

Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 30, 2021, 7:30PM

Present: Chair Keyes, Selectman Arcudi, Selectman Hazard, Town Administrator Schindler

Chair Keyes called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Chair Keyes began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Appointments and Resignations: Development & Industrial Commission (five members); Saken Khokhar, term to expire June 30, 2026; Nicole G. Small, term to expire June 30, 2025; Tony Faath; term to expire June 30, 2024.

Chair Keyes stated that he is related to one of these candidates, Nicole G. Small, and would like to vote on these appointments individually so that he can recuse himself to avoid conflict of interest. Chair Keyes thanked these three individuals for volunteering their time and effort for the Town of Hopedale. Town Administrator Schindler stated that currently this is a five-member board, however, the parameters have not been set so this board could be anywhere between 5-15 members. MGL states that this board has staggered terms. Selectman Arcudi stated that as of now the Town will be looking for two additional candidates, one expiring in 2024 and the other in 2025. Selectwoman Hazard stated that this committee will assist the implementation of the Master Plan Steering Committees Economic Development Plan.

Selectwoman Hazard moved to appoint Saken Khokhar to the Development & Industrial Commission with a term to expire on June 30, 2026. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Hazard – Aye, Arcudi – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Chair Keyes stated that he is recusing himself on the vote of Nicole G. Small to the Development & Industrial Commission per MGL c 268A. However, he highly recommends Nicole Small to this committee.

Selectman Arcudi moved to appoint Nicole Small to the Development & Industrial Commission with a term to expire on June 30, 2025. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Selectwoman Hazard moved to appoint Tony Faath to the Development & Industrial Commission with a term to expire on June 30, 2024. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Hazard – Aye, Arcudi – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee; Tara Costanza, unexpired term

Selectwoman Hazard moved to appoint Tara Costanza to the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee for an unexpired term. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Hazard – Aye, Arcudi – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Board of Assessors, Ellen Murphy, term to expire June 30, 2023

Selectman Arcudi read the recommendation letter for Ellen Murphy provided by the Principal Assessor, Ann Williams. The letter stated that if Ellen Murphy is appointed, she will be filling the position until June 30, 2023 due to a recent resignation of another member.

Selectman Arcudi moved to appoint Ellen Murphy to the Board of Assessors with a term to expire June 30, 2023. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Appointment of Catherine D'Alessandro, Chestnut Hill Road, Millville to position of Call Firefighter Candidate effective July 1, 2021

Chief Daige stated that he recommends Catherine D'Alessandro as a Call Firefighter Candidate.

Selectwoman Hazard moved to appoint Catherine D'Alessandro as a Call Firefighter Candidate effective July 1, 2021. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Hazard – Aye, Arcudi – Aye, Keyes – Aye

#### New Business

Address IGR for Supplemental Tax Assessment: Selectman Arcudi stated that the IGR for Supplemental Tax Assessment was highly recommended by the Principal Assessor and the Board of Assessors. Town Administrator Schindler stated that the Board of Selectmen will not need to take any action if they are keeping this item. The Board of Selectmen would need to vote if they are not going to keep this item. The Board of Selectmen unanimously agreed to keep the IGR for supplemental tax assessment.

Address Inquiries to join PFAS Contamination Litigation (Vote): Town Administrator Schindler stated that the Town is dealing with PFAS and clean-up efforts is underway. This agenda item is for the Board to decide if they feel that there is a responsible party. The Board would then meet with the attorneys and see if there is a chain of liability and compensation for the Town of Hopedale. However, it could be determined that it is the Town's responsibility. Attorney Brian Riley, Town Counsel, wanted to inform the Board that there are attorneys interested in having conversations regarding this topic. Tim Watson, Superintendent of the Water Department stated that he reached out to this law firm today. He was informed the Board that this is in reference to cases that involve firefighting foams. Tim Watson stated that he then spoke with Fire Chief Daige and was informed that Chief Daige knows of no incidents in his tenure using this foam. Selectman Arcudi requested a joint meeting with the Water Department to discuss PFAS litigation and cleanup.

Per MGL c. 44, Sec 53A, Accept ARPA Grant from US Treasury (Vote): Town Administrator Schindler stated that this is the American Recovery Plan Act monies. The US Treasury did not specify a deadline; however, the State has given a deadline of June 30, 2021. Schindler has submitted the request and applied for 50% of the first allotment, totaling 300 sum odd amount. Chair Keyes asked that on a future agenda, the Board discusses in more detail the ARPA Grant. This discussion is to assist residents with better understanding how the monies can be spent and the items the Town would like to apply the monies to.

Selectwoman Hazard moved to accept the ARPA Grant from the US Treasury. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Hazard – Aye, Arcudi – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Appointments & Reappointments for Terms Expiring June 30, 2021 (Vote): Selectman Arcudi moved to reappoint the individuals on the excel sheet with the exception of the individuals in labeled in yellow, red, and blue. Selectman Arcudi amended the motion to extend the Fire Chief's term from 1 year to 3 years. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Town Administrator Schindler stated that Chief Daige's Fire Chief appointment by MGL. The term can be extended to three years.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

#### Address Results of Debt Exclusion Vote and Next Steps

Town Administrator Schindler stated that there will be a joint meeting with the Finance Committee on July 12, 2021, to further discuss this agenda item. The debt exclusion was a successful vote. The final tally of votes was 180 – 141, in favor of. Due to this vote we now have a balanced budget. However, there are some items that the Town will have to bring back to a special town meeting (i.e., union contracts, capital expense items and right of way votes).

#### Old Business

##### Beyond Full Request for Rent Forgiveness – Discussion and Vote

Chair Keyes stated that there should be a form of relieve when there are circumstances out of Beyond Full's control, for example, the shutting down of Town Hall. However, now that the state of emergency has been lifted, full rent should be applied.

Selectwoman Hazard moved to grant Beyond Full 75% rent forgiveness for January 2021 and returning to full payment for the months after. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Hazard – Aye, Arcudi – Aye, Keyes – Aye

##### Legislation Extending Certain Pandemic-Related Relief Provisions; Update re: Hybrid Meetings

Town Administrator Schindler stated that the Governor's order has extended the quorum requirements for remote meetings. Remote meetings will count as a quorum until next year. Currently, we are working on creating a space in the Draper Room to hold hybrid meetings. Some Boards/Committee's have expressed disinterest in continuing on Zoom. Chair Keyes stated that if there needs to be further investment in Hopedale Cable to create more platforms for streaming then he is in favor of that.

#### Public and Board Member Comment:

Selectman Arcudi stated that he feels it would be beneficial to have public hours with Board of Selectmen Members, similar to how the Town of Wellesley does. This would be by appointment within the hours allocated. Town Administrator Schindler stated that she will get this set up for the Board.

#### Correspondence and Selectmen Informational Items (votes will not be taken)

Xfinity – RE: Regional Sports Networks

Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) – RE: CMMCP personnel will be in your community to respond to residents' concerns about mosquitoes in their area on the following dates in June/July, June 28, July 6, 12, 19, 26 Dates are tentative and subject to change

TecAssociates Consulting Engineers, Letter to Hopedale Conservation Commission RE: Grafton & Upton Railroad 2021-2025 Vegetation Management Plan

Requests for Future Agenda Items: 7/12 – Joint Meeting with Finance Committee

Chair Keyes dissolved the meeting at 9:06PM

*Submitted by:*

*Lindsay Mercier*

*Lindsay Mercier, Executive Assistant*

*Adopted:* \_\_\_\_\_