



Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

**Minutes
Board of Selectmen
September 28, 2020
Cotter Room
6:30 p.m.**

Members present: Tim Chapin, Chairman, Alex Bezanson, Jim Connolly, Kevin DiMarzio, Mike Kolodziej, Scott Lambiase, Town Manager

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Announcements:

Mr. Chapin read the attached memo listing absentee voting dates and times.

Public Comments:

Will be allowed at Special Town Meeting discussion.

1. **Minutes** – motion to approve September 14, 2020 made by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Bezanson, unanimous.
2. **Adoption of Housing Production Plan** – Bruce Hughes, a member of the Planning Board, as well as OCPC, gave a brief introduction on the report. The Planning Board has already adopted the report. The report includes a comprehensive housing needs assessment and details housing production goals and strategies aimed at meeting these needs over the next five years. Abington is at 7.62% of affordable units as of 8/21/2019 according to DHCD. Once the plan is approved by Planning and Selectmen, it goes to DHCD for approval, which gives the town greater power in controlling new residential development.

Motion by Mr. Bezanson to adopt the Housing Production Plan, seconded by Mr. Connolly, unanimous.
3. **Request for appointment to Community Preservation Committee – Kathy Creighton.** Motion by Mr. Connolly to approve, seconded by Mr. Kolodziej, unanimous.
4. **Vote to hold a public hearing on roadway acceptances** – motion by Mr. Bezanson to hold public hearings on Tuesday, October 6th for the purpose of putting them on the STM warrant for roadway acceptances, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.
5. **Vote to declare miscellaneous surplus equipment available for disposal in accordance with MGL C 30B.** DPW has submitted a list of 7 items as surplus: 2005 pickup from Water Dept., 2008 wheelchair van from COA, 1985 Dodge pick-up forest fire truck, 2005 Ford Crown Victoria, Chevy fault roller, multiple pumps. Items will be auctioned; funds will go into general fund as revenue.

Motion to declare list as surplus and authorize Town Manager to contact auctioneer made by Mr. Bezanson, seconded by Mr. Connolly, unanimous.

6:45 p.m. **Request to transfer common victualer license at Portofino's Italian Kitchen, 396 Brockton Avenue from Taha Zedan to Khaled Ahmed and Danell Dias.** Motion to open the hearing made by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous. Mr. Ahmed – will be the same business, just transferring ownership, same hours. Fire, Building, Police had no concerns. No comments from the floor.

Motion to close the hearing made by Mr. Bezanson, seconded by Mr. Connolly, unanimous.
Motion to approve the transfer made by Mr. Bezanson, seconded by Mr. Kolodziej.

6. **Discussion and possible vote to re-open STM warrant.** Michael Nashawaty, representing NashMac LLC of Braintree, MA, had submitted a citizen's petition prior to the warrant closing, which didn't have the required signatures. He requested the warrant be re-opened, has the additional signatures needed. The Town Manager consulted Town Counsel. Planning Board would have to hold a public hearing in a short period of time, and capacity for holding meeting with 25-person limit in a room are problems. This would be for additional retail license, as well as cultivation and manufacturing facility. His first location fell through. Due to delays on the town's part and COVID, he hoped they would be able to get on the STM warrant.

The Board discussed opening the warrant, had concerns with setting a precedent, confusion over whether cultivation was allowed. According to town counsel, it is allowed. Mr. Nashawaty doesn't want to go forward without retail portion. Several members of the Board felt Mr. Nashawaty had received misinformation, would like to see this get on the warrant. Town Manager – may be more suitable for ATM. Due to time constraints, may not be possible for Planning Board to hold public hearing even if it is put on the warrant.

Motion by Mr. Connolly to open the STM warrant, seconded by Mr. Kolodziej, 4 ayes, 1 opposed (Mr. Chapin).

Motion by Mr. Connolly to add article, "To vote to see if the town will approve a change to §175-24.3(D) of the town's Zoning Bylaws so that it may read as follows: "Number of Licenses: The number of recreational marijuana retailers and/or recreational delivery-only retailers permissible to be located in the MOD shall be limited to 50% of the number of licenses issued within the town for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises where sold pursuant to MGL. C. 138 §15. In the event that 50% of said issued licenses shall not be a whole number, the limit shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number." Seconded by Mr. Kolodziej, unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Kolodziej to close the warrant, seconded by Mr. Connolly, unanimous.

7. **Discuss warrant for Special Town Meeting.** We will have the votes of Finance Committee by next meeting and go over articles. The roadway acceptances were submitted by the developers by petition.

8. **Discuss Performance Review Process and Criteria for Town Manager.** Mr. Connolly and Mr. Chapin are on the Subcommittee and will submit a new review form to the board. The review typically takes place in January.
9. **Town Manager Report.** Mr. Lambiase reviewed the attached report.

Mr. Bezanson brought up the following items for future discussions/agenda items.

1. He has received complaints re New England Art building – siding coming off. Town Manager will ask for an update.
2. Traffic – going down Old Randolph Street. Would like to have police go down there every once in a while, to monitor it.
3. Possible tax break for restaurants and bars for 2021. They have been hit the hardest due to COVID-19. Would like discussion on how to help them on an agenda. Town Manager will talk to Sonia Hodge and Sue Moquin on what the impact would be.

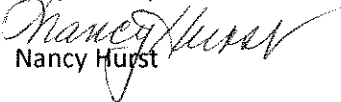
Mr. Kolodziej brought up requesting Chief Majenski to put an office at the intersection of Washington, Adams and Shaw. With kids back in school, there is a safety issue with cars running through the stop sign.

Mr. DiMarzio brought up website – needs to be updated on information. Should be more user friendly. Suggested putting out a survey.

Board brought up the possibility of Town Hall being open one night a week. Town Manager explained this would impact bargaining. Town Hall was closed early on Fridays to reduce budget in 2009, hasn't regained those hours. Staying open late would mainly impact Managers' Union and Clerical Union. It could be looked into to see if more services, permits, could be made available on-line. All the offices at Town Hall are open to the public. A lot of the surrounding town are still closed.

Motion by Mr. Bezanson to adjourn at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Connolly, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy Hurst



The purpose of this memo is to provide information on changes to the Massachusetts state election laws. As you may be aware, House Bill 4820, An Act relative to voting options in response to COVID-19, was passed by the House and Senate last week and was just signed into law as Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020.

Absentee Voting

The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail will be 5 p.m. on the 4th business day before the election (October 28th) The deadline to request an absentee ballot in person will remain 12 p.m. the day before the election.

Mail-in / Absentee ballots may be returned in person, by mail, or by secured drop box in front of Town Hall.

Any voter who has returned an early or absentee ballot that has been accepted cannot vote in person on Election Day.

Voters will be able to request a hand-delivered absentee ballot if they have been admitted to a health care facility after 12 p.m. on the seventh day before an election.

VOTER REGISTRATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The deadline to register to vote for the November 3rd State Election will be Saturday, October 24th registration shall be offered from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. a table will be set up in front of Town Hall.

IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

(Remember to wear your mask)

October 17th-30th

**Monday through Thursday from 8:30AM to 4:30PM
Friday 8:30-12:30**

Saturday Oct. 17th & Oct. 24th 2pm-6pm & Sunday Oct 18th & 25th 2pm-6pm

**Town Offices Building
500 Gliniewicz Way Abington, MA 781-982-2112**

Special Town Meeting: Please review the STM Warrant, I will ask the Board to vote their recommendations on October 6th. The Asst. Town Manager / Finance Director will be present to answer any questions you may have relative to the spending articles.

Adams Street Complaint: This complaint dates to back to early May. The complaint was given to me by the Board of Selectmen. I was asked to review an issue as "The Fence Viewer" upon inspection I quickly determined that the issue in question was not a fence issue but a zoning use and Planning Board issue. Immediately, I turned the matter over to the Zoning Enforcement Department. They have been working diligently and continuously on the matter. I recommend that we place the item on your agenda for the October 6th meeting to allow the Kearney's to come in and discuss the issue.

Niles Street Issue: I am glad to report that thanks to Marshall and his persuasiveness with the building contractor the sidewalk has been repaired. We were able to determine using older Google Earth Images that the sidewalk damage was in fact caused by the work of the contractor.

Early Voting in Person

October 17th-30th Monday through Thursday from 8:30AM to 4:30PM Friday 8:30-12:30
Saturday Oct. 17th & Oct. 24th 2pm-6pm & Sunday Oct 18th & 25th 2pm-6pm

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Voter Registration

The deadline to register to vote for the November 3rd State Election will be Saturday, October 24th registration shall be offered from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. a table will be set up in front of Town Hall.

Open Positions

VSO Officer

12 Applications received; we will begin the process of reviewing them and holding interviews next week. We are hoping to begin the transition by mid-October.

Sealer of Weights and Measures

5 Applications received we will begin this process after we have onboarded a VSO

Road Paving: Paving will begin soon on High Street from Rte 123 to Groveland, also paving will be done on Highland Rd. The paving should all be completed by the end of October.

Summit Ave: Heavy Exclusion Zone is in the works, OCPC should have the traffic counts done by the end of October.

Updating Personnel Policies (carry over from 8/24 report)

I have initiated the process of Updating Personnel Policies. The procedure is as follows.

- Updated Personnel Policies are reviewed by the Town Manager in draft form.
- Selectmen will review the draft policies (added 9/28)
- Draft policies are sent to all unions for impact bargaining, as required by M.G.L. c. 150E.
- Personnel Policies are finalized, including any revisions following impact bargaining.
- The Board of Selectmen reviews the finalized policies. In accordance with the Town's Personnel Bylaw, if the Board of Selectmen do not veto the policies, they become effective on the 15th day after they are presented to the Board of Selectmen.
 - Travel
 - Vehicle
 - Electronics Use
 - Code of Conduct

Event Permit and Policy: I have initiated a project with the recreation department to develop an event permit and policies for groups and organizations that wish to use town properties.

Currently only a procedure is in place for scheduling athletic groups for field use. The town does not have a clear policy or procedure in place that spells out what board has the final authority to approve the use of town property. My recommendation is that the Recreation Commission will continue to schedule field uses for athletics, the Selectmen will review and approve all other event permits. The procedure will require groups or organizations to fill out a request form that spells out the number of people gathering, the dates, times, reason for the gathering, and any other pertinent information. The application will then be reviewed by Recreation, Police, Fire, Building, and Health for any comments concerns or issues. If needed, we will meet with the event organizers to ask questions and make recommendations. The final application along with the recommendations of the department heads will then be forwarded to the Selectmen for approval.

Cares Act Funding: The second submission to cares act is almost complete. The amount is for \$592,436.79. This added to the amount of the first request less what was not allowed is a total of **\$1,371,109.84**. The Asst. Town Manager / Finance Director will be present at the next meeting and will offer a more comprehensive update as well as answer any questions you may have.

MRI Management Study Implementation: I have attached an update from Deputy Chief Cutter, the Board should consider having the Deputy Chief appear in front of the Board for an update and overview of his progress at the first scheduled meeting in November.

Town Managers Corner: ABCAM and I recorded a couple of segments of Town Managers Corner with the Fire Chief and the Chair of the Fire Station Building Committee last week.

Strawberry Valley Abington Appreciation Day: Sunday October 4th from 7am till noon, free golf for all Abington residents. Come down an enjoy a great day and get a free t-shirt. Open to

residents only, must call ahead to make a reservation, carts are not included but are available for a reasonable fee.

Update from Deputy Chief Cutter

As an update to my progress on tackling some of the issues identified in the management study please see the following;

- All updates to department policy have been made
- Monthly supervisor inspections of the cruisers are being done.
- Community Policing events are being tracked in our CAD (dispatch) system
- I've increased staff meetings to the 1st of every month from quarterly prior
- I've modified our public records request form to include voluntary information and I'm working to create a modify request for records on our website
- A recruitment officer will be designated prior to the next civil service testing date around April of 2021
- I've instituted on-line training in ethical conduct and cultural sensitivity for all employees
- I've hired and posted a promotional assessment center for Sergeant's positions. This is scheduled for 11/5/20
- My Detective is actively disseminating crime and traffic analysis information to all sworn officers
- I've entered into discussions with the police officers union in regards to an Early Intervention System
- All officers are participating in monthly emotional survival and resilience training
- All department training is being documented in our training software
- All investigations are being tracked in our case management system and solvability factors are being reviewed
- Our missing vulnerable population policy follows the same more stringent policy guidelines as our missing child policy
- All vehicle expenses and mileage is being tracked
- I've begun to look at how a re-organized department will be laid out and have drafted a new DRAFT organizational chart in line with the management study. This may not be able to be implemented until the annual shift bid in July 2021 but I will enter into talks with the union to implement this sooner if manpower permits. We still have 4 officers assigned in a police academy and 1 out on extended military leave. I must also be aware of forced overtime when I work to accomplish this.
- I have drafted questions to survey all employees and will send this out in January 2021
- I've issued a couple formal commendations to the officers as I've done in the past
- I've worked to increase opportunities for the line officers by allowing 4 positions to train, respond and participate in our regional response team and I've promoted grant writing to 2 officers who've shown interest.
- I've begun to consider the re-structuring of our Special Police Division, keeping in mind the concerns of the management study.

Town Managers Report
9/25/2020

- I continue to work on the officer issue of forced overtime and have dramatically improved this.
- As far as recruitment goes, I'm actively looking to increase the number of female officers and officers who represent those in our community. We've recently hired a female officer who came to us as a Special Police Officer from Whitman and she starts the full time academy on 9/28/20. I've also hired a police officer of Haitian descent and he's currently in the Randolph Police Academy scheduled to graduate in October of 2020.

Should you have any questions on any of these or other topics please let me know and have a great weekend!!

Respectfully,

Chris

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Christopher J. Cutter
Deputy Chief of Police
Abington Police Department
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