

**TOWN OF WINCHESTER
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 13, 2020
Record**

OPENING

Chair Michael Bettencourt called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM via Zoom remote participation due to the State of Emergency COVID-19. Present were Select Board members Vice Chair Susan Verdicchio, Jacqueline A. Welch, and Mariano Goluboff. Amy Shapiro was absent. Also present was Town Manager Lisa Wong. (Note - due to the remote participation all Select Board votes are roll call votes.)

NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

1. Monday, April 27, 2020 - Regular Session

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS

*Motion That the Select Board accept, with gratitude, donations in the amount of \$2,250 to be deposited in the Council on Aging Transportation Support Account and \$200 into the Council on Aging Gift Account.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMENTS

1. Appointments - Ms. Wong announced the following permanent appointment in accordance with section 4-2b of the Town Charter, and she respectfully requests that the Select Board vote to waive the fifteen (15) day appointment period for: **DPW Water/Sewer Promotional appointment Maintenance Foremen - Thomas Call**

*Motion: That the Select Board waive the customary fifteen (15) day appointment effective waiting period to allow Thomas Call to begin his employment.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

2. MBTA Update - MBTA has offered to pay for the Town to hold a special Town Meeting to be held before June 8th but we are pushing for them to go to the June 8th meeting as they have still not sent us their plans.
3. State of Emergency Reimbursement - Chief Tustin informed the Board that every department needs to track all of their expenditures, expenses and overtime costs including what they are taking from existing stock/budgets in preparation for us to apply for reimbursement from the federal government. There is some federal guidance as to how we can get the expenses reimbursed that we incurred after the State of Emergency was declared.
4. 3yr Financial Plan - Ms. Wong explained that we had a financial plan but due to the State of Emergency is has to be redone. As it stands, without the emergency, fiscal years 2021 and 2022 budgets are balanced. In terms of the emergency expenditures, they have been very good and we are managing the financial impact from the virus. We will have to keep track of the revenue such as the delay in receiving the tax payments and will not get a complete sense of the budget shortfall until at least mid-May. Half of our real estate taxes are paid by mortgage companies that are paid on May 1st and we have already received 15% of the taxes.

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For the Recreation Department, there is a potential of \$500,000 lost revenue, based on the cancellation of this year's afterschool programs. We are still paying the temp employees, at a cost of \$16,000 per week but if we laid them off most of that amount would be used as our portion for unemployment. There is also a shortfall of revenues for parking and meals tax but we are saving on energy costs. The Select Board continued the discussion to the Thursday, April 16th meeting.

5. As of today, 35 residents have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, 14 cases are still active, 1 deceased and 20 have recovered.

BUSINESS

1. **State of Emergency** - Ms. Wong informed the Board that a letter was circulated to surrounding Towns/Cities last week by two mayors that want to mandate the stay at home order and the complete closure of all construction projects. Ms. Wong and staff feel strongly that we do not need to do this and most other Towns are not going to consider the request.
2. **Asa Fletcher Fund** - The Asa Fletcher Fund is on this agenda in relation to Winchester's United Way fund. Our United Way fund should be launched this week and the Town can donate to our fund. We can designate a portion of the Asa Fletcher Fund for the residents in Winchester who are in need of help due to the Coronavirus, as part of the United Way "Give Where You Live" program.

*Motion: That the Select Board designate \$10,000 within the Asa Fletcher Fund to be used for Coronavirus relief to qualifying Winchester residents in conjunction with the United Way "Give Where You Live" program.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

3. **Remote Town Meeting Legislation** - Ms. Wong explained to the Board that state legislation has been filed and Senator Lewis is a co-sponsor. Chair Bettencourt will be sending a letter to our legislative delegation informing them of the Select Board's support.

*Motion: That the Select Board support the proposed Act authorizing remote participation for representative town meetings due to the COVID-19 emergency.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

4. **Draft Town Meeting Warrant** - Ms. Wong sent the Board a preliminary draft form of the warrant articles for them to review and have a chance to add anything else.
5. **Cable Contracts** - The Cable Committee has been working on the renewal franchise agreement with Verizon and will be presenting the draft agreement to the Select Board at a future meeting.
6. **Public Lands Preservation Act** - In early February, resident Stephen Engel spoke to the Select Board asking for their support for pending legislation regarding the Public Lands Preservation Act. At that the Board asked Mr. Engel to return to them after the Conservation Commission had voted in support of the Act. Mr. Engel informed the Board that the Conservation Commission has voted in favor and he is asking for the Select Board's support.

*Motion: That the Select Board support the proposed Public Lands Preservation Act to benefit the environment and protect open space.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

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7. LIP Application - Ms. Wong informed the Board that Winchester Winning Farm development voluntarily created two 40B affordable units of the twenty-nine units that are being built. The developer has to submit the Local Initiative Program application to the Department of Housing Commission and the Board has to vote to support the application.

*Motion That the Select Board approved the Local Initiative Program (LIP) for Winning Farm as presented.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

CONSENT AGE NDA

*Motion: That the Select Board approve the rescheduling of Town Day to Friday, September 25th and Saturday, September 26, 2020.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

The Select Board cancelled the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT : 8:20 PM

*Motion: That the Select Board adjourn for the evening.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wong, Town Manager