

PRESENT: Select Board Members Margaret Scarsdale and Tony Beattie; Town Administrator, Andrew MacLean; Executive Assistant, Tracie Looney

This meeting was remote participation only. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Pledge of Allegiance was said. Ms. Scarsdale announced that the meeting is being cablecast live, and recorded for future cablecast by Pepperell Community Media.

1. AGENDA PACKET (Exhibit 1)

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Mr. Beattie and seconded by Ms. Scarsdale, it was unanimously voted to accept and release the following minutes:

- February 6, 2021
- February 8, 2021
- February 22, 2021
- March 8, 2021
- March 13, 2021
- March 22, 2021

3. BILL AND PAYROLL WARRANTS

Since the last meeting the Select Board have approved the following payroll and bill warrants:

- On March 24, 2021 payables warrant #38B was signed for \$1,050,960.06
- On March 31, 2021 payable warrant #39B was signed for \$1,204,884.38
- On April 1, 2021 payroll warrant #40A was signed for \$252,931.77
- On April 7, 2021 payable warrant #40B was signed for \$103,315.28

4. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

No appointments at this time however the Town Administrator reviewed the openings with both Town Committees and staff positions that are opening up due to upcoming retirements and staff moving on.

5. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Written Submittals: Ms. Scarsdale reviewed the following written submittals

- 2 Memos from Charter Communications regarding channel lineup changes
- Memo from Economic Development Advisory Committee regarding support for full time Certified Planner
- Citizen Engagement Night- Meet the Candidates Night April 15th at 7:00 PM
- Hannah Peters from Pepperell is Nashoba Valley Technical High School Nominee for State's Outstanding Vocational Technical Student
- Early Voting dates and times for Annual Town Election on April 26th, 2021
- Albert Harris Center's Rubber Ducky Race on April 20th
- Town Wide Outdoor Water Ban

Audience Comments: None at this time.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Town Administrator's Report

The Town Administrator reviewed his TA report with the Select Board:

- Finance Committee is holding a Public Hearing on FY2022 budget on Wednesday at 7:00 PM
- Local Rapid Recovery Planning Grant has received input from local businesses on the ways the state can assist their business in the post pandemic environment

- The Peter Fitzpatrick Executive Board is providing guidance to The Fitzpatrick Collaborative and continues to meet monthly
- Senator Kennedy has announced he has sponsored legislation to create a statewide authority to help cities and towns create public facilities
- The LED street light demo is finally coming to Main Street and the Town is looking for public feedback
- The Community One Stop Expression of Interest was submitted and will help inform the state of Pepperell's needs
- Conservation Agent continues to work on culvert replacement projects on Heald Street
- Office Zink has applied for a competitive grant to obtain an emergency supply trailer
- The sewer line lateral replacement at Town Hall is substantially completed
- Joe Jordan, Water & Sewer Superintendent, has announced his retirement for later his month

Soil Reclamation Proposal Update

The Town is waiting to hear from the judge in May for summary judgement.

COVID -19 Updates

The Town Administrator showed the state website with a new format for COVID-19 data and informed the Board with the Governor's latest travel advisory and the timeline for vaccinations for the remaining population.

6.2 Select Board's Report

Mr. Beattie recognized Tim Brothers for his contributions to the Town with the Light By-law and other influences with the Light, Air and Noise Committee. Mr. Beattie mentioned other initiatives he is working towards.

Ms. Scarsdale has been working on the Local Rapid Recovery Grant by contacting 83 local businesses to complete a survey to help with pandemic rebound. Ms. Scarsdale also reviewed other projects she is working on with the Town.

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

7.1 7:15 PM Public Hearing Continuance – 74 Brookline Street

Mr. Beattie opened the public hearing by reading the public notice at 7:50 PM. Under the statute, if there is a proposed sale of land taxed as agricultural land under Chapter 61A of the General Laws the owner is required to serve notice on the Town, starting the 120-day period in which, the Town has a right to purchase the property at the amount stated in the purchase and sale agreement between the owner and prospective buyer – the right of first refusal. In particular, the town has “a first refusal option to meet a bona fide offer to purchase the land. “G.L. c. 61A, §14. The Town also has the right, if it does not wish to exercise the option itself, to assign the option to “a nonprofit conservation organization or to the commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions under the terms and conditions that the . . . board of selectmen may consider appropriate. “Id. While notice of the intended sale is to be given to the “board of selectmen, . . . planning board and conservation commission . . . and to the assessors,” the decision on whether to exercise the option rests with the Select Board, and the decision may be made only after a public hearing on the subject.

Mr. Beattie, explained that he had searched for a way to keep the property in conservation by seeking out buyers however, there was no viable source to purchase.

On a motion made by Mr. Beattie and seconded by Ms. Scarsdale, it was unanimously voted to not exercise or assign the option to purchase the property at 74 Brookline Street, as described in the notice of intent to sell received from Attorney Richard Shea on behalf of property owners Jon and Anne Kaiser, and to notify the landowner of this decision.

On a motion made by Mr. Beattie and seconded by Ms. Scarsdale, it was unanimously voted to close the public hearing at 8:06.

7.2 Junk Dealer License Renewals

The Select Board issues licenses for Junk Collectors/ Dealers under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, Sections 54-56 and Sections 202-205. A license is required for a collector of, a dealer in or keeper of a shop for the purchase, sale or barter of junk, old metals or second-hand articles to be licensed. The license fee is \$25.00 and expires, on an annual basis, on May 1st.

There are currently 4 Junk Dealers licensed in the Town of Pepperell.

1. The Bronze Bell
2. South Row Antiques
3. Mel's Barber Shop
4. The Smithy Shop

On a motion made by Ms. Scarsdale and seconded by Mr. Beattie, it was unanimously voted to approve the following Junk Dealer's licenses to expire May 1, 2022.

1. South Row Antiques
2. The Smithy Shop

7.3 Town Administrator's Review

Ms. Scarsdale provided the Select Board's review of the Town Administrator. The Board will be setting goals for FY22 once the new Select Board member is voted in.

8. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Beattie and seconded by Ms. Scarsdale, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracie Looney, Executive Assistant

APPROVED:

Margaret Scarsdale, Clerk

Tony Beattie

Remotely Approved: