

# 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, NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, 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

The minutes will be voted on at the next meeting.

### People on the Agenda:

**6:05- Verizon Pole Hearing: High Street-** Selectman Morse abstains from this hearing noting he is a direct abutter. Selectman Ciaburri opens the Pole Request Hearing. Don Vonner, of Verizon is present to petition the Board to erect a pole at 158 R High Street to accommodate a new home being built. There are not abutters present for or against this request. Selectman Morse makes mention to Mr. Vonner about many public safety issues with current poles all around Town and asks that he reach out to Town Administrator Szyndlar for a list of the issues to be able to address those poles. There is no further discussion by the Board. Selectman Ciaburri closes the hearing.

**Motion:** Selectman Hartley makes a motion to approve the pole request as presented. This motion is sectioned by Selectman Ciaburri. Selectman Morse abstains. The motion passes with a 2:0:1 vote.

### Selectmen's Signature:

**Chapter 61A Right of First Refusal: Lot 11 D Dexter Lane-** The Board receives a Right of First Refusal Request from Mr. Bruce Maksy for Lot 11 D on Dexter Lane. It is noted that this request had previously been approved by the Board to not exercise their Right of First Refusal but the sale had fallen through and they are making this new request with a new buyer.

**Motion:** A motion is made by Selectman Hartley to not exercise the Board's Right of First Refusal on Lot 11 D. This motion is seconded by Selectman Morse. All members of the Board are in favor, the motion passes unanimously. Roll Call Vote Hartley- Aye, Morse - Aye, Ciaburri- Aye 3:0 motion passes.

### Town Administrator's Report/ COVID-19 Update:

- Town Administrator Szyndlar begins her report by informing the Board that the Tax Rate Classification Hearing will need to be scheduled, she proposes November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- Next, Town Administrator Szyndlar gives an update on the 40 R Project. She states that she has heard from our Town Planner that the Planning Board plans to close the hearing at their next meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>. After this, the project will need to be filed with the Town Clerk for a 20-day appeal period. It is projected around February for the developer to have everything that they require from the Planning Board and will be able to proceed with the project.

- After this, Town Administrator Szyndlar informs everyone that the Town of Marion has offered the Benson Brook transfer station as an option for Rochester residents to use. They will be working on a sticker price to offer residents and will report back to her with the requested amount. It is noted that with the uncertainty of the CMW Convenience Center at this time, the Benson Brook Road station may be a good backup plan. Selectman Hartley asks if at this time Town Counsel has put into writing the Town's opinion on the CMW matter and they agree to have a discussion around it with Town Counsel present at an upcoming meeting.
- Town Administrator Szyndlar mentions to the Board that she received a food service flyer that provides a summarized overview about the food distribution and free meals project run through the ORR School District through June of 2021; this flyer will be posted on the Town's website, as well as at the Library.
- Lastly, Town Administrator Szyndlar states that a petition for the Town's energy aggregation plan had been heard at last Thursday's MA Department of Public Utilities meeting. The purpose of the meeting was for anyone to provide comment on the Town's filing; Selectman Hartley made comment on the matter and sent a copy of his comments to them for the record.

#### **Old Business:**

**Payroll and Vendor Warrant Approval-** Selectman Ciaburri notes that all payroll and vendor warrants have been signed since the last meeting.

Selectman Hartley then asks Town Administrator Szyndlar if there have been any updates regarding Old Colony allowing Freetown into the regional district. She states that the School Committee voted unanimously to allow Freetown into the district and has sent an offer to the Town of Freetown and is awaiting response from them at this time.

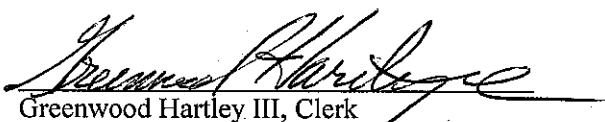
#### **New Business:**

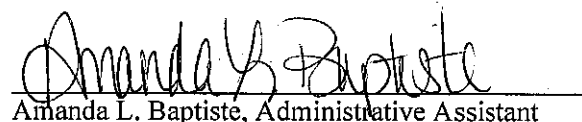
**Town Meeting Quorum Discussion-** Town Administrator Szyndlar informs everyone that due to legislation changes during the COVID-19 pandemic, towns are allowed to follow a process to temporary lower Town Meeting quorums and she suggests the Board vote to take the steps to do this. She notes that the process would require the Board to hold a special meeting and that the meeting notice would need to be posted for at least seven days prior to the meeting. She proposes to hold the meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss a quorum reduction from 50 to 30 people.

**Motion:** Selectman Morse makes a motion to hold a special meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> for the intention of voting a reduction in the Special Town Meeting quorum from 50 to 30 people. This motion is seconded by Selectman Hartley. All members of the Board are in favor, the motion passes unanimously. Roll Call Vote Hartley- Aye, Morse - Aye, Ciaburri- Aye 3:0 motion passes.

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** Selectman Hartley makes a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Open Session meeting. This motion is seconded by Selectman Morse. With all members of the Board in favor, the meeting is adjourned. Roll Call Vote Hartley- Aye, Morse - Aye, Ciaburri- Aye 3:0 motion passes.

  
Greenwood Hartley III, Clerk

  
Amanda L. Baptiste, Administrative Assistant