



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

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MAR 15 2021

Select Board/Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
WEST BOYLSTON, MA

Date / Time / Location of Meeting
January 20, 2021; 6:00 p.m.

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

Members NOT Present

Invited Guests:
Chief Dennis Minnich
Chief Tom Welsh
Paul Redmond
Hyo Park

Mr. Hadley convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. roll call taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Emily Braxton discussed the unwanted truck traffic on Pierce Street coming from Maple Street and Worcester Street. She stated she sent an email to Nancy and to the Selectboard. She stated many on her street feel strongly and support having signage installed to preclude large trucks traveling on the street. She read statements from her neighbors and explained they all signed a letter of support to have the road posted with signage "No Trucks over 5 Tons". Mr. Hadley stated they will place on a future agenda item.

Carla Rueben explained she grew up in West Boylston and recently moved back to town, she stated she is not comfortable being in her front yard due to the truck traffic. She feels this is a safety concern for her and her neighbors and will come back when this discussion is on the agenda.

Ms. Braxton stated she will be the spokesperson for all the neighbors. Ms. Lucier stated she will contact the DPW Director and Police Chief and invite them in. Mr. Rucho would like information in the past if we have looked at this situation, Ms. Lucier stated they looked at it back in 2007 and she will get that information.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- **December 16, 2020 Regular Session**
Motion Mr. Crowley moved to approve; Mr. Rajeshkumar second.
All in favor

**REVIEW AND VOTE TO APPROVE WARRANTS FOR THE PERIOD COVERING
JANUARY 7, 2021 to JANUARY 20, 2021 : Town Payable Warrants FY2021-29 & 30; Town
Payroll Warrant FY2021-14; Sewer FY2021-SE16; School S11 & S11A and MLP #17.**

*Motion Mr. Crowley moved to approve; Mr. Rajeshkumar second.
All in favor*

STEVE LISAUSKAS, WASTE ZERO – TRASH BAG DISCUSSION:

Ms. Lucier stated she will put on a future agenda as Mr. Lisauskas was not present. Mr. Crowley asked for this to be added to agenda and thinks the businesses should be able to make a profit on the bags. He thinks the businesses are losing money selling the bags; they have to buy, store, pay employee to stock bags. He thinks they will get more vendors interested if they can make some profit and asked if Waste Zero will allow, Ms. Lucier stated Waste Zero will do what ever we want. Mr. Rucho stated this goes back to the budget discussion and would be less revenue and disagrees that bag sales to not benefit businesses. Mr. Rucho stated the bags are not a huge money make and would be surprised if we are breaking even. Ms. Lucier stated this was not put in place to make money it was just a way for residents to get rid of trash. Mr. Crowley stated out of fairness for vendors they are not even breaking even with the bags especially if a credit card is used. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked what other towns are charging and believes the recent shortage was due to Christmas holiday and that a couple vendors did not have stock of bags. Mr. Kittredge requested Nancy get the amount the town is making on the bags so they can have an idea. Mr. Rucho stated if the town allows for business to make than it is less revenue for the town. Ms. Lucier stated bag sales are going great here at town hall.

**PAUL REDMOND, CANIDATE FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE – IF APPROVED
APPOINTMNET PERIOD EFFECTIVE JANUARY 22, 2021 UNIL JUNE 30,2024:**

Mr. Redmond introduced himself and gave the board his background and career experience. He stated he is currently the Treasurer Collector for the City of Leominster and has been a resident of West Boylston for 8 years and would like to give back to the community. Mr. Hadley thanked Mr. Redmond for stepping up and helping the town out.

Motion Mr. Rucho moved to approve; Mr. Kittredge second.

Mr. Crowley stated he is the perfect person for this position having understanding about municipal finance and appreciates that he stepped up to help. Ms. Lucier stated she ran by the Chairman of the Finance and he was in full support of this appointment.

All in favor

**HYO PARK, POSSIBLE PRODUCTIONS, INC. – DISCUSSING FILMING OF
SHOWTIME SERIES “MARBLE”:**

Mr. Park introduces himself and thanked the Board for having him in to the meeting. He explained they are interested in filming a single car crash on Route 140 between Maple Street and Route 70. He explained this is the traffic diversion that they are requesting with the assistance of the West Boylston Police Department and Boylston Police Department. He stated the action and driving will be conducted by professional stunt drivers that are actors and will be coordinated by Stunt Coordinator, Jeff Gibson. Mr. Park explained they are looking to film on the road for two non-consecutive days and current schedule is Wednesday, February 24th and Monday, March 1st, he stated the shooting schedules could change due to weather, COVID or actor availability. Mr. Park explained he has been working with Chief Minnich, Mass DOT to discuss the work on Route 140 and also has another location they are looking at. He stated he would like to use the detour route used for a road race. He explained the Fire Department will also be onsite for safety during the

filming. He explained one day of filming would be for driving up and down the road and the other day would be for the crash, they would be using a Russian Arm which is a high-profile SUV with a camera crane to get the filming completed. Mr. Park stated he is working with DCR on the crash site which is along the reservoir, he stated the crash vehicles are rigged to have minimal fuel and fluids. He explained he would like to have a notification sign board out two weeks in advance for the commuters and resident letters be sent out with their contact information. Mr. Park stated they take safety very seriously, and in regards to COVID they follow all COVID regulations and testing for crew and actor and would offer to any safety personnel of the town. He stated they are completing their technical scout this week to select their locations and will need police support for this. Chief Minnich responded he has no issues with this detour or assisting, Chief Welsh stated they have no concerns on their end either. Mr. Rucho asked about the location and does not have any issues if the safety departments are ok with it. Mr. Park stated any expenses occurred to the town would be paid by the production company. Mr. Crowley asked if the police will be working as a detail, Chief Minnich confirmed.

***Motion** Mr. Crowley moved to approve the use of the site, Police, Fire and DPW any cost incurred with be paid by production company; Mr. Kittredge second.*

All in favor

Mr. Rajeshkumar asked the name of the film, Mr. Park stated it is Marble and is spin off of Dexter and was hoping to keep under the wraps but knows this meeting is televised. Mr. Rucho stated residents will not be allowed in the area, the Chief responded absolutely not.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discuss approach to developing FY22 Budget (PC):**

Mr. Crowley stated he requested this be placed on the agenda after lasts meeting which property taxes were discussed. He would like Nancy to develop a level funded budget and a level service budget and let the town decide at town meeting. He stated this would let the town decide what budget to go with and if cuts are involved, they see the impact. Ms. Lucier stated she will get back to the Board as she does not know if they can do that. Mr. Crowley stated he would like a budget that has no impact to the taxes which may have cuts. He said the biggest complaint he hears is “my taxes went up”. Mr. Hadley stated the property taxes are going to go up when the values are way up. Mr. Crowley stated there is the tax rate and the value and would like to develop a budget where the town does not go up to the 2 ½ percent levy. Mr. Rucho stated a debt exclusion could be ending and that would also affect the taxes. Ms. Lucier stated the fixed costs are the drivers of the budgets. Mr. Crowley stated cuts may be made to get the taxes to go down. He stated he spoke to a couple members of the school committee and they are not opposed to the idea but asked if the town could wait a year so they can plan. Mr. Rucho does not believe next year will be any better and explained there will be cuts and agrees they should move forward with this, Mr. Crowley stated there is never a good time for cuts. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked if all the departments will be making cuts. Mr. Crowley explained the Town Administrator presents a budget to the Board and she may decide which cuts are being made. Mr. Rucho stated there is time to develop a budget and would like to anticipate questions or changes at town meeting. Mr. Crowley stated that is correct and people may make motions to change what is presented and feels they need to be prepared, Mr. Rucho agreed and believes this could happen at any town meeting. Ms. Lucier stated there is not a

lot of staff in any town departments that could be cut. Mr. Crowley stated he understands this is a tremendous amount of work but resident's main complaint is their tax bill. Ms. Lucier stated residents approve spending such as the Senior Center which was the brunt of this year's increase and if they keep spending then the taxes will continue to go up. Mr. Rucho stated every service change comes with a cost. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated every year the employees receive a COLA, Mr. Hadley stated employees need to be able to pay their bills and inflation goes up every year. Ms. Lucier stated she hears the Board and will see what can be done. Mr. Crowley would like Nancy to get the school involved with the budget, Ms. Lucier stated she will as they always try to be fair and work with the schools.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Update on COVID-19 Cases:

Last Friday I sent out the following information as a Town Administrator News Item and tonight I wanted to include that in my report. Last night, January 14th, all case addresses received from January 1, 2021 to January 14, 2021 were reviewed with our nurse. Of the 185 cases reported during that period, 10 were removed as they were clearly not in West Boylston, bringing the total West Boylston cases to 175. The non-residential addresses (jail and nursing homes) totaled 73. The jail had 29 cases, which were not previously reported. Those were posted on January 4, 2021. This was the first time we were provided the jail address information. The nursing homes had 44 cases and those addresses have been included in our count from the beginning.

Last night we received 18 more cases, 10 of which are at nursing homes. I also checked in with the state and we are being told that they checked with their surveillance data team and they have counted all cases with an official West Boylston address in non-residential addresses (jail and nursing homes) in our town since the beginning of their COVID reporting on their MAVEN system.

From January 1 through January 14, 2021, the town has had 175 cases, 73 of which are associated with non-residential addresses (jail and nursing homes).

Starting with the January 13th posting I will be amending my COVID-19 website posts to indicate whether the numbers contain both West Boylston residential numbers and non-residential numbers starting. I will also amend the report to include the 29 cases on January 4, 2021, which were not previously reported to the town from the jail address.

I hope this clarifies where we are at with our COVID-19 numbers and I am very sorry for the confusion with the jail counts.

Mr. Rucho asked why we would separate the groups out and asked if she was trying to lower the numbers, Ms. Lucier responded the school parents were concerned with the high numbers and wanted to clarify residential from non-residential. Mr. Rucho believes the nursing home is part of the residential numbers, Mr. Crowley stated they are not part of the community. Mr. Rucho stated they are still the same numbers, Ms. Lucier agreed but just wanted residents to have clarified numbers. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated it looks like the State did not include the jail prior to January, Ms. Lucier stated her understanding from the State is they did not get any numbers from the jail until January. Ms. Lucier asked the nurse specifically if there were any cases from the Tivnan Drive address and she advised there had not been any cases. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked for clarification on why the jail only has one day, Ms. Lucier responded that is the day that address was reported.

2. Shared Streets & Green Communities Update:

This past week I was invited to participate in a Shared Streets Peer Exchange meeting. The first hour was discussing the impact the projects had on your community and challenges

that may have arose during the project. Many towns experiences use related to COVID-19, whether it was items being out of stock or delays in product manufacturing or deliveries being pushed back. The stated was generous enough to grant them all project extensions. The second hour was a panel discussion and Q&A session.

This past week we were notified that there is an issue with the manufacturing of the variable speed drives for the pumps at the library. The original ship date was December 22, 2020 and the manufacturer is not saying sometime in February. That does not work for the project schedule and we chose that Cerus product in part because it has a 5-year warranty. We checked with other manufacturers; however, they have much shorter warranties. I had Gary review this with Roger Harris the engineer on the project and they both agree that it is in our best interest to wait for the Cerus product. Out deadline to complete the project and be eligible to apply for funding in the next GC grant round is February 12th. We spoke with the State about the possibility of an extension for the Variable Speed motors and they are not granting extensions. However, there are two competitive grant solicitation blocks this year (one spring for which past projects must be completed by 2/12, and one fall. This will put us a little behind on our boiler project, but it is the right decision to make.

Mr. Crowley asked if we can apply for more funds in the fall, Ms. Lucier stated that is correct but was hoping to get this done sooner.

3. Heavy Commercial Truck Vehicle Exclusions:

Will be discussed at a future meeting.

Mr. Rucho stated he has concern with the traffic end up in other neighborhoods. Ms. Lucier agrees and will meet with Gary and Chief to begin the discussion. Mr. Rajeshkumar stated the Planning Board always addresses the concern with traffic when the approve permits. He believes the town can put a weight limit on the road.

4. Update on RFP's:

An RFP has been issued for out IT Services. This proposal is for a 3- year contract as opposed to our current contract which was for a one-year term with the option for two, one-year renewals. That proposal is due back on February 26th.

I also issued an RFP for our Property Tax Assessment Services which also has a due back date of February 26th.

After meeting with NFP, our health insurance advisor, we will be issuing an RFP for the town's health insurance provider. With Fallon we are potentially looking at a 12% increase based on our claims and loss ratio. They are of the opinion, that due to COVID and elective surgeries being put on hold, they estimate our claims are 5% lower than they would have been otherwise. We want to make sure that we get the best premiums available to the town.

Mr. Crowley asked if the town can switch insurances, Ms. Lucier stated the change would be at the end of the fiscal year. She is hopeful people will quote the insurance. Mr. Kittredge asked if the teachers still have in their contract that they will have Blue Cross, Mr. Rucho explained no one new can go on that insurance and would be surprised if there were still people on it as this was for retirees.

APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNATIONS:

- **Concurrence on the Appointment of Tracy Gagnon to the Board of Health effective January 22, 2021 for a term to expire on April 30, 2024:**
Motion Mr. Rucho moved to approve; Mr. Rajeshkumar second.
All in favor

MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Now that the drainage issue has been uncovered and fixed, the library is proceeding with finishing off their downstairs project. The carpet was ripped up and they are awaiting an installation date.**

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SELECTMANS REPORTS:

- Mr. Rucho would like an update on the status of the triangle, Ms. Lucier stated they are working on the determination letter now. Mr. Rucho would like the subcommittee to meet again.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Consider entering into executive session under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30a, Section 21(A), Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with union personnel and the Chair declares that an open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

***Motion:** Mr. Crowley I move to enter into executive session under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30a, Section 21(A), Part 3 to discuss contract negotiations with Police Union and the Chair declares that an open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body at 7:08 p.m. and will not come back to open session following; Mr. Rajeshkumar second.*

Roll call vote:

*Mr. Kittredge, yes
Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes
Mr. Hadley, yes
Mr. Rucho, yes
Mr. Crowley, yes
All in favor*

***Motion** Mr. Rucho moved to exit executive session at 7:35 p.m., Mr. Crowley second.*

Roll Call Vote

*Mr. Kittredge, yes
Mr. Rajeshkumar, yes
Mr. Hadley, yes
Mr. Rucho, yes
Mr. Crowley, yes
All in favor.*

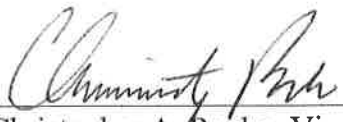
Motion Mr. Rucho to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Crowley, second all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Faye D. Zukowski, Municipal Assistant

Approved: February 3, 2020

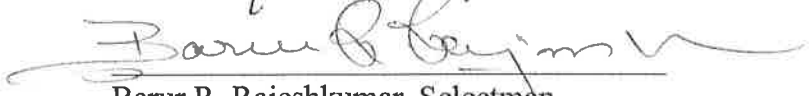
John W. Hadley, Chairman



Christopher A. Rucho, Vice Chairman



Patrick J. Crowley, Clerk



Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Selectman

Michael J. Kittredge III, Selectman

