



Town of West Boylston
140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Select Board/Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting May 7, 2020; 6:00 p.m.; Virtual Meeting

Members Present Patrick J. Crowley, Chairman Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Vice Chair John W. Hadley, Clerk Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman Michael J. Kittredge III, Selectman

Members NOT Present

Invited Guests: Mr. Tom Dillon
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Mr. Crowley convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman's statement:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 31A, §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of West Boylston Select Board is being conducted via remote participation. No in person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to view this meeting while in progress may do so by:

- Join Zoom Meeting

If despite our best efforts, we are not able to provide for real-time access, and we will post a record of this meeting on the town's website as soon as we are able.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Central MA Mosquito Control Project:

Ms. Lucier stated in addition to working with Rep. O'Day and Senator Chandler's offices, she decided to reach out to the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, John Lebeaux with copies to Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito and our legislators. She stated he letter basically let them know that the Town of West Boylston consists of 2,932 acres of residential land and the Department of Conservation and Recreation owns 3,131 acres not taking into account land owned by the county, railroad, or all the tributaries to the Wachusett Reservoir, water supply for the City of Boston. The town's annual membership fee to join the Central Mass Mosquito Control Project, which falls under the State Reclamation & Mosquito Control Board, an agency of the Department of Agricultural Resources, which Commissioner Lebeaux oversees is \$46,000. She stated she let him

know that the membership covers the entire town and although West Boylston will pay its fair share, it was not right that the membership fee couldn't be prorated to cover our taxpayers and not property owned by state. She stated she received a quick response to the letter which she emailed to the Commissioner. She explained he indicated that 'the particular issue you relate to me is not one that I have previously had to consider. I shall review with staff at best speed.'

Governor Baker has introduced HB4650 'An Act to Mitigate Arbovirus in the Commonwealth. The legislation would empower the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board to engage in mosquito control activities across the Commonwealth, in areas where there is no legislative authority to take action today, when the Commissioner of Public Health determines that an elevated risk of arbovirus exists. The purpose of this legislation would allow the state to effectively combat diseases transmitted by mosquitoes. She stated she has emailed our legislators and am working with the Board of Health to get a determination on this. She stated she reached out today to Commissioner Lebeaux and he stated his staff is reviewing and will have a response by next week.

Lastly, our Volunteer Grant Writer is assembling an Application through the Municipal Vulnerability Program. She is working with the Chair of our Board of Health and the Worcester Alliance to tell our story as far as it relates to the Triple E threat. We have a copy of the Uxbridge application and the deadline to submit is mid-June. Mr. Kittredge stated he is concerned we will run out of time to get this on the warrant. Mr. Hadley does not believe no other Town has brought the same concern to the State about sharing cost. Mr. Rucho stated other towns do not participate in this, and some towns have no idea what this service is. He stated the Town of West Boylston's share is approximately \$19,000 is they only pay the 58%, he does not support paying this project in full to pay for the DCR Property. Mr. Hadley agreed with Mr. Rucho. Mr. Kittredge stated this could be second year and is unknown but does not want to have to tell the taxpayers they cannot be outside once this COVID situation is over. He stated this virus presents like a flu virus also. He believes the state should pay their fair share. Mr. Rucho asked what towns around participate, Mr. Crowley stated a lot of towns east of us and not many towns west of us. Mr. Rucho would like to wait and see what the State comes back with. Mr. Crowley stated this can be carried over to the next meeting.

Mr. Kittredge signed off from the meeting 6:09 p.m.

2.Consider Signing One-Year Bridging Agreement with the Teamsters Union for the DPW (tentative):

Ms. Lucier stated this is a one-year agreement that will compensate the DPW Teamster Union with a 2% increase which is what other unions and employees received for this time period; the union has agreed to this and the business agent has signed. Mr. Hadley clarified this term is July 2019 to June 2020. Mr. Crowley stated the Town is in negotiations with both unions currently for the next term but do to COVID it is on hold.

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve DPW and Cemetery Agreement, second Mr. Rucho.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Crowley, yes

Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes

Mr. Hadley, yes

Mr. Rucho, yes

3. Consider Signing On-Year Bridging Agreement with Teamsters Union for the Cemetery (tentative).

4. Consider the appointment of the new DPW Director effective June 1, 2020 for a term to expire on May 31, 2023 (tentative).

Ms. Lucier stated she advertised for the position, received resumes and an interview team, herself, Chris Rucho, Chief of Police Dennis Minnich and Interim DPW Director Gary Kellaher. She stated they interviewed four candidates, after interviews concluded one finalist withdrew. She stated she engaged in contract negotiations with the top candidate and he decided to decline due to concerns with relocation and the current COVID situation. She stated they are now back in search mode, Mr. Rucho stated he would like to wait a couple weeks and re-advertise. Pass over

5. Consider voting to sign employment contract for new DPW Director (tentative).

Mr. Crowley passed over this item.

7. Consider signing Memorandum of Agreement with the West Boylston School Committee and the Town of West Boylston Employee Unions (tentative).

Ms. Lucier stated this is an agreement for deductibles for a three-year term, and this was requested by the school and Police Union and agree with the content. She stated the insurance advisor recommends moving forward with this. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated he believe the school committee should negotiate this; Mr. Crowley stated the town negotiates this not the school committee. Mr. Crowley thanked the insurance advisory committee to find savings for the employees and the town, Mr. Rucho would like to also thank all the employees that assist on the process.

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the agreement, second Mr. Rajeshkumar.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Crowley, yes

Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes

Mr. Hadley, yes

Mr. Rucho, yes

Motion Mr. Hadley to adjourn at 6:17 p.m. Mr. Rajeshkumar, second all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: May 20, 2020

Faye D. Zukowski, Municipal Assistant

Patrick J. Crowley, Chairman

Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Vice Chairman

John W. Hadley, Clerk

Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman

Michael J. Kittredge III, Selectman