

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Hopedale Town Hall-Draper Room
April 13, 2020
Regular Minutes

Present: Selectman Brian Keyes, Selectman Thomas Wesley, Selectman Louis Arcudi participated remotely with approval of the Chair as he was traveling. Also, present; Town Administrator Robert Reed and Executive Assistant Susan Brouwer.

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Selectman Keyes. Chairman Keyes announced that Selectman Arcudi is participating video Skype due to traveling, therefore all votes will be done by a roll call vote. Chair Keyes then read an announcement from Governor Baker's office recommending social distancing and public meeting notices and participation due to COVID-19. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

A. Consent Items

1. Approval of March 9, 2020 regular minutes
2. Approval of March 9, 2020 executive minutes
3. Approval of March 13, 2020 regular minutes
4. Approval of March 13, 2020 executive minutes
5. Approval of March 18, 2020 regular minutes
6. Approval of March 23, 2020 regular minutes
7. Approval of March 23, 2020 executive minutes
8. Approval of warrants 20-36, 20-39 and 20-39P as signed by Selectman Keyes
9. Approval of warrants 20-37 and 20-37P as signed by Selectmen Keyes and Wesley
10. Approval of warrant 20-40 as signed by Selectmen Keyes and Arcudi

Motion made by Selectman Wesley, seconded by Selectman Arcudi to approve items 1 through 10

RCV-Selectman Keyes – Aye, Selectman – Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye

Items Taken Out of Order

Chair Keyes asked for a motion to move items (4) and (5) from Executive Session to regular session

Motion made by Selectman Arcudi, seconded by Selectman Wesley to move items (4) and (5) from Executive Session to regular session

RCV-Selectman Keyes – Aye, Selectman – Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye

Town Administrator's Contract

Motion made by Selectman Wesley, seconded by Arcudi to approve the Town Administrator's Contract as presented. The Board welcomed Diana Schindler aboard as the new Town Administrator.

RCV-Selectman Keyes – Aye, Selectman – Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye

Interim Town Administrator's Contract

Motion made by Selectman Wesley, seconded by Arcudi to extend the Interim Town Administrator's Contract to end no later than April 30, 2020

RCV-Selectman Keyes – Aye, Selectman – Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye

Selectman Keyes announced the passing of Jack Farrar longtime Road Commissioner, Veteran and resident, thanking him for his service to the Town and Country.

B. Appointments and Resignations

1. Appointment of Justin Carnaroli as a Call Firefighter Candidate effective March 30, 2020
Motion made by Selectman Wesley, seconded by Selectman Arcudi to appoint Justin Carnaroli as a Call Firefighter Candidate effective March 30, 2020
Chair Keyes read Chief Daige's recommendation letter for the appointment.
Selectman Keyes – Aye, Selectman – Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye

C. New Business

1. FY21 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule
Motion made by Selectman Arcudi, seconded by Selectman Wesley to approve the FY21 Board of Selectmen meeting schedule as presented
Selectman Keyes – Aye, Selectman – Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye
2. Discussion on Town Election Date
Chairman Keyes spoke with Town Administrator Reed and the Town Moderator Gene Phillips, who recommends that the Town Election be moved to June 16, 2020 due to the COVID-19 virus. The Board agreed that it would be a prudent to move the meeting due to the Governor's order on social distancing. People asked why the Town Election cannot be moved to November to help with costs. It was noted that the Town Bylaw states the Town Election must be held prior to July 1, 2020.
Motion made by Selectman Wesley, seconded by Selectman Arcudi to reschedule the Town Election date to June 16, 2020
Selectman Keyes – Aye, Selectman – Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye
3. Discussion on Annual Town Meeting Date
A similar discussion occurred on the Annual Town Meeting date; it was recommended the meeting be rescheduled to June 23, 2020.
Motion made by Selectman Wesley, seconded by Selectman Arcudi to reschedule the Annual Town Meeting date to June 23, 2020.
Selectman Keyes – Aye, Selectman – Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye
4. Review of Annual Town Meeting Warrant
Selectman Arcudi commented that with the Town Meeting being moved review of the Town Meeting Warrant may be considered after the Board meets with the Finance Committee. Administrator Reed said there are a couple of articles that need Town Counsel review Article 22 Stormwater Bylaw. Mr. Reed has been working with the Highway Superintendent and W/S Manager along with Weston and Sampson engineering firm to see what the minimum the Town has to do so that we are in compliance for next year. Mr. Reed also contacted the Stormwater coalition to help with the completing the process to save costs in completing the Stormwater Plan.

Article 23 – Cable Access. Mr. Reed noted that past discussions with the Board and correspondence with KP Law and the IG require a written agreement between the Town and Cable Access Board. Without an agreement, receipts must be deposited with the Treasurer Collector with funding be allocated by Town Meeting. The Cable Access revenue is \$100,000 plus. Mr. Reed said he has asked Cable Access to provide a copy of the written agreement several times but without success. Selectman Arcudi commented that with all that is going on, this article should be postponed to the Fall Town Meeting to allow Cable Access time to locate the agreement, noting that Artie Maggiore, Cable Director, had died earlier this year and paperwork may have been shuffled around.

Administrator Reed reviewed other warrant articles with input on from the Board of Selectmen. The Board will continue discussion with the Finance Committee at their meeting on Friday, April 17.

D. Old Business

1 Continue Discussion with the Finance Committee on FY21 Budget

It was noted that the Finance Committee did not post their meeting. After a brief discussion the joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen Meeting was moved to Friday, April 17 at 4 p.m.

2 Hopedale Booster Club 5K Road Race, Saturday, May 16, 2020 – Board to reaffirm date
The Booster Club postponed this activity to a later date due to social distancing. They will reach out to the Board when the date is finalized.

3 Notice from Department of Telecommunications and Cable dated April 3, 2020 notifying Town of Cable License expiring April 3, 2021. Licensing Authority completing Ascertainment Process.

There was no Board discussion on this item.

E. Public and Board Member Comments (votes will not be taken)

The Board thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their efforts in stepping up during this most difficult time; holding birthday parades, Easter Bunny visits. Efforts Draper Place ensuring visits to the residents using walkie

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

1. 3rd Quarter Fire Department Stats dated April 3, 2020
2. Warrant 20-38 as approved by Selectmen Wesley, Arcudi and Keyes
3. Notice dated March 3, 2020 from Xfinity regarding change to Cartoon Network effective May 5, 2020
4. Letter dated March 9, 2020 addressed to Board of Health from GeoInsight – Permanent Solution with no conditions Statement for 11 Rosenfeld Drive
5. Notice dated March 10, 2020 from Xfinity regarding Comcast policies and procedures and sample bill
6. Notice dated March 19, 2020 from Xfinity regarding deferring change to Cartoon Network tier
7. Letter dated March 19, 2020 from Keegan Werlin, LLC canceling NSTAR Gas/Eversource Notice of Filing Public Hearing
8. Email from BVT advising the FY21 budget presentation is on the website.
9. Bancroft Memorial Library April 2020 Newsletter

Selectman Keyes read the 3rd quarter stats of the Fire Department noting the numbers continually rise. The Hopedale boundaries are not growing, however, the need for public safety has greatly increased.

G. Requests for Future Agenda Items

Selectman Arcudi recommends after the joint meeting with the Finance Committee on Friday, he would like to bring Departments Heads back to a meeting for the public to hear what the cuts will mean to their budgets

H. Administrator News

- 1 COVID-19 Update

Departments are working staggered shifts with especially the Treasurer Collector's office. Mr. Reed has been encouraging employees to be in Town Hall as little as possible. Seven laptops were purchased for department heads to allow them to work from home with the hopes of getting reimbursement from FEMA/MEMA. The departments have done a great job in getting work done.

I. Executive Session

1. Grafton Upton Railroad Eminent Domain and Intervention Status Update
2. Beyond Full – Lease Agreement
3. Hopedale Country Club – Lease Agreement
4. Town Administrator Contract
5. Extension of Interim Town Administrator Contract

Chair Keyes: I am requesting a motion to allow this board to now enter into Executive Session and not to reconvene in regular session, under M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a) Reasons (3): to discuss strategy with respect to possible litigation, because I as chair declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town. Roll Call Vote
Selectman Keyes – Aye, Selectman – Wesley – Aye; Selectman Arcudi – Aye

At 8:57 p.m. the Board of Selectmen adjourned their regular meeting convening into executive session.

Thomas A. Wesley



Louis J. Arcudi, III



Brian R. Keyes