



Town of Abington

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Minutes

Board of Selectmen

Town Hall

May 4, 2020

6:30 p.m.

VIA REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Members Present: Tom Connolly, Chair, Tim Chapin, Ken Coyle, Jim Connolly, Kevin DiMarzio, Scott Lambiase, Town Manager, Sue Moquin, Town Accountant

- Meeting opened with Pledge of Allegiance
- The Chairman Introduced Scott Lambiase, Town Manager, and the Board welcomed him on his first day. Mr. Lambiase gave a brief background of his experience in Duxbury and that he was looking forward to working with everyone. Ken Coyle brought up the seven years he served on the Board of Selectmen, and his year on the Finance Committee in the Town of Whitman. The possibility was raised of a forum on Facebook or Zoom to answer questions from residents, which will be explored further.
- Tom Connolly announced the retirement of Deputy Fire Chief Ron Howe, who will be working his final shift May 7th. Tom read a statement forwarded from Fire Chief John Nuttall, which is attached.

There were no Public Announcements.

Action/discussion items:

1. Approval of Minutes - March 25, 2020 – motion by Ken Coyle to approve, seconded by Jim Connolly, unanimous. March 30, 2020 – motion by Ken Coyle to approve as amended on page 4, seconded by Kevin DiMarzio, unanimous. April 6, 2020 - motion by Kevin DiMarzio to approve as amended on page 2, seconded by Tim Chapin, unanimous. April 13, 2020 – motion by Ken Coyle to approve, seconded by Jim Connolly, unanimous. April 22, 2020 – motion by Jim Connolly to approve, seconded by Tim Chapin, unanimous. April 29, 2020 – motion by Jim Connolly to approve, seconded by Kevin DiMarzio, unanimous.
2. Grant of Easement, 441 Summer Street, pursuant to vote taken under Article 12 of the May 22, 2017 Annual Town Meeting – motion by Ken Coyle to approve, seconded by Kevin DiMarzio. Tom Connolly explained it was vote taken at Annual Town Meeting for an underground utility easement to go in beside senior center. There would be no disturbance to Senior Center or pickle ball court. This is not a road, just for utilities. Vote was unanimous.
3. Vote to appoint Steven Santeusano as alternate delegate to Old Colony Planning Council – Kevin DiMarzio – motion to appoint Steven Santeusano as alternate delegate to OCPC. This had been

discussed at the last meeting. Seconded by Jim Connolly, unanimous. Ken Coyle – the position was posted on the website as delegate.

4. Discuss forming subcommittees. Tim Chapin brought up re-doing the Town Manager evaluation form. Two members of the Board plus Town Manager will work on new form. Tim Chapin and Jim Connolly volunteered. Scott Lambiase will reach out to HR directors he has worked with. A copy of the current review form will be forwarded to the Board. Ken Coyle suggested subcommittee to talk to other towns about sharing resources.

Kevin DiMarzio brought up selectmen as liaison to departments. Ken Coyle - do selectmen sit in on negotiations for contracts? Scott Lambiase – it is usually left up to attorneys; he would rather leave it up to John Clifford as labor counsel, but he will talk to him. Ken Coyle asked if Charter or Bylaws were due to be reviewed. A committee is formed to review them every five years. Are they required to have a Selectman on either of the committees?

Ken Coyle would like to stay on as liaison to Summer Concerts Committee even when he's off the board. Tom Connolly – the board would take that under consideration.

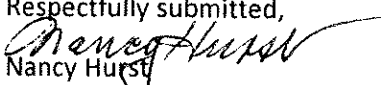
5. Discuss town meeting and budget. Nothing has been finalized as far as Town Meeting. June 23rd is the election. Sue Moquin – counsel suggested June 22 for Town Meeting, but that's a lot on Town Clerk so close to the election. Should be at least 30 days difference. Tom Connolly – this needs more discussion with Shawn Reilly, Moderator, and Leanne Adams, Town Clerk. The election is being held at Emerald Hall. If Town Meeting is held after July 1st, 1/12 of the budget would be based on the FY 20 budget. There was question on lowering the quorum. Town Manager will spend time with Town Accountant regarding budget and go over Finance Committee recommendations from department heads and reduction impacts. Once we know what cuts are, we will have to go back to departments. Sue Moquin – recommended going with information we have now and talk to departments. A 10% or 20% cut across the board would kill some departments. We should continue with what we know and estimated receipts from two years ago and Prop 2 1/2. We have a balanced budget right now. There was a deficit that has been worked out for 2021. If things change, address it then. We don't know when we'll get new numbers from the governor. We received \$20,000 in federal aid and \$14,000 in state aid (BOH).

The Chairman suggested meeting weekly due to current circumstances, and board agreed. The next meeting is May 11th. Scott Lambiase asked if they would like him to invite Town Clerk to next meeting? He will talk to Shawn Reilly and Leanne Adams tomorrow and convey the Board's concerns and try to narrow dates. However, he doesn't think we will get any better numbers very soon.

It was suggested that Rick LaFond's transition document be on the next agenda for discussion. Stabilization fund was mentioned, may be necessary to use it. Ken Coyle brought up Town Manager's goals and objectives, which the board should think about.

Motion by Tim Chapin to adjourn at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Jim Connolly, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy Hurst

Ron Howe

Nancy Hurst

From: John M. Nuttall
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Rick LaFond; Ron Howe
Cc: David G. Majenski; Peter Schafer; Jason Linn; Marshall Adams; James F. Banda; John Stone; Jack Caine; Suzanne Djusberg; Sue Moquin; Sonia Hodge; Leanne M. Adams; Barbara Comoletti; Deborah Grimmett; Joseph Shea; Liz Shea; Nancy Hurst; Wayne Norling; Joe Lapointe; Jolanta Briffett; Jacqui Figgins; Marty Golightly; Alexis Chiavaroli
Subject: Deputy Howe Retiring

Rick,

Next Thursday, May 7 will be Deputy Ron Howe's last day.

While we can't have the usual open house for him on his last day, we are hoping for an event later this summer to formally recognize his service to the Fire Department and the Town of Abington.

Below is a brief statement that we have recently shared regarding Ron's service; please feel free to forward this as needed.

We wish him the best on his well-deserved retirement.

Thanks,
John N

Deputy Chief Ron Howe will be working his final shift at the Abington Fire Department on May 7, 2020.

Deputy Howe began his career as a Call Firefighter in July of 1979 as a 3rd generation firefighter, carrying on the family tradition since 1934.

He was appointed as a full time Abington Firefighter on December 9, 1984.

He then became an Emergency Medical Technician in 1985 and was the first member of the department to attend paramedic school while working full time, becoming certified as a Massachusetts State Paramedic in June of 2001.

After putting in countless, hours, days and months of study, Ron was promoted to the position of Fire Captain in 2006, and later was promoted to Deputy Chief in September of 2015.

He served as the departments Defib. Coordinator, as an American Heart Association CPR Instructor, and has been a certified Car Seat Safety Technician since 2006.

Throughout his career, Ron has been an integral part of the department overseeing the Fire Prevention office, as well as his longtime work helping the Abington Firefighters Local 2080 Scholarship Committee, being the Chairperson for the Firefighters Memorial Sunday each year, organizing the multi-town Tricentennial Firefighters Muster in 2012, as well as serving on many other committees.

When asked about his proudest moments during his career, his first answer was "Every day I put on the uniform".

Ron's sense of humor and good nature is obvious to anyone that has ever met him and will be missed within the department.

We wish Deputy Howe a long, healthy and happy retirement with his wife Pam and daughters Victoria and Christina.

Congratulations Deputy Chief Ronald D. Howe on your 35+ years of dedicated service to the Town of Abington!

Due to the current practice of social distancing, we will have to postpone any plans to honor Deputy Howe with a party. We will update everyone as we go forward.

John M Nuttall | Fire Chief

Abington Fire-Rescue & Emergency Services

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Veritas et Vigiles

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