

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

June 4, 2020

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

2:00 p.m.

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

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Pierce called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. He read the following:

Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, 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 meeting in real time. Persons who wish to do so are invited to watch 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/716180781> you can also dial in using your phone by calling [+1 \(872\) 240-3412](tel:+18722403412) and using access code 716-180-781. In the event that live transmission proves infeasible, an audio or video recording, transcript or other comprehensive record of the meeting will be made available on the Town's website as soon as possible.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss scheduling an Informational Hearing on the Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants

Chairman Pierce read the following:

Debbie has discussed holding an informational hearing on the Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants with Chairman Pierce and the Finance Committee. It seems like Monday, June 15, is the best date to hold this "virtual" meeting.

Debbie is recommending the Selectmen sponsor a tri-board meeting, such as we have had in the past – Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and Board of Water Commissioners. It seems like the best time for this meeting is 6:30 p.m. Some members of the other boards are working during the day.

Does the Board wish to hold this meeting, and if so, will the date and time of Monday, June 15 at 6:30 p.m. work?

Petersen said normally all Department heads and Town Officials attend the Informational Hearing, but with remote participation this will be hard to handle. He said we should skip this this year due to the circumstances that will make this difficult to hold. Perry agreed.

Joe Perry made a motion to skip the Informational Hearing this year, the motion was not seconded. Snow asked if this would be the same format as done in the past, but just done virtually. Pierce said that is correct, and it wouldn't require the Department heads to attend. Snow said he doesn't think we need the Department heads. Ziev said the virtual meeting platform is challenging and she agrees with Dave that this should be skipped this year. Snow agreed it would be challenging.

The consensus of the Board was to not hold a virtual Informational Hearing on the warrants this year.

2. Review and sign Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants

Chairman Pierce read the following:

The Warrants are finalized. The Finance Committee has reviewed all the money articles on both warrants.

The location and the time of the Town Meeting is listed on the warrants as 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 22 at the Pine Grove School. We cannot hold the Town Meeting in the PGS because the room is not large enough to accommodate social distancing of 100 seats. The Triton High School Auditorium can accommodate 100 attendees with seats separated for social distancing. Unfortunately, the Legislature has not acted on a bill that would allow the Town to legally hold the Town Meeting out of town. We have been advised by Town Counsel that we should not put Triton High School as the location on the warrant if the law hasn't been changed. The current state law allows the Town Moderator to make changes, so if the Legislature makes the change, then Town Moderator Joan Petersen can re-locate the Town Meeting to Triton High School. If re-located we will alert the residents via Reverse 9-1-1, RCM, Website, and Message boards. Also attached is a page that will be printed in the warrant about what to expect at Town Meeting during the COVID-19 Pandemic, which Town Moderator Joan Petersen has approved.

The Board needs to vote to sign the warrants by roll call. The warrants will be in the Selectmen's Office after the meeting for the Board members to sign.

We need to get this to the printer this afternoon. We are planning to get it mailed by Wednesday.

Bob Snow made a motion to sign the warrants, Joe Perry second, all in favor – aye - roll call vote: Bob Snow – aye; Cliff Pierce – aye; Joe Perry – aye; Dave Petersen – aye; Deana Ziev – aye.

Eagan said the Board may want to review the enclosure signed by Moderator Joan Petersen. Pierce said it looks fine.

Bob Snow made a motion to include the note from the Moderator in the warrant printing, Deana Ziev second, all in favor – aye - roll call vote: Bob Snow – aye; Cliff Pierce – aye; Joe Perry – aye; Dave Petersen – aye; Deana Ziev – aye.

3. Discuss Town Meeting location, quorum, and COVID-19 plan

Chairman Pierce read the following:

Town Meeting At Triton High School Auditorium

We are confident the Legislature will approve the legislation that will allow the Town to move the Town Meeting out of Town. Senator Tarr's aide has indicated to me that there was no objection to this piece of the broad "town meeting" legislation. Debbie, Frank, Joan, Susan Hazen, and Dave met with the Triton Facilities Department yesterday at the auditorium to begin planning for this.

Eagan said knowing that we are confident that the legislation will pass, we are moving forward with preparations for Town Meeting at Triton High School. She said we are looking for official guidance since this is not legal yet. Pierce said the Pine Grove School is too small to fit the 100 person quorum, so we don't have a choice. Eagan said she will work on this with the Moderator and Triton with support of the Board of Selectmen. Dave Petersen said Newbury is in the same position and is having their Town Meeting at the Triton Auditorium the night after we are. He said we have no choice but to go to Triton, and we request all to wear a mask unless they have a medical reason that they cannot wear one. Pierce asked what the status of the legislation is that allows for the reduction of the quorum. Eagan said the latest version of the legislation has a provision for the Selectmen to reduce the quorum to not less than 10% of the current quorum, at a public meeting with the Moderator, advertised not less than 7 days before the meeting. She said this legislation is with the House currently, and a compromise is being worked out.

Pierce continued:

COVID-19 PLAN

All attendees will be required to wear masks. We will have hand sanitizer available. The seating in the auditorium is adequate to socially-distance 100 seats. Some sections of seating will be set aside for couples attending, so that two seats will grouped together. We will put masking tape on the chairs that attendees can sit in. We will need ushers to direct attendees into the seats tagged by tape. The Selectmen will sit in desks on the stage. The Finance Committee will sit in socially-distanced seats in the first row. RCM Director Janet Morrissey will stream the Town Meeting via a laptop. Janet has a vendor that sells portable microphones if the Board and Joan would like us to purchase them. The Town Meeting write up that will be included in the warrant says we will have the

wireless microphones for attendees. We will need to have one or two people assigned to hold and pass the microphone around and clean it after each use.

Quorum

The latest version of the pending "town meeting" legislation has a provision which will allow Boards of Selectmen to lower the Town Meeting quorum due to the COVID pandemic. We need to wait and see what the final version of the legislation is, and if the Governor signs it.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request from Terri Davidson to use Town Common for a memorial in honor of George Floyd

Chairman Pierce said today we received a request from Terri Davidson to use the Town Common for a memorial in honor of George Floyd on Sunday at 12:00 p.m. He said he suggests that the Board approve this with a requirement that everyone observes the six foot social distancing requirement, and that everyone be required to wear a mask. Petersen said we should make sure that the Police Department knows what is going on. Pierce said the Police Chief has been in contact with Terri Davidson about this.

Dave Petersen made a motion approve this request to use the Town Common, Bob Snow second, all in favor – aye - roll call vote: Bob Snow – aye; Cliff Pierce – aye; Joe Perry – aye; Dave Petersen – aye; Deana Ziev – 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 2:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lydon
Assistant Town Administrator

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Meeting memo regarding Old Business #1: Discuss scheduling an Informational Hearing on the Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants
2. Meeting memo regarding Old Business #2: Review and sign Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants
3. Letter from Moderator Joan Petersen to be printed in the warrant
4. Warrant for Annual Town Meeting
5. Warrant for Special Town Meeting
6. Meeting memo regarding Old Business #3: Discuss Town Meeting location, quorum, and COVID-19 plan

