

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
HOPEDALE TOWN HALL – DRAPER ROOM
MAY 11, 2020
REGULAR MINUTES**

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88098039440?pwd=YXBxaW5Hb2hQY1dKQjFOM0xmQ0pGdz09>
Also Streamed Live, click here: https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hopedale_ma

Call to order 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Brian Keyes, members Louis Arcudi, and Thomas Wesley. Also present Town Administrator Diana Schindler.

Chair Keyes convened the meeting at 6:02 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

A. Consent Items

1. Approval of minutes - None

2. Approval of warrants - A/P, 20-44, \$76,806.85, April 30, 2020, Signed by Wesley & Keyes,

Selectman Arcudi moved to approve the warrant, Selectman Wesley seconded the motion

Wesley - Aye, Arcudi - Aye, Keyes - Aye

A/P, 20-45, \$220,301.05, May 7; P/R 20-45P, \$608,833.19, May 7, 2020 Signed by Arcudi & Keyes

Selectman Arcudi moved to approve the warrant, Selectman Wesley seconded the motion

Wesley - Aye, Arcudi - Aye, Keyes - Aye

B. Scheduled Business

1. High Hopes LLC, Host Community Agreement; Russell Bogartz, CEO (vote & sign)

The Town has signed two previous retail host community agreements for retail establishments, High Hopes has secured a location (signed lease for 1 year with option to extend 5 years, effective April 1, 2020) and it is in agreement. High Hopes is securing that all local items are being met prior to reaching out to the State regarding licensing. February 2021 is the projected opening for High Hopes. Hopedale will receive 3% of High Hopes gross revenue paid quarterly. This is separate from the State Cannabis Excise Tax and State Sales Tax.

Caroline's Cannabis has not terminated their agreement; however, they are searching for a new location due to High Hopes obtaining the location Caroline's Cannabis was looking into. Once Caroline's Cannabis has obtained a new location they will continue with their agreement without any changes to terms.

Selectman Arcudi raised a motion to accept the Host Community agreement with the town of Hopedale with High Hopes, LLC. Selectman Wesley seconded the motion

Wesley - Aye, Arcudi - Aye, Keyes - Aye

C. New Business

1. Address COVID-19 Protection Plan & Return to Work Plan Submitted by BoH

This is the Hopedale Board of Health's general guidelines for how to return to work and response plan for Town Employees and non-employees. Administrator Schindler stated that this plan is a draft that is being updated by the Board of Health regarding Governor Baker's continuous guidance. The Hopedale community is still in a state of emergency, the Board will reconsider the state of emergency once the Governor has recommended to lift the ban. There will be more dialogue with the Board of Health and Board of Selectmen prior to publishing these guidelines. Chair Keyes requested an action plan from the Board of Health regarding non-employees coming into the Town Hall.

2. Consider Request from Board of Assessors to Extend the Deadline for Submission of Property Tax Exemptions until June 1, 2020. (vote)

Chair Keyes welcomed a motion, Selectman Arcudi moved, Selectman Wesley seconded the motion

Wesley - Aye, Arcudi - Aye, Keyes - Aye

D. Old Business

1. COVID Updates; Golf Courses Reopened

Administrator Schindler stated that the Hopedale Country Club reopened following the guidelines. A Health Agent visited the Country Club on May 11, 2020. The Country Club is corresponding with the Board of Health and a Health Agent regarding reopening food services, this will be either curbside pick-up or take out.

2. Update re Town Election of June 16, 2020

Town Clerk Lisa Pedrolis provided Administrator Schindler with a written election plan and will be publishing the plan to the Hopedale website. The plan identifies the election hours 12PM - 6PM at the Draper Gym. There will be one means of entry and one egress to reduce the spread of germs and sanitizing/sterilizing will be done after every voter. The Town is encouraging constituents to early vote or absentee vote to reduce their risk of contracting Covid-19.

3. Update re Town Meeting & Warrant of June 23, 2020

Administrator Schindler is in the process of setting up the Town Meeting. She has been in touch with Gene who is the Moderator. Administrator Schindler stated that it is not likely the Town Meeting will be conducted in the school facility due to Covid-19. Administrator Schindler has been looking to find another facility. Chair Keyes suggested to ask to use the Draper Gym for the Town Meeting on June 23, 2020.

4. FY21 Budget Discussion

Selectman Arcudi requested that there should be information for the taxpayers regarding a definite list of what the Board of Selectmen are going to recommend regarding reduction plans, a non-override budget, the one twelfth budget option and the breakdowns of the budget. Administrator Schindler stated that by May 18, 2020 she will provide the Selectmen with a more detailed budget document based off the finance committee's renditions.

5. Goals & Objectives for FY21

Administrator Schindler stated that the FY21 budget is currently the most pressing item. She is also working on MS permitting and the Massworks project.

E. Other Business (Unanticipated)

Chief Daigne's Appointment - Will be addressed during the next Selectmen's Meeting

Transfer Request effective on 5/31/2020 - Will be addressed during the next Selectmen's Meeting

F. Public Comments (votes will not be taken)

G. Town Administrator Report

Finance Team Meeting on May 6, 2020. Highlights from the meeting, the town worked with CMRPC and did RFP for a town accounting firm. There were two responses, Administrator Schindler and others will be conducting interviews.

Audits - FY20 Audit is the final year of contract. The Town has not been provided a management report from the Audit. Possibly investigate alternative Auditor firm options.

H. Board Member Reports/ Requests for Future Agenda Items • Proposed Activities for Memorial Day Celebration

Selectman Wesley stated that he has not received an update from the school regarding a Memorial Day Celebration and that he will speak with Administrator Schindler with more detail later. Selectman Wesley suggested that to have a simple ceremony at the town cemetery that would be telecast by cable tv. Also, possibly making a production for remote participation.

Chair Keyes made a motion to enter executive session, Selectman Wesley moved for the motion, Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion

Wesley - Aye, Arcudi - Aye, Keyes - Aye

I. Executive Session 1. Non-Union Personnel 2. Permanent Firefighters Association Contract, Local 2225 3. The Massachusetts Coalition of Police Contract, AFL-CIO Local 164 4. Laborer's and Clerical Staff Public Employees Contract, Local Union 272

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) Paragraph (3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, which I do declare. Roll Call Vote

Next regular scheduled meetings May 26, 2020 and June 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Please note the Board of Selectmen agenda may be subject to change and items not anticipated may be discussed

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law (OML), G.L. c30A §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of Hopedale Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation.

For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen/watch the meeting may do so in the following manner; using Zoom Meeting Link for audio or video participation.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88098039440?pwd=YXBxaW5Hb2hQY1dKQjFOM0xmQ0pGdz09>

If you wish to speak, please reserve comments until the Public Comment section of the meeting, if you are using video, you may either raise your hand to be acknowledged by the Chair or use the "Raise Your Hand" button. Please wait to speak until you are acknowledged by Chair. If participants cannot conduct themselves in accordance

with these guidelines, they will be removed from meeting. Also Streamed Live, click here:
https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hopedale_ma

Submitted by:

Lindsay Mercier, Executive Assistant

Adopted: _____