

Town of Boscawen
Select Board
Draft Minutes
Thursday November 19, 2020 at 6:00pm

In attendance: Ed Cherian, Lorrie Carey, Paul Dickey, Alan Hardy, Katie Phelps, Kellee Easler, Tama Tillman, Gary Tillman, Dean Hollins, Tim Kenney, Kevin Wyman, Kearsten O'Brien, Barbara Randall, Mark Varney, Gail Egounis, Loren Martin, John Keegan, Lyman Cousens, and Pauline Dawson.

This meeting is being held under a Declaration of Emergency by the Governor and by the Board. Under RSA 91-A: 2, III (b) the requirement of a physical quorum is waived and this meeting is being held entirely remotely, and is being recorded.

Selectwoman Carey motioned to approve the consent agenda with the minutes from November 5th, 6th, and 12th. Seconded by Selectman Dickey. All in favor.

Old Business:

Department Head Updates:

Finance Director Katie Phelps had a check for acceptance from the State of New Hampshire for the Police Department tablets grant. The check is in the amount of \$13,329.50. There will be a public hearing on this December 3rd after 6pm because it is unanticipated revenue over \$10,000.

Selectwoman Carey motioned to accept the check for tablets for the Police Department in the amount of \$13,329.50. Seconded by Selectman Dickey. All in favor.

Finance Director Phelps presented the Health Trust Transmittal and the Plodzick and Sanderson engagement letter to the Select Board. She would like authorization from the Select Board to allow Town Administrator Hardy to sign the documents.

Motion made by Selectwoman Carey to approve the documents and authorize Town Administrator Hardy to sign. Seconded by Selectman Dickey. All in favor.

Town Administrator Hardy asked the Select Board if there was any desire to change the salary structure for the Select Board itself. Chairman Cherian said he has no desire to do so and would suggest staying at the current rate. Selectman Dickey and Selectwoman Carey agreed.

Emergency Management Director Varney gave the COVID-19 update. There were 529 cases in New Hampshire today a total since March of 4,006 cases in New Hampshire. As of today there is a 4.1% positivity rate. There are two new deaths in the state both in long term care facilities, and five new hospitalizations. Merrimack County had 21 new cases as of today which brings the total cases to 337. Boscawen is currently at 1 to 4 active with 22 total. There are five new long term care facility out breaks. Effective tomorrow night is a State wide mask mandate. Chairman Cherian suggested starting next week the Town Municipal office should close to the public and the Library go back to Curbside Pick Up. Town Administrator Alan Hardy would like to add that we do not look at the third

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floor bathrooms being a separate operation. We have several individuals who use that bathroom on a daily basis people like Fed Ex, USPS, and UPS etc. We will need to notify them. Town Administrator Hardy said the staff in the Municipal Office will come up with a plan and submit it to the Select Board. EMD Varney asked Chief Kevin Wyman if there was a way that the Postal Workers would be able to use the front bathroom in the Police Department. Chief Wyman said that would not be an issue. All Select Board Members were in agreement to close the Municipal building to the public. Chairman Cherian said the Select Board should allow Town Administrator Hardy and Finance Director Phelps to use the Select Board signature stamp starting the following week. Selectman Dickey and Selectwoman Carey agreed.

Chairman Cherian made a motion to authorize Town Administrator Hardy and Finance Director Phelps to use the Select Board signature stamp on documents beginning November 25, 2020. Seconded by Selectman Dickey. All in favor.

New Business:

Loren Martin with Avitar Associates discussed the Warrant Article form 2016 that was to replace the miswording in the 2011 Solar Exemption Warrant Article. If a new Warrant Article is not proposed and accepted at Town Meeting the Solar Exemptions will no longer be eligible. Mrs. Martin asked the Select Board if they would like her to create a new Warrant Article and have her present it at Town Meeting. Chairman Cherian asked if Mrs. Martin had proposed wording for the Warrant Article. She said yes and will send the wording to Town Administrator Hardy and Planning and Community Development Director Easler. Selectwoman Carey would like to propose the Solar Exemption again at Town Meeting and give the Tax Payers clarity on the situation and why it is important. Selectman Dickey agreed.

John Keegan Chair of the Circle Committee reported to the Select Board that the work plan of Phase One of the Boscawen Roundabout Project finished on time and under budget. They raised about \$6,500 and have a balance of \$3,100. Looking at 2021 there are two items that need to be completed the first being to complete the plantings and the second is to deliver the water. He has been looking at budget numbers and spoke with various individuals, the committee will need to raise \$7,600 which will be an addition the \$3,100 they currently have in the books. Mr. Keegan would like the Select Board's okay with the Circle Committee soliciting local business and surrounding town business for their support with the project. The Select Board is okay with the Circle Committee going out and Fund Raising for the Boscawen Roundabout project.

Tama Tillman a member of the Trustee of the Trust Funds brought forth the issue of the money that is being invested is not making much interest. The Trustees would like to know if the Select Board would like to change over their investment accounts to Fidelity to get more on return. Chairman Cherian said it looks as though the Trustees are proposing Income Plus with Fidelity and his concern was how much exposure to stocks just because of swings, and if he is reading it correctly it is very minimum. It is very money market and bond heavy so it looks as though there is very little risk. Mr. Cousens said a typical investment account is 60 to 70% equity and in the case of the proposal it is

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80% fixed income meaning bonds and 20% would be in equities. Chairman Cherian said it seem quite conservative but also allows for them to make more money than they currently are. Mrs. Tillman said she can send a copy of the Fidelity report. Selectwoman Carey asked what sort of increase if you looked back over time would this achieve. Mrs. Tillman said it is about 18% income for this year, if you were to look at last year by itself it was at about 14 to 15%. Selectwoman Carey asked if the earning were being reinvested. Mrs. Tillman said all of the earnings are being left in the money market unless they are being told to put them in the investment. Chairman Cherian asked if it automatically rebalanced or will the Trustees review it and balance it themselves. Mrs. Tillman said the rebalancing is automatically done. Selectwoman Carey asked if the professional that the Trustees are working with is a part of the Independence Financial Advisors at Franklin Savings Bank. Mrs. Tillman said yes.

Chairman Cherian motioned to authorize the Trustees to proceed with investigating sweeping funds into Fidelity Income Plus. Seconded by Selectman Dickey. All in favor

Chairman Cherian made a motion to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3, II(d). Selectwoman Carey seconded. All in favor.

Selectwoman Carey made a motion to come out of nonpublic. Selectman Dickey seconded. All in favor.

Chairman Cherian made a motion to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3, II(b). Selectwoman Carey seconded. All in favor.

Selectman Dickey made a motion to come out of nonpublic. Chairman Cherian seconded. All in favor.

Selectwoman Carey made a motion to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3, II(c). Chairman Cherian seconded. All in favor.

Selectwoman Carey made a motion to come out of nonpublic. Selectman Dickey seconded. All in favor.

Motion made by Selectman Dickey adjourn. Seconded by Chairman Cherian. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Kearsten O'Brien