an also dial in using your phone by calling [+1 \(646\) 749-3122](tel:+16467493122) and using access code 303-786-053. 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.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. Authorize Police Chief Scott Dumas to sign the State 9-1-1 Grant forms

Chairman Pierce read the following:

*The Board needs to vote to authorize Chief Dumas to sign the State 9-1-1 Grant forms. The vote needs to be by ROLL CALL. There is a form for Chairman Pierce to sign, which will authorize Chief Dumas to sign all the other grant forms in the packet.*

Bob Snow made a motion to authorize Chief Dumas to sign the State 9-1-1 Grant forms, Joe Perry second, all in favor, roll call vote— Bob Snow – aye; Joe Perry – aye; Dave Petersen – aye; Cliff Pierce – aye. Dean Ziev – ABSTAINED.

2. Authorize Fire Chief/Rowley Emergency Management Director James Broderick to sign FY 19 and FY 20 Emergency Management Performance Grants

Bob Snow made a motion to authorize Chief Broderick to sign the EMP Grant forms, Joe Perry second, all in favor, roll call vote— Bob Snow – aye; Joe Perry – aye; Dave Petersen – aye; Deana Ziev – aye; Cliff Pierce – aye.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Mill Road Bridge Update

Chairman Pierce read the following:

*The State is nearly finished with the bridge. The bridge is passable. Selectman Dave Petersen has been monitoring this project and will give the Board an update.*

Dave Petersen said that he would like to commend the State on the Mill Road Bridge project. He said the Town found out about the condition of the bridge just a few months ago. Shortly after, the State met with the Highway Surveyor with plans to replace the bridge. He said that Brad Hill called the Governor's Office requesting funds to replace the bridge. Petersen said the contractor completed the majority of the project in one week; they started working on Monday and would have finished by the weekend, but had some paving and minor work that was delayed due to the weather. Petersen said that the permanent guard rails need to be fabricated and installed, which will take approximately 2-3 weeks. Petersen thanked Debbie and Brad Hill for a quick response to the bridge condition and the State for completing the project quickly and at no cost to the Town.

Bob Snow made a motion to send thank you letters to all parties involved in getting the bridge replaced, Dave Petersen second, all in favor, roll call vote— Bob Snow – aye; Joe Perry – aye; Dave Petersen – aye; Deana Ziev – aye; Cliff Pierce – aye.

2. Discuss status of Pine Grove School closeout

Chairman Pierce read the following:

*Debbie contacted Andraya on Friday afternoon via email requesting an update on the items that the Board discussed with her during the November 16 meeting. (Email is attached.)*

*Larry Berger sent Debbie the following email message:*

*Debbie,  
I spoke with the architect about the furniture and the signs. He confirmed that 2 of the signs between the rooms are not installed. He is also reviewing with his interiors manager the situation with the chairs. The architect will be contacted on Monday before the meeting to provide any additional updates.  
Thank you  
larry*

Brad Dore said he called the chair manufacturer, Berko, to set up a meeting but they are out of the office until next week. He said he does have some history and thoughts on the chairs: (1) He said it takes just 1 screw to put the caps back on the chairs in a pile and it wouldn't take more than 30 minutes of time. Dore said that if the chairs were fixed they could then be put back into service; (2) With regards to the felt on the rockers, he said that Dore and Whittier brought in a contractor to replace the original felt. He said that when the original felt got clogged up, they thought that it may be due to the custodial staff not having adequate equipment to clean the floors. Rather than replace the rockers, they replaced the felt. Dore said they also bought new gear and equipment to help better clean the floors. He suggested that before getting new rockers, the felt be removed entirely in one classroom to see how that works. Dore said that the felt should not need to be cleaned every night, just brushed off every now and then. He said that the scuffs seem to be due to a pencil or piece of lead getting stuck under the felts, not durability of the chairs. He agreed that if there is an issue with the chairs right out of the gate and it can't be fixed, then they should go back to Berko.

Petersen asked if the felt is only an issue with the rocking chairs. Dore said that 4-legged chairs don't have the same kind of felt.

Ziev said that she believes the school has issues with both the felt and the rocking chairs. Petersen said that he assumed the chairs were ordered at the request of the teachers and principal at the time. Dore said there was a furniture fair conducted with a variety of equipment and the staff had an opportunity to look at the different chairs.

Ziev said that they have not been able to get a quote for 4-legged chairs that was requested on Monday. Dore said that he can get a quote for that quickly and should have one by next week. Dore said to give a sense of the scale of replacing the chairs there are 426 rocking chairs and 178 cantilever chairs.

Ziev asked for the status of the signs. Dore said that the signs have been ordered.

Ziev asked who would be the appropriate person to take the felt off the chairs. Dore said that could be done by the custodial staff. He said the felt can be removed easily with a plastic putty knife and goop off. Ziev said that she doesn't feel the Town should be saddled with chairs that aren't working for the next 30 years. Dore said that removing the felt was discussed before. Ziev said that the Town wasn't involved in those discussions and should have been given that the Town is the one paying for the equipment. Dore offered to meet with Ziev and the custodial staff this week to look at the chairs and how they can be repaired.

Petersen said that 400 chairs is a lot to replace. He is hopefully that they can find a good solution and avoid the expense of replacing the chairs.

### 3. Discuss Remembrance of Climate Futures Public Installation Project

Chairman Pierce read the following:

*The Board met with Professor Thomas Starr, Department of Art and Design, Northeastern University, on November 9 and discussed his Remembrance of Climate Futures Public Installation Project.*

*Professor Starr told the Board that he is a resident of Wenham, and his application is being done as a county-wide installation. He told the Board that he would like to have Rowley participate if possible. He said the project tries to get people engaged with climate issues, by placing markers in locations where there have been severe weather-related events or in locations that are projected to be impacted in the future from storms. He is currently working with Newburyport, Essex, and Salem. He is working on an application for a grant from the Essex County Community Foundation for this multi-town project. He told the Board there is no Town match required as part of this grant application. He will be filing the application in December. He will need a letter from the Board of Selectmen to support the application.*

*If the Board decides to participate in Professor Starr's application, the Board may condition this approval by requesting that the Board make final approval of the placement and wording on the markers.*

*Attached is the information that the Board reviewed during the November 9 meeting.*

Chairman Pierce said he thinks it would be a good idea for the Board to put a condition on the approval that the Selectmen can review and approve the language on the markers. Snow agreed. He said he would like to see the bridge replaced during the Mother's Day storm included as a marker. Petersen said it sounds like an interesting project. Perry agreed.

Bob Snow made a motion for the Board to submit a Letter of Support, Joe Perry second, all in favor, roll call vote— Bob Snow – aye; Joe Perry – aye; Dave Petersen – aye; Deana Ziev – aye; Cliff Pierce – aye.

Pierce asked Professor Starr if he had any comments. Starr said that he appreciates the Board's discussion and noted that he always works closely with the towns to approve and review the markers before they are installed. He said that he looks forward to working with Rowley.

Bob Snow made a motion for the Board to submit a Letter of Support, Joe Perry second, all in favor, roll call vote— Bob Snow – aye; Joe Perry – aye; Dave Petersen – aye; Deana Ziev – aye; Cliff Pierce – aye.

## **MINUTES**

- November 9, 2020

Bob Snow made a motion to approve the minutes from November 9, 2020, Joe Perry second, all in favor, roll call vote– Bob Snow – aye; Joe Perry – aye; Dave Petersen – aye; Deana Ziev – aye; Cliff Pierce – aye.

**ADJOURN**

Chairman Pierce called for a motion to adjourn. Bob Snow so moved, Joe Perry 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 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Natalie Lovett  
Assistant Town Administrator

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Meeting memo regarding General Business #1: Authorize Police Chief Scott Dumas to sign the State 9-1-1 Grant forms
2. Email from Police Chief Scott Dumas regarding the E911 Grant
3. Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing documents for the State 9-1-1 Grant
4. Meeting memo regarding General Business #2: Authorize Fire Chief/ Rowley Emergency Management Director James Broderick to sign FY19 and FY20 Emergency Management Performance Grants
5. Letter from Fire Chief James Broderick regarding the FY19, FY20 EMP Grants for the Town of Rowley with attachment of Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing
6. Meeting memo regarding Old Business #1: Mill Road Bridge Update with attached pictures
7. Meeting memo regarding Old Business #2: Discuss status of Pine Grove School closeout
8. Email from Larry Berger regarding the status of the furniture and signs
9. Meeting memo regarding Old Business #3: Discuss Remembrance of Climate Futures Public Installation Project with attached information from the November 9 Board of Selectmen meeting