



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

## **Select Board/Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date / Time / Location of Meeting</b> May 27, 2020; 6:00 p.m.; Virtual Meeting
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<b>Members Present</b> Patrick J. Crowley, Chairman Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Vice Chair John W. Hadley, Clerk Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman Michael J. Kittredge III, Selectman
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<b>Members NOT Present</b>
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<b>Invited Guests:</b>
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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.

### **Town Meeting Discussion:**

Mr. Crowley stated the Board had a meeting last week and there was discussion on delaying town meeting and asked Ms. Lucier for financial implications if town meeting is postponed beyond June 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Lucier stated a 1/12 budget will need to be developed and then submitted to DOR, she explained the forms will not be available until June 1<sup>st</sup> and she will be attending a webinar on Friday. She stated once town meeting is held and the budget is approved the 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget will end. Mr. Crowley stated if the town goes past July 1<sup>st</sup> without a budget, he explained that the budget will be base on the FY20 budget approved last year town meeting. She stated she spoke with the MIA Insurance Company and they will still be honoring early payment discount through September. She has also been checking with departments to be sure that any proposed purchase deals will still be honored once the funding is approved, Mike Coveney he needs his issue taken care of before

October 15<sup>th</sup>, Police Chief spoke with MHQ and vehicle will be held, and they will not lose pricing or quoted priced but is unsure about capital items.

Mr. Crowley stated they posted yesterday to discuss reduction of the quorum. Ms. Lucier stated she spoke with State Representative O'Day regarding the legislation that was filed and it was passed in the Senate and sent to House, the House made some changes and sent back to Senate and now has been resent to the House, he is confident it will go through this week. She stated the Town's first step is to post notice 7 days before actual discussion which will be held on June 3. She spoke with the Moderator and the discussion will take place on whether or not they would like to reduce the quorum. She explained the quorum cannot be less than 10 people which is 10% of the current quorum amount of 100. She stated if the Board approved the reduction of the quorum, the next day the town clerk will send to the state for approval, and then there is a 10-day waiting period. She explained the earliest town meeting could be held would be June 15 if the reduce the quorum, and she also has reserved the school auditorium June 15, 22, and 29<sup>th</sup>. She also checked with the Business Manager of the school and auditorium has 18 rows, 420 seats, middle section seats 14 per row, side sections 5 seats per row, she has spoken with the Board of Health and they believe they can safely distance at town meeting. Mr. Crowley stated discussion on the reduction will be held on June 3 and discussion tonight would be if the Board would like to postpone Town Meeting further than Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hadley does not see any reason to delay if Board of Health agrees that we can safely distance people, he would like to know what if they had more people than space allowed for what would happen to those people. Ms. Lucier stated they could use the cafeteria s overflow and could be set up with television equipment and town clerk could appoint a temporary moderator. Mr. Rucho would like to push Town Meeting out till June 29<sup>th</sup> at least, but asked Ms. Lucier if 6-foot distancing could be met around the whole room. He stated he feels uncomfortable when the Town can change the rules in regards to a meeting of 10 or more but businesses cannot open. Mr. Kittredge agreed with Mr. Rucho and does not understand how they would keep everyone from passing each other, Ms. Lucier stated the isles would be restricted to one direction in and one way out. She stated the Town Clerk would have someone volunteer to help with the seating and the Board of Health will have someone outside to be sure everyone is safe distancing. She stated they don't often have a quorum for the budget and believes the numbers will be low. She thinks they can safely come up with a plan, she is open to moving the meeting out to the 22 with a backup of the 29<sup>th</sup>. She said the main goal is to keep people safe. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated they could have 100 people at the meeting but does to believe there will be, he stated does the town want to expose people coming to the meeting. He is not against the reduction of the quorum, Mr. Crowley stated that will be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated he would like to postpone to a later date. Mr. Rucho stated the election and the town meeting is one of the earliest he has seen. He would like to put off and see what the beginning of June brings. Mr. Crowley stated he does not think anything is going to change and people will be used to being in bigger crowd, he is not comfortable having people come to a meeting when the retail businesses cannot open. He would like to push off to help with people coming to the meeting. He believes the exposure will be the same in two weeks from now, people will just be more comfortable in crowds.

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve moving the meeting to June 29<sup>th</sup> and re-discuss in the middle of June, second Mr. Rajeshkumar.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Crowley, yes

Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes

Mr. Hadley, yes

Mr. Rucho, yes  
Mr. Kittredge, yes

Mr. Hadley asked if they move it to the 29<sup>th</sup> and on the 15<sup>th</sup> everything looks better could it be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Lucier stated the Warrant will have to be posted 7 days in advance and the warrant has to have the date of town meeting on it. Mr. Rucho stated he would even be more comfortable having it in July, Mr. Crowley would not like to post until they have to in the event that they need to change it. Ms. Lucier stated she believe there is a process for this but did not have available.

**New Business:**

• **Town's Response to Police Chief's Email:**

Mr. Crowley stated he requested this be placed on the agenda and will not allow any discussions or question regarding this. He explained this is a personnel matter and the Police Chief reports to the Town Administrator and the Town Administrator is responsible for any actions taken with the Chief. Mr. Lucier read the following statement.

In response to the May 17<sup>th</sup> email Police Chief Dennis Minnich sent to the Director of Public Health for the City of Worcester, I would like to report the following. Throughout this process I have been in communication with the Chair of the Selectboard. I spoke with the Chair of the Board of Health and he agreed with the resolution which was proposed. That resolution was also shared with the Chair of the Selectboard. The article in the Telegram was the first half of the story. I spoke with Dr. Sullivan and he thanked me for the action taken. The Chief never meant for his words to be construed as a threat, he apologized, and he intends to support the Board of Health should they have a need for assistance with any safety concerns. The Chief and I were scheduled to speak with the Director of Public Health last week, however, that call is in the process of being rescheduled. I consider this personnel matter that was dealt with and the matter is closed as it has been resolved.

Motion Mr. Hadley to adjourn at 6:24 p.m. Mr. Rucho, second all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: June 3, 2020

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Faye D. Zukowski, Municipal Assistant

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Patrick J. Crowley, Chairman

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Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Vice Chairman

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John W. Hadley, Clerk

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Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman

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Michael J. Kittredge III, Selectman