

Tuesday, January 5, 2021
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Foxborough Town Hall
Andrew Gala, Jr. Meeting Room
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Elfman, Chair
Ed O’Leary, Vice Chair
Stephanie McGowan, Clerk
Leah Gibson*
Chris Mitchell

Also Present:
William Keegan Jr., Town Manager*
Mike Johns, Assistant Town Manager
Christina Metcalf, Community Info. Specialist
*Attended remotely

1. 7:00pm - Citizen's Input - Paul Dumas, 4 Adams Street – I would like to acknowledge the passing of a good friend and great citizen, David Gaffey. I would like to salute this Town administration and BOS and thank them for lowering the flag in honor of Mr. Gaffey’s passing.

2. 7:05pm COVID-19 Informational update – We have 127 cases currently and that puts in the red zone. This is the first occurrence through this pandemic that we have been in the red zone and I thank the town for following the rules as best they could. We have no additional hospitalizations or deaths from Covid currently. I am currently at home with Covid-19 which is why I am participating remotely.

3. 7:10pm - Fire Department - Fire Chief Kelleher to discuss the Inter Municipal Agreement with the Town of Wrentham to provide emergency vehicle repair services.

MK – The day after I came in front of you for Norfolk, Wrentham called back the next day.

ME – Is it the same as last time, like Norfolk? Their Board has approved everything?

MK – Yes, we checked with MIIA and within the state a lot of school departments share bus mechanics and weren’t telling MIIA so they were putting it in automatically.

CM – Do anticipate or are there any other municipalities who want to be involved? Could you explain workmen’s compensation information?

MK – We are going to see how this goes with the 2 towns, they are perfect size fleets for this program. The public safety employees are covered by Chapter 111F, which is not workmen’s comp but a clause under the Fire Department. We don’t get audited or premiums don’t go up, like traditional workmen’s compensation. It doesn’t matter the injury, they are covered by the 111F provision.

BK – All Public Safety are exempt from 152 workmen’s comp and have a separate statute.

SM – Do we have to pay if the mechanic is injured working on another town’s vehicle?

MK – They would be covered by Foxborough’s insurance no matter where the injury occurred. Just as if a firefighter was injured assisting at a fire in North Attleboro, Foxborough’s insurance would cover it and vice versa if another town’s firefighter was injured assisting in a Foxborough fire their town’s insurance would cover them. It’s a pretty universal operating procedure for Towns.

CM – I do want to reiterate that would should keep it to these two towns for right now to see how it works out and reassess later how its working and if it’s possible to add more.

Motion to approve the Inter Municipal Agreement with the Town of Wrentham by S. McGowan, 2nd by C. Mitchell.

Roll Call: CM – Yes, SM – Yes, ME – Yes, EO –Yes, LG – Yes. Approved, 5-0.

*Vaccine Update from Chief Michael Kelleher

MK – We will get the vaccine this week for Public Safety. In order to get we had to have over 200 people and we partnered with additional towns; Easton, Norton, Mansfield, Norfolk and Wrentham. We will distribute Monday. We are in a good positions because of Tom Kenvin and checking all the boxes for the states vaccine program. It is why we are the hub in the area for the distribution point. We are getting the Moderna vaccine that is 2 doses.

CM – Any issue with getting the 2nd dose?

MK – There is not an A and B part of the vaccine. It is the same vaccine but we have to give the same version. We couldn't give a Moderna and then Pfizer, they both have to be Moderna. We are in the queue now, so we will use all the doses that we have now and be in line to get the 2nd round doses within the 24 to 32 day window that is allowed with the Moderna. Gillette is being looked as a mass vaccination site and getting first responders up there as well.

CM – Would the state run it or would you/we be a part of it?

MK – It would be state run but we would be a part of it if they asked and we've had conversations with the state about it. They are still in the planning phases and we are at least a week away of anything happening up there. The Mass Department of Public Health is eager to get these sites open.

ME – Would it be first responders or seniors?

MK – I'm speculating, but probably first responders and then roll into the next part of the phases already being set up.

SG – Will we be able to distribute to the general public/population of Foxborough?

MK – There is a multi-pronged approach to that. You'll have the ability to get it at doctor's office and we've had high level discussions with Brigham and Women's about how we can it out to our community and be involved in that as well. We are in a better position than most to identify different sites and staffing models and be able to deliver to our citizen's as quickly as possible. We have a trailer that we used as a mobile flu clinic that was good test run and give us good practices on how we could do this with the vaccine.

LG – I know we talked about Town Hall or DPW, but what about School staff?

MK – They are not much further down the list and we are in touch with Amy [School Superintendent] and her staff on a daily basis with the rising cases. We are noticing with this surge of cases, that there are a lot more school-age children infected asymptotically with Covid.

MJ – My understanding is that when the Phases came out it has the Schools listed above Town administrative employees.

MK – The list is changing and evolving. For example, the 911 dispatchers were left out and pushed to Phase 3 and we petitioned for them as critical infrastructure that if they had an outbreak it would be detrimental to the regional dispatch center.

BK – I worked with Rob Verdone and spoke with the State and moved the dispatchers to the beginning of the list. As a regional dispatch center it affects 4 towns and was necessary to get our 911 dispatchers vaccinated.

MK – We are set up now to get the vaccines and being trained on the software used to track the vaccine because it is highly regulated.

SM – Is the vaccine protective against mutated strains?

MK – Yes, it is believed the vaccine will be effective against the different strains.

BK – Congratulations on your ISO-1 rating and to your department for all your hard work.

MK – Most insurance companies use a rating system while they are writing your homeowners policy they look at the communications and 911 as well as the water and fire department. The big investments in the water system and the credentials that we provide them. When the insurance companies set the rates, home owners and business will see some of their rates drop. This goes into effect March 1st and a lot hard work that paid off, not only for Fire but for Water and SEMRECC.

4. 7:15pm - Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Committee - Annual Report

Reading of CSAAC Report by Bob Correia - This has been a challenging year and probably worse since things are shut down and 300-400 children are affect this year. Some of the new initiatives such as the new online training will help, but doesn't take the place of in person training. I would love to have the BOS and other committees trained and take a leadership role. We had an unexpected donation that Pastor Dudley will talk more about.

Pastor Bill Dudley – After an incident at a local store, a man who had overheard the conversation and a survivor of sexual abuse, had a conversation with me and wanted to make a donation in the amount of \$1,920 from Dorian Delories.

BC – He has an incredible story that he will share with us.

PBD – If there is anyone who needs help, please contact us and we will help or find someone who will help.

LG – With the loss of Tony Calcia did a lot of training with your committee and one-on-one to training people and getting someone else to do that training is big shoes to fill.

BK – The committee was recognized by the YMCA with the Tony Calcia Award.

MJ – Anyone who wants to talk or come forward, they can come to administration, police, or Board of Selectmen for help.

5. 7:30pm - Nirvi Inc, d/b/a Olive & Mint

BK – The last meeting in December we spoke about Olive & Mint because they had past due payment for the Town and need to make an agreement with the payment plan. They have paid \$40,000 to the town and also have a large outstanding payment. This was happening pre-Covid. It is important to note that we can. And we hope that you continue to comply with the payment plan or we would have to have a hearing to consider removing your license and

Nandish Patel – I am the son of Anil Patel who owns the property.

ME – You are here because you have 3 licenses from this board to function as a business in the town. Before and know during Covid that you have been behind on your payments. We spoke last meeting and agreed to have you come in before us that you know how serious we take it and how important it is to us.

SM – Do you believe that you will be able to make payments and get caught up?

HP – Depending on how Covid works out and all the events. We have pushed previously booked events and we were confident that we would break even this year. We had lot of weddings that we booked this last summer and were canceled. We are looking forward to operating as Covid goes away.

CM – We would never give a license for anyone who we didn't want to succeed. On the flip side you have to pay your bills.

EO – I'm unimpressed that you haven't made your commitments to the community. If you cannot keep it up with the board I will initiate the process to look at the licenses we provide you and see what we can do to make the community whole.

LG – I won't repeat the others but I want you to realize the severity of the situation. We want you to make it but this is also the last chance we can give.

MJ – I have letter from the Treasurer for the plan, it will be \$7,500 a month without missing any months.

ME – Good luck with your business and hope that 2021 is better for all of us.

6. 7:50pm Dept. Head Update - Town Clerk Robert Cutler to give department update for Town Clerk's Office

RC – In the Town Clerks office, it is cyclical. January is the census and dog licenses. Nomination papers will be available in 2 weeks and March is when they are due back. Without a major election we should be able to get caught up. Public Records Request have become a bigger demand on our office and we work with other town departments to fulfill those requests. There has been discussion about pushing elections. The Governor has allowed signed a bill for municipal early voting but that goes until March 31st which would not effect us. Town elections are May 3rd and Annual Town Meeting is May 10th. Legislature is working on vote by mail for towns that have town elections. We typically get 20% turnout for Town Elections and last year with Covid we had a few thousands. I anticipate having a special town meeting in the fall for Capital Improvement Plans. We also have a lot of projects that we need to catch up on as well from last year.

CM – What type of projects are you talking about?

RC – Document management with our files including permanent and cyclical files for 3 to 5 to 7 years that we need to destroy. Records to coordinate with Boards and Committees.

LG – Thank you for all the work you and your team did for the elections.

RC – We are probably going to see early voting here to stay. We had over 7,000 early vote ballots that had to be processed during the day of the presidential election. We had a tremendous team. Early voting worked well in the Gala room. We have it here for ballot security. For the election we have a police escort on the day of the election. It was challenging but rewarding. Thank you to schools, highway and police that helped get us set up and broken down.

SM – It was a great job for the election with new volunteers.

RC – They had an audit in 2016 that Foxborough was selected for and also had it 2020 and had the audit the Monday following the election for our precinct. The variations were miniscule and well within the parameters. I have the new election machines in the CIP budget request for the last 4 years. I don't expect that until the next 4 years. The vendors aren't supporting the machines and parts anymore. We are getting to the point of no return as they are 18-20 years old. I hope you consider that during the time frame that we have the CIP.

BK – Thank you and your staff for the work you did with the election and the Town Meeting.

7. 8:10pm Assistant Town Manager's Update

- We are sorry to see our longtime resident, veteran Dave Gaffey pass away and was proud to put our flag at half-staff. This isn't done lightly and only done by presidential order, governor or Town manager/Board of Selectmen. The reason it went to half-staff is because he served on the VSAC for many years as a town official.

- We have hired a new Director of Public Health, Matthew Brennan. He will start January 25.

- Our Equipment Mechanic withdrew his acceptance of his offer due to being offered a promotion with his private sector position. It is important to stay competitive within what we can offer.

- Credentialing – this town has reached new height in credentialing. Including the ISO-1 rating. The police department is working towards accreditation as well as the DPW. The next place we would like to have

accreditation in Public Health. Bill is an ICMA accreditation manager and has had it the longest standing credentialed manager in the state. I will have my accreditation in 2 years.

8. 8:20pm Town Manager's Update

- This was a challenging recruitment with the Director of Public Health
- I would like to acknowledge the Mike John's mother has passed as well as Doc's father who were fantastic citizens in the community.
- ISO-1 recognition it was not only Fire Department but also Water Department, Highway and Schools.
- We have had our initial budget hearings and are in good shape. Our fixed costs are continuing to drive our budget up a bit but those with insurance and retirement numbers may help but we won't get them until .
- We may look at fall town meeting for our Capital Improvement Planning Committee Meeting. Bob is right with the voting machine replacement as well as school busses and other equipment in other departments. Hopefully beginning of FY22 will be better.

-Donations

Library donation for \$50 from Reverend Carol A Brink

Veteran's donation for \$100 from Robert V. Linney as holiday donation

Veteran's donation for \$50 from Mrs. Helen Olsen in memory of her husband Armond Olsen

- Thank you to the Kraft Organization for this season for football team and soccer.

9. 8:30pm - Selectmen's Update

9.1 New Business – LG - Clear Gov access? Could you add vaccine numbers to the report?

BK – I will reach out to George and Marie to work on access for ClearGov. I will work with Mike and to communicate that to the public.

9.2 Old Business – LG - The DPW got the new banners up around the Common, thank you for that

10. Action Items

10.1 **Motion to approve the Class 2 Auto License Renewal for 2021 for AJD, Inc doing business as Auto Express by S. McGowan, 2nd by C. Mitchell.**

Discussion: ME – was this not approved with the rest of the renewals

Christina Metcalf – Their paper work was not submitted in time for the all 2021 renewals so they will be able to do business tomorrow when they are approved.

Roll Call: CM – Yes, SM – Yes, ME – Yes, EO – Yes, LG – Yes.

Approved, 5-0.

10.2 BOS - Approval of Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the September 29, 2020 Board of Selectmen Minutes by S. McGowan, 2nd by C. Mitchell. Roll Call: CM – Yes, SM – Yes, ME – Yes, EO – Yes, LG – Yes. Approved, 5-0.

Motion to approve the October 13, 2020 Board of Selectmen Minutes by S. McGowan, 2nd by C. Mitchell. Roll Call:

Discussion – CM - Any reason why #11 was out of order?

Christina Metcalf – We had called that item out of order and wanted to reference that. We can keep it the same for the future minutes.

CM – Yes, SM – Yes, ME – Yes, EO – Yes, LG – Yes. Approved, 5-0.

Motion to approve the October 27, 2020 Board of Selectmen Minutes by S. McGowan, 2nd by C. Mitchell. Roll Call: CM – Yes, SM – Yes, ME – Yes, EO – Yes, LG – Yes.

Discussion- LG – Christina - Can you make the edit I sent to you earlier?

Christina – Yes will make the edit.

Approved, 5-0.

Motion to approve the November 10, 2020 Board of Selectmen Minutes by S. McGowan, 2nd by C. Mitchell. Roll Call: CM – Yes, SM – Yes, ME – Yes, EO – Yes, LG – Yes. Approved, 5-0.

Motion to approve the November 17, 2020 Board of Selectmen Minutes by S. McGowan, 2nd by C. Mitchell. Roll Call: CM – Yes, SM – Yes, ME – Yes, EO – Yes, LG – Yes. Approved, 5-0.

Motion to approve the December 1, 2020 Board of Selectmen Minutes by S. McGowan, 2nd by C. Mitchell. Roll Call: CM – Yes, SM – Yes, ME – Yes, EO – Yes, LG – Yes. Approved, 5-0.

ME – Thanks to Christina for catching us up on all the minutes, with the exception of two minor issues the minutes were great and detailed and you did a great job.

10.3 Veterans Services

Motion to accept a donation of \$276.00 donation from Ed Baldwin in memory of David Gaffey to Veterans' Services by S. McGowan, 2nd by C. Mitchell.

Roll Call: CM – Yes, SM – Yes, ME – Yes, EO – Yes, LG – Yes. Approved, 5-0.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by S. McGowan, 2nd by C. Mitchell.

Roll Call: CM – Yes, SM – Yes, ME – Yes, EO – Yes, LG – Yes. Approved, 5-0.