

Minutes of Meeting – April 15, 2020; meeting called to order at 3:00pm. Present: Dave Roche; Ed Lane; Marybeth Mitts; Warren Archey; Neal Maxymillian via remote access.

MOTION by MM, seconded by DR to accept the Minutes of March 18. 3/0 vote with DR and NM abstaining. MOTION by MM, seconded by DR to accept the Minutes of April 3. 5/0 vote. MOTION by MM, seconded by DR to accept the Minutes of April 9. 3/0 vote with WA and NM abstaining.

COVID-19 Update: The TM stated that our public health and safety personnel continue to work diligently in this most challenging environment. He reminded everyone to take the CDC guidance seriously with regard to social distancing, hand washing and mask usage.

Chief O'Brien stated that Dylan Bencivenga is a hard worker with a good deameanor who wants to work in Lenox. He has not, however, attended the academy, something that the Town will have to address in the future. MOTION by NM, seconded by DR to appoint Dylan Bencivenga as a full-time police officer. 5/0 vote.

ATM/Election Calendar: The TM requested that the Town Meeting date be postponed until Thursday, June 25, and the Town Election until Monday, June 29. MOTION by NM, seconded by DR to call the Annual Town Meeting for Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 7pm in the Lenox Memorial Middle High School, and to direct the TM to prepare a warrant for the Board's consideration in conformance with statutory and bylaw requirements for posting of said warrant. 5/0 vote. MOTION by NM, seconded by DR to postpone the annual Town Election until Monday, June 29, 2020. 5/0 vote.

FY20 Actions: The TM discussed various actions that he is suggesting the Town take: deferring fees and interest: he suggested that the Town maintain the May 1 due date and still meet the taxpayers needs and maintain cash flow for the Town. He also suggested a hiring freeze, except for public health and safety departments, expenditure controls/Emergency Fiscal Control Board be established, with only existing contracts and purchase order invoices being paid and any other actions that may be necessary, such as possible furloughs. While we should meet our FY20 revenue projections, the same will most likely not be true for FY21.

FY21 Budget Amendments: In light of everything occurring with COVID-19, the TM will present a revised recommended budget to the Board on April 17. NM suggested that the school budget be included in the mix.

MM mentioned that a listening session was scheduled for March 11 regarding the hazardous mitigation plan. It has now been postponed until May 7. Information will be included in the May water bills. She also mentioned that the emergency rental assistance program is now on line, with Construct determining eligibility. WA mentioned that April 24 is Arbor Day, and that Northeast Grid will plant a few trees at their expense in Town.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.

Minutes Taken By: _____ Minutes Accepted By: _____
Mary Ellen Deming Clerk
Director of Administrative Services Board of Selectmen