

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2020
MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING – 6:00 P. M**

Present were Chair Jeff Cyr, Vice Chair Sarah Etelman, member Bruce Forcier, member Christopher Geraghty, member Andrea Miles, and Town Administrator Michael J. Sullivan

CALL TO ORDER

Cyr called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

UPDATE COVID-19 (DIRECTOR HART)

Sharon Hart, Public Health Director/ Emergency Management Director, was present at the virtual meeting and offered updates on the Town's response to COVID-19. Confirmed number of cases had increased across all populations. Sullivan noted that golf courses and conservation trails were open again with new protocols to increase the public's safety.

TOWN MEETING UPDATE (CLERK HAMLIN, MODERATOR HINE)

Sullivan explained that a site visit at the Mount Holyoke College field house amongst Town staff was performed to assess the feasibility of hosting Annual Town Meeting at that location. Hart found that the location was a good choice as it was large and well ventilated.

John Hine, Town Moderator, explained that other communities were considering a wide range of platforms to host their Town Meetings. He voiced his support for implementing a consent agenda in which the first seven warrant articles could be considered together. If a Town Meeting Member voiced interest in discussing any of those articles further, it could be pulled out for further consideration. The Board expressed support of the implementing a consent agenda.

Carlene Hamlin, Town Clerk, explained that the Massachusetts Clerk's Association was not supportive of a virtual platform at this time and added that the legislature had not yet acted to allow virtual Town Meetings.

Board members addressed the advantages and pitfalls of hosting Town Meeting both virtually and in-person. Both required a large amount of coordination and there was not unilateral support for either option. The Board supported providing Town Meeting members a poll in which they could voice their preference.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT DRAFT

Sullivan displayed the drafted Town Meeting warrant. Articles one through seven were the common articles that were accepted manually, article seven would establish a BATTERY BROOK PARK revolving fund, and article eight would be the operating budget.

FY 21 BUDGET FINAL DRAFT

Sullivan presented the FY2021 final draft budget. An amount of money remained unallocated to allow the Selectboard to make important future adjustments as needed. The draft budget would need to be reviewed by the Appropriations Committee and would be followed by the public hearing which would be held virtually. Sullivan added that he would conduct a virtual review of all articles for interested parties.

REQUEST FOR MSBA APPLICATION MOSIER SCHOOL

Sullivan explained that a statement of interest was received from Dr. Diana Bonville, Interim Superintendent of Schools, for assistance from the MSBA for preliminary upgrade designs to the Mosier School. If selected for assistance, the Town would need to contribute a financial match. The Board considered the Town's ability to support the effort. As there was already a substantial gap between the school's requested operational budget and the available funding, the cost of upgrading Mosier School appeared to be too large a financial burden at this time. Additionally, it was unknown how the COVID-19 pandemic would affect the structure of education in the future. The Board acknowledged the difficulty of the decision as there were substantial upgrades that needed to be performed at the school.

Sullivan would draft a letter in response to the School Department's request reiterating the Selectboard's support for the upgrades to the Mosier School. However, due to uncertain financial and planning outlook, the Town would not be in a position to satisfy the financial requirements of the application's request. The letter would be sent to the Board to consider before being endorsed by the Chair.

SENIOR CENTER UPDATE

Sullivan explained that during demolition of the old Senior Center building, a void with an associated asbestos pipe was uncovered. Removal of the pipe, paired with construction delays associated with COVID-19, would result in a delay in opening the new senior center by two months. A representative of the project would be in attendance at a future meeting to update the Board.

ADJOURN

Etelman motioned to adjourn. Who seconded. Miles in favor. The meeting adjourned 7:44 PM.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
Colleen Canning, Senior Clerk Planning and Conservation**