



Town of Abington

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Minutes
Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
May 18, 2020

VIA REMOTE PARTICIPATION

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

Meeting opened with **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Public Announcements: Kevin DiMarzio – he and Jim displayed Abington Strong sign, which supports Abington Strong Fund. There are single (\$20) and double-sided signs (\$22) with metal stakes, magnets (\$8) and stickers (\$10) on sale at Lane Printing.com and Sub Galley, online on Facebook – Abington Strong Fund. Proceeds go to Abington Food Pantry.

Approval of Minutes: May 11, 2020 – motion by Ken Coyle to approve, attaching a copy of Rick LaFond's transition report, seconded by Jim Connolly, unanimous.

Update on Fire Station Feasibility Study: Ken Coyle – copies were given to the Selectmen. The final recommendations to be voted on Wednesday. Chief John Nuttall and Fire Fighter Derek Haimaidi would like to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Discuss request by Town Clerk to adjust hours of Town Election to 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (MGL Ch. 54, Sec. 64) rather than 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Scott Lambiase – Leanne Adams concerned with holding Town Meeting the night before election. Felt it was asking a lot of the same group of volunteers in a short amount of time. They are going to be pushing absentee voting. Would be held in the big auditorium at the High School, spread out. Meeting would be streamlined, no zoning articles, just budget, funding articles, flood maps for FEMA. Would be fairly light town meeting. Does not know if we would reach quorum of 150 and hasn't heard yet as far as quorum being lowered. Tom Connolly read information sheet on applying for absentee ballots (attached).

Kevin DiMarzio – not in favor of changing hours, suggested changing Town Meeting to June 29th instead. Jim Connolly not opposed to changing hours, but suggested going until 7 p.m. if it starts at 10 a.m. Kevin DiMarzio – asked if precinct locations could be spread out? Scott Lambiase - they can handle the volume at Emerald Hall – it's doing it the night before and the day after. Concerns that polls would be more crowded with shorter voting hours. Could it be switched back to a Saturday? Drive-thru voting mentioned. Board needs more information before voting.

Discuss Town Meeting and Budget: Scott Lambiase – Town Meeting is going to be as pared down as possible. We won't be getting what we got last year in state aid, probably 10% less. There will be spending freeze, not doing capital projects, hiring freeze, planner position removed, civilian court officer

position removed, School removed some budget items. They are having meetings tomorrow with insurance carrier. It is a work in progress, but numbers are getting closer. They will try to avoid it, but services may be affected by cuts.

Tom Connolly – had Town Clerk on phone. Election was switched from a Saturday to a Tuesday due to pushing it off because of Covid-19 and availability of hall. Residents can request absentee ballots be mailed or can come in person once Town Hall opens. Once the ballots come in, they can vote early. Drive-up window is not working. Library is working with them. Scott Lambiase – there will be some restrictions on opening. There won't be full capacity in every office. Leanne Adams – the request is for the safety of workers and public, but it's board's decision. Jim Connolly – doesn't have a problem with shortening hours; there is absentee and early voting. Tom Connolly – estimated it to be a very low turnout. Tim Chapin agreed, and didn't want to restrict hours. Tom Connolly, Jim Connolly, and Kevin DiMarzio would volunteer if Town Clerk needs more help. There is vacancy for Registrar of Voters from Democratic party. If interested, please contact Town Clerk. Hours to be voted on at next Tuesday's meeting.

There is no update on the quorum requirement yet for Town Meeting. We can accommodate people if quorum is not reduced. Ken Coyle – re budget, would he be more comfortable if Town Meeting were pushed off till numbers were clearer. Scott Lambiase – a lot of the work was done before he got here. He went to last year's #'s and reduced it from there. Not doing a lot of projects as far as capital spending. They are being as conservative as they can be. It would not be a problem if budget ran at 1/12th.

Tom Connolly – brought up relief funds to towns. Plymouth County has not released funds to towns. Town Manager has reached out but has not heard back yet. This is to recoup expenses on PPE, plexiglass windows for counters, laptops, etc., which are reimbursable.

We have received some guidelines from state for soft opening. Town Manager will meet with department heads regarding the process.

Ken Coyle – brought up a couple of restaurants that were looking for permits for temporary outside dining. Would like to make process easier and more efficient for them. Town Manager will contact town counsel.

Motion by Tim Chapin to adjourn at 7:50 p.m., seconded by Kevin DiMarzio, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy Hurst

Applying for Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots must be requested in writing by either the voter or the voter's family member. For convenience, absentee ballot applications may be downloaded from the Town Clerks page; however, any written communication evidencing a desire for an absentee ballot is acceptable. If you would like to request an absentee ballot, you may submit an application or a signed letter to your local election official. If you are requesting an absentee ballot for a family member, be sure to submit the request to the voter's local election official.

When completing the application, you may indicate whether you are requesting a ballot for a specific election, or if you will be needing a ballot for all elections this year. Please note that absentee ballot applications expire at the end of each calendar year. If you are a voter with a permanent physical disability, you may file a note from your doctor to that effect with your local election official. Voters with permanent physical disabilities are sent completed applications at the beginning of each year, to be signed and returned to their local election official.

Absentee ballot applications must be received by your local election office by 12 p.m. on the day before the election, unless the day before the election is a holiday or a Sunday, in which case the application must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the last business day before the election.

Applications may be submitted in person, by mail, fax, or by e-mail; however, the local election official must be able to view the signature of the person requesting the ballot. If the application is being submitted by e-mail, a scanned copy of the request must be submitted.