



Town of Abington

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Minutes Board of Selectmen Via Remote Participation April 22, 2020 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Tom Connolly, Chair, Tim Chapin, Ken Coyle, Jim Connolly, Kevin DiMarzio

- The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance
- There was a Moment of Silence for Fire Captain Winthrop Patten and Frank Giniewicz (attached).
- Executive session – Motion by Tim Chapin to go into executive session in preparation for negotiations with the current Town Manager and to conduct contract negotiations with the Town Manager candidate, pursuant to General Laws, c. 30A, Sec. 21(a)(2), and to return to open session seconded by Ken Coyle. Roll call vote: Tim Chapin yes; Jim Connolly yes; Kevin DiMarzio yes; Ken Coyle yes; Tom Connolly yes.

Open session resumed. A press release will be sent out.

- Appoint Steven Santeusano as alternate delegate to Old Colony Planning Council. Tom Connolly read Mr. Santeusano's letter of interest. Board wasn't sure if position had been posted or if it was for full or alternate delegate position. Appointment will be tabled to next meeting.
- Discussion and possible vote to accept Section 10 of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 to extend the due date for 4th quarter real estate and personal property taxes from May 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020 and to extend the due date for property tax exemption applications from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. This would apply to 4th quarter. Tim Chapin – interest was waived at last meeting. Didn't feel they had to change date. Ken Coyle – note should be on website that interest is waived. Tom Connolly will get in touch with Treasurer/Collector.
- Discussion on Police Management Study Committee/MRI. Jim Connolly - MRI has gone back 2-3 years for information. Feels the problem of retention has gone on for more than a decade. Doesn't feel the last 2 years is enough of a picture to see what has gone on. There is money that wasn't used and suggested they use some of those funds to have MRI extend the interviews further back in time. Kevin DiMarzio and Ken Coyle are on subcommittee. Money was in an Article. Ken Coyle – ask MRI if that is possible, or does it change process? Does the board agree? Jim Connolly – doesn't think 2-3 years is enough. Kevin DiMarzio - maybe go to town manager and get retention number for past 5 years and number for past 10 years and then go to

MRI; will the money cover that? Ken Coyle – in scope of services, they didn't specify time frame, just former employees, not just officers – past and present employees. Kevin DiMarzio – are there different techniques for going further back on it? Get MRI's input on it. Tom Connolly – what was MRI basing two years on? Were they basing it on when the Chief was going to retire? Kevin DiMarzio - they based it on forward-thinking study.

Ken Coyle – board should vote to see if they want it extended. Jim Connolly – didn't think 2-3 years is enough. They need to get good idea of why there is a retention problem and asking a handful of officers when there are probably 50-60 isn't enough to give a good picture of what is going on. Kevin DiMarzio – MRI is doing this as a forward-thinking study, considering the Chief's retirement, and trying to transition. MRI is in their game plan in how they are thinking. Tom Connolly – there are other things being looked at other than retention. Didn't think they needed a vote. Advised the subcommittee to approach MRI and see how much it would cost. Tim Chapin agreed, but if the subcommittee would feel more comfortable with a vote, he would leave that up to them. They want to be as comprehensive as possible with it. Tim Chapin made the motion to have Kevin contact MRI about the possibility of expanding the scope, seconded by Jim Connolly, unanimous.

Next meeting is May 4th. 6:30 p.m.

Ken Coyle – Board of Health voted that anyone entering an essential business is required to wear a mask.

Motion to adjourn made by Tim Chapin, seconded by Kevin DiMarzio, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy Hurst

Moment of Silence

Francis "Frank" Giniewicz

Frank graduated from Abington High School and attended Massasoit Community College and Northeastern University. Frank served in the Navy between 1944-1946.

He served 25 years in public office, three years on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and 22 years on the Board of Selectmen. He served on the Old Colony Planning Board. He was also active in many civic groups.

Frank loved baseball and was coach, manager and past president of the Abington Little League for 38 years. He received the Abington's Best Award in 1995.

After retirement, Frank and his wife Jean enjoyed traveling. Frank will be missed by family, friends and his community.

April 21, 2020

The Abington Fire Department regrets to announce the passing of retired Fire Captain Winthrop H. Patten.

Born in 1937, Win was appointed as a Call Firefighter in 1957, a Permanent Firefighter in 1961, Promoted to Lieutenant around 1967, and as Fire Captain in 1971.

Win retired in 1992 after 35 years of service to the residents of Abington.

During his career, Captain Patten was respected by those who worked with him, as well as the community of Abington that he prided himself on helping. Win was “old school” in his dedication to the fire service, and his attention to detail was the trademark of his being. Win expected a lot from those under his command, but always had their back to keep them safe during dangerous and difficult times. Continuing to give long after his retirement, Win was always willing to assist as needed, working with local funeral homes, the Abington Food Bank, and other organizations.

Win will surely be missed, and when the time allows, a proper service and farewell will take place.