

Approved Minutes
Town of Brookline Selectboard Meeting
Wednesday, June 3, 2020, 6:30 PM
(videoconference)

Present

Selectboard:

David Jones (Chair), Gwen Tanza, Joseph Dutton
Shelby Brimmer, Bruce Mello

Town Officers:

Guy Tanza (Town Clerk, videographer)
Mark Bills

Members of the Public:

Recorder: Peter Barus

(Meeting transcribed from video conference; live streaming by FACTV)

Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32PM.

Review changes to agenda if any

Mr. Mello: voting discussion

Scheduled members of the public

Unscheduled members of the public

Approve Minutes

Minutes from May 20, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes from May 20, 2020 Regular Meeting as amended. Second by Mr. Mello. All in Favor.

Old Business

Tax collection update

Mr. Tanza reported starting about \$40,000 in arrears, now down to about \$26,000 with more expected; that the Town is in good shape; residents have been given an extended grace period, until June 15.

There was discussion; usually by end of August most of the taxes are paid; this year has been more challenging.

SLP Update

Mr. Mello reported that the storm windows were stuck; hoping to schedule spreading new wood chips for a Saturday. There was discussion of where the chips go; delivered next to BMH; and of compliance with safety regulations; cost and quality of woodchips.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Mello will meet with the tenant.

Covid-19 Survey

Ms. Brimmer discussed the survey format. Mr. Mello noted a survey postcard from NewBrook. Ms. Brimmer discussed the level of engagement, assessing needs to look into what services the Town could provide; the questions were as follows:

- How has the COVID19 pandemic impacted you or the members of your household?
- What are the biggest concerns for you and your household moving forward?
- What services and support have you accessed during this time and is there anything that could be facilitated by the Town that would be beneficial to you or members of your household, as the community continues to cope with COVID19?

There was discussion; of starting with the listsrv (120) and Front Porch Forum, specifically to Brookline residents; of the level of anonymity; of whether to verify residency.

The Chair polled the members; there was consensus in favor of a survey by email.

Green Up Day recap

Mr. Jones noted that this Green-up Day had been the most memorable for being the cleanest in recent memory; that almost all the roads were covered, and yielded less than half the normal load; and thanked Mr. Bills and all the volunteers. Mr. Jones noted that this would be his last Green-up Day as leader of the effort.

New Business

Summary / Update / Reports

Mr. Tanza reported that 17 Absentee Ballots had been requested, and that each ballot sent out and returned costs \$1.40 (0.70 each way); and discussed the School vote, noting that the votes could be counted in about half an hour, that four to six people would be adequate; that the ballots would be taken to Townshend.

Ms. Tanza, Mr. Jones and Ms. Brimmer will count ballots while Mr. Tanza supervises.

There was discussion of procedures to maintain safety under the pandemic.

Guy Tanza - Town Clerk Report

Mr. Tanza noted eleven unlicensed dogs; that no fines have been levied to date; and that after May 31 unlicensed dogs are subject to a \$50 fine; owners who no longer have a dog should let the office know, to be taken off the list.

Highways & Roads

Mark Bills - Road Supervisor

Mr. Bills reported an extended mud season; that the mud signs have been taken down; more gravel was needed this year; roads are being crowned and brought up to a maintainable surface; next will be raking, and Newfane will be asked to apply chloride to the roads to maintain moisture, reducing the need for grading during the summer; that some projects are held up during the pandemic, and decisions will have to be made about paving projects and other plans; some grants are still on hold; some funds budgeted for maintenance have been applied to small repairs; and that some extreme winds have brought down trees that were removed; a couple of road signs have been taken, Ellen Ware and Mountain Road, placing orders; old ones in place while the new stop signs are delivered; and there are some dead elm trees and others to remove, companies have not been able to bid on these, but may return in the next fiscal year; some trees near power lines have been seen by the power company and are just outside their purview; there are about 25 trees in need of removal on Hill Road, the ledge will have to be removed with hydraulics; would like to put this small job out for bids, for road improvement; for now doing general maintenance. There was discussion of gravel deliveries; there is a system in place for tracking quantities and locations for gravel.

Having polled the members, Mr. Jones will put road projects on the agenda for next meeting, and invite Mr. Clark.

There was discussion of the winter challenges to road surfaces and the increased application of new materials; and of new techniques and materials that could be tried in particularly muddy areas.

Communications

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Email

- Email about the response to the Census in comparison to 2010
- Email from Ms. Maggio to Mr. Tanza and Mr. Dutton through the Windham County Humane Society regarding a State Police inspection of a property where some dogs may be impounded

Regular Mail

(none)

Other Business

There was discussion of a local situation in which residents are hearing gunshots and vehicle noise, and are afraid of certain neighbors who have acted aggressively hostile. It was noted that there is State Police presence in town and they are aware of the situation; that there have been many complaints to Town officials; and that residents must make complaints to the Sheriff's Department or State Police before they will take any action. The situation at Papoose Lane will be on the agenda for next meeting.

Pay Orders

Payroll

Mr. Jones polled the members as to their review of the Payroll Warrant, and whether they had questions. All reviewed and approved the Warrants. Mr. Jones moved to approve Payroll Warrant #2020-48 dated May 27, 2020, in the amount of \$1,139.83. Second by . All in Favor.

Accounts Payable

Mr. Jones polled the members as to their review of the Accounts Payable Warrants, and whether they had questions. All reviewed and approved the Warrants.

Mr. Jones moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #2020-49 dated June 3, 2020, in the amount of \$18,730.73. Second by Mr. Mello. All in Favor.

Set agenda for the next meeting – Wednesday June 17, 2020

- Discuss 6 Papoose Lane Situation
- Road Projects
- SLP Update
- Tax Collection Update

Adjournment

Mr. Jones moved to Adjourn. Second by Mr. Mello. All in Favor.
The meeting was Adjourned at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Recorder, June 5, 2020