

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
Open Session
Monday, November 16, 2020
Zoom Video Teleconferencing

The Open Session Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Chairman Mark Russo. Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.

In Attendance:

Board of Selectmen (BOS): Selectwoman Christine Joy (CJ), Mark E. Russo (MR), Chair, John A. Traynor, Jr. (JT), Clerk. Town Administrator: Elizabeth Dennehy (TA), and Selectmen's Assistant: Briggette Martins.

Participants added to the call: Members of the Finance Committee, Dennett Elementary Principal Peter Veneto, Dennett Elementary School Committee and Faculty Members, Jon Wilhelmsen, Town Accountant Barbara Gomez, and Express Correspondent: Kristy Zamagni-Twomey.

Dennett Elementary School:

The Board of Selectmen invited the Dennett Elementary to this week's meeting. Jon Wilhelmsen, Chair of the Plympton School Committee, opened the discussion on the status and progress of the Dennett Elementary during these challenging times of COVID-19. Ann Walker, a 4th Grade Teacher at the Dennett, spoke on behalf of her colleagues. They have designed virtual classrooms and videos to help students with remote learning. Ms. Walker presented a video of the school demonstrating the "New Normal" and all the efforts made by the staff to help students receive the best education they can offer during the pandemic. Ms. Walker also thanked Principal Veneto for his support. The Board of Selectmen thanked all the teachers and staff for their continued efforts to help the students with their education and remain safe. Jon Wilhelmsen was thanked for his 6 years of volunteering and leadership with the Dennett and the School Committee.

Future Priorities for the Budget Cycle:

Town Administrator Liz Dennehy opened the discussion of the budget process and requesting the town establish an article for advertisements for professional level searches and recruitment services. TA also discussed the recent concern of the loss of fire and police personnel to other towns. The costs of the payouts to employees leaving for other opportunities or retiring is becoming quite costly to the town. CJ suggested performing an analysis determining if the payouts for an employee leaving versus offering more insurance benefits to employees would be more cost efficient

to the town. CJ discussed reviewing the personnel bylaws on the accrual of vacation time and payouts when leaving.

Town Properties Committee Update:

Jon Wilhelmsen explained to members of the BOS and Finance Committee, that the committee is evaluating the current and future of the town property's short-term and long-term needs. They are currently working on evaluating the septic and water use at the Town House, lighting at the library, Town Barn Roof Bid, Town House roof, Town House upper floor accessibility, Town Green flagpole, Fire Department assessments, and Dennett roof. Finance Committee Chair Nate Sides appreciated the efforts made by departments and committees. He suggested each department submit an inventory list of their equipment and its condition so it may be reviewed for cost of possible replacement.

Appointments:

Colleen Thompson as the Director of Elder Affairs for the Council on Aging. MR made motion to appoint Colleen Thompson as the Director of Elder Affairs until 6/30/21. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

Carolyn DeCristofano as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals. MR made motion to appoint Carolyn DeCristofano as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals until 6/30/2022. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

Council on Aging:

The Council on Aging is looking for volunteer drivers for the new handicap van to help assist residents. There is currently a position available for an outreach worker. The position is paid by a grant and will be posted accordingly.

Town Administrator:

TA is working on the Highway Roof Bid to be effective 11/18 through 12/3. Bids will be open at 10:00 a.m. on 12/3. TA explained to the BOS she is working on the CARES Act reimbursement to the town for checks estimated to be delivered on Friday 11/20/20. TA is working with the Chief Silva on two more submissions for school expenses and miscellaneous odds & ends. TA is working on a Hazardous Mitigation Plan funded through a FEMA grant. A link to the survey will be available to the public in the town website. TA has reached out to South Shore Community Action Council to help in providing turkeys to residents for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. The Fire Department will be providing meals to seniors. TA updated the Board that the town is seeing an increase of COVID-19 cases. There

are currently 20 cases of COVID at the Silver Lake Regional School and no cases at the Dennett. Jon Wilhelmsen is committed to working on the safety and health of Dennett teachers, staff, and students.

Future Agenda Items:

The Board of Selectmen will invite Police Chief Matt Clancy to the next meeting on 12/08/20.

Minutes:

The Minutes of November 2, 2020 were approved as written.

Motion made by (MR), Seconded (CJ). **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0**

The meeting concluded with a “Rave” by each member of the Select Board.

7:33 PM Motion to adjourn BOS meeting by (MR). Seconded (CJ)

Respectfully Submitted,
Brigette D. Martins