

Town of Rochester

Board of Selectmen

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Paul Ciaburri, Chairman
Bradford N. Morse, Vice Chairman
Greenwood Hartley III, Clerk



Town Administrator

Suzanne E. Szyndlar
Administrative Assistant
Amanda L. Baptiste

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MONDAY, AUGUST 17TH, 2020

Chairman Paul Ciaburri, Vice Chairman Bradford Morse, and Clerk Greenwood Hartley III are all present.

The Board of Selectmen's Open Meeting is opened by Chairman Paul Ciaburri.

Minutes

Motion: A motion is made by Selectman Morse to approve the Executive Session Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of August 3rd, 2020 as presented. This motion is seconded by Selectman Hartley. All members of the Board are in favor, the minutes are approved with a unanimous vote.

Motion: A motion is made by Selectman Morse to approve the Open Session Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of August 3rd, 2020. This motion is seconded by Selectman Hartley. All members of the Board are in favor, the minutes are approved with a unanimous vote.

Motion: A motion is made by Selectman Morse to approve the Open Session Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of August 7th, 2020 as presented. This motion is seconded by Selectman Hartley. All members of the Board are in favor, the minutes are approved with a unanimous vote.

Selectman Hartley notes changes to minutes that had already been approved and states that he will revisit the conversation under old business.

Selectmen's Signature:

2020 State Primary Election Warrant- The Board is presented with the 2020 State Primary Election Warrant.

Motion: A motion is made by Selectman Morse to sign the 2020 State Primary Election Warrant as presented to the Board. This motion is seconded by Selectman Hartley. All members of the Board are in favor, the motion passes unanimously.

Town Administrator's Report/ COVID-19 Update:

- Town Administrator Szyndlar begins her report by informing the Board that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation informed the Town that our FY21 Chapter 90 allotment is \$301,662, which is about \$300 less than last year.
- Next, Town Administrator Szyndlar notes that she recently heard from John O'Rourke in regards to the Electricity Aggregation Plan for Rochester. Things were put on hold due to the Pandemic, but Boston's aggregation plan was recently approved so he hopes that the DPU will start quickly approving the aggregation plans in their pipeline. There are 9 waiting approval. He asked her to sign a data release authorization form to give Good Energy the authorization to obtain electricity usage data from Eversource to prepare an RFP for the competitive bid once the aggregation plan is approved by DPU.
- Lastly, Town Administrator Szyndlar gives the Board an update that she just completed and submitted the annual Chapter 40R update form to the Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) for the Cranberry Highway Smart Growth Overlay District. This district is still in the review process and the

property hasn't been sold yet. The Town won't receive any Zoning incentive payments unless conditions are met that are referenced in the DHCD Letter of Conditional Eligibility. There are 6 conditions, but the main one being pedestrian improvements such as sidewalk, crosswalk, and signalization connecting the District to each of the two nearest bus stops. The developer would be taking care of this.

Old Business:

Set the Special Town Meeting Date- Town Administrator Szyndlar mentions that since the last meeting, she has reached out to Town Planner Steve Starrett regarding the proposed Special Town Meeting date, and the Planning Department is okay with the November 16th date; Town Administrator Szyndlar recommends the Board schedule for that day and open up the Special Town Meeting warrant.

Motion: Selectman Morse then makes a motion to set the Special Town Meeting for Monday, November 16th, 2020. This motion is seconded by Selectman Hartley. All members of the Board are in favor, the motion passes unanimously.

After this, Selectman Hartley makes mention that there was a discrepancy in the July 8th minutes that states that the Board met via Zoom, when in fact the Board met in person that day.

Selectman Hartley then asks why this meeting is being held via Zoom when other communities are starting to hold in-person meetings and suggests moving the meeting location to the Council on Aging. Town Administrator Szyndlar explains that Town Counsel Bailey is usually tasked with setting up the hybrid aspect of the meetings and he is not available tonight. She says that she wants to continue the hybrid model for meetings to be able to accommodate those who would like to participate in the meeting without having to be out around the public. She also explains that due to speed and bandwidth issues with the current provider, the Town Hall is not currently equipped to properly handle the needs to have everyone in the building for the hybrid meetings, which is why there have been so many technical issues during the hybrid meetings. Selectman Ciaburri suggests waiting until Town Counsel Bailey comes back and is able to test out the new equipment he has been working on obtaining.

Then, Selectman Hartley talks about the potential Rounseville Road land purchase, which has been the discussion in Executive Sessions past. He believes this discussion should continue in open session and wants it on record that he is in support of offering the church the full \$160K as approved by Town Meeting. Selectmen Morse and Ciaburri feel that their offer of \$150K is fair, as appraisals of the property came in at \$125K and \$160K, and the \$150K would be more than meeting in the middle; Selectman Hartley disagrees. Selectman Morse also makes mention that he doesn't feel that this discussion should be taking place in Open Session, as the church has not formally responded to the last offer from the Town in writing. Richard Cutler, one of the First Congressional Church Trustees, states that the last he received was an email, to which had been replied with another email, but he will put a formal written answer together tomorrow for the Town.

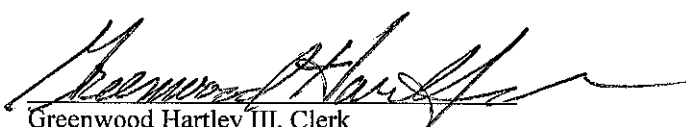
Selectman Hartley next questions Selectman Ciaburri on why it was mentioned at a previous meeting that with the potential incoming hurricane, residents were told that the Council on Aging was not going to be open as an emergency shelter. Selectman Ciaburri explains that at the advisement of FEMA, people were asked to seek shelter in place, or with relatives, due to COVID 19 concerns of not being able to socially distance everyone in one location. He assures Selectman Hartley, though, that if the Town were to receive a direct hit from a storm the Town would do what was needed to protect residents.

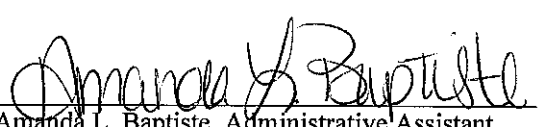
New Business:

Selectman Ciaburri informs everyone that the Town has received 12,400 masks, 600 face shield, and 80 pairs of goggles from the Massachusetts Emergency Management and FEMA.

Adjournment

Motion: Selectman Morse makes a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Open Meeting. This motion is seconded by Selectman Hartley. All members of the Board are in favor, the meeting is adjourned.


Greenwood Hartley III, Clerk


Amanda L. Baptiste, Administrative Assistant