



TOWN OF FREETOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 6, 2020 - 10:00pm
Meeting Will Be Held Virtually and Livestreamed At
youtube.com/FreetownMA

RECEIVED
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2020 JUN -2 PM 5:45

JA Brown

10:00am **Call to Order** Chairman Lisa A. Pacheco calls the meeting to order at 10:00am. Selectman George L. Grunwald and Selectman Charles B. Sullivan are present. Also present: Town Administrator David DeManche, Board of Health Agent Derek Macedo and Administrative Assistant Timm McIntosh. Note: all members are participating remotely. This meeting is being recorded by the Selectmen's office and being livestreamed on the Town's YouTube Channel, youtube.com/FreetownMA

Chairman Pacheco asks Mr. McIntosh to read the following statement: "Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12th, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions on the Open Meeting Law, G.L. chapter 30A, section 19, and the Governor's March 15th, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Freetown Board of Selectmen is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort is being made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to view this meeting while in progress may do so by accessing the live stream of this meeting on the Town's YouTube channel, youtube.com/FreetownMA, or accessible by visiting freetownma.gov/FREECAM. In the event the live stream is unsuccessful, I am recording this meeting, and the recording will be posted to the Town's YouTube channel as soon as I am able to following the conclusion of this meeting."

Board of Selectmen:

1. Updates the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, and how they apply to Town operations and services.
Mr. Macedo provides the Board with a couple updates: we are up to 70,241 confirmed cases in the Commonwealth, 1,184 of those new today, with 4,212 deaths, 122 new. In the Town of Freetown, we will be reporting at least 65 today. He continues to note that the Commonwealth's mask order goes into effect today. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$300, though we do not want to issue that just yet. We are asking businesses to enforce this for their customers, in addition to their workers. Mr. Macedo says you should at least bring a face covering with you when you are out and about, in case you need it. He urges all residents to be smart about this. Following up on a previous question from the Board regarding recreational camps, seasonal camps and pools, Mr. Macedo is still awaiting guidance from the state on these but has been told it will be a part of the May 18th plan to reopen. Additionally, Mr. Macedo has been talking to the Moderator about Town Meeting procedures, and what would go into holding a meeting outdoors, what precautions we would need to have in place.

Selectman Pacheco asked where we are in relation to other communities. Derrick says we are a little higher in our numbers, though he is not sure why exactly; we are nowhere near the city numbers, but are higher than Lakeville and Dighton, for example. In relation to the Commonwealth, we are in the middle range per capita. He wishes he had an answer as to why this is, guessing perhaps it is a "spillover" from the cities, since we abut both Fall River and New Bedford. Selectman Pacheco asks if our numbers include the Stop & Shop and Amazon distribution numbers. Mr. Macedo says we get the reporting from both

businesses, but our numbers only reflect Freetown residents. Selectman Sullivan asks if we have a rate of recovery; Mr. Macedo says he will look into that.

Selectman Grunwald asks who enforces the face mask order; Mr. Macedo says the Health Department does, though he is empowered to seek assistance from the Freetown Police. Selectman Grunwald says he has been to local businesses and they are not enforcing this requirement; Mr. Macedo reminds Selectman Grunwald that the order only goes into effect today, it was merely a suggestion before today. Mr. DeManche thinks there is a disconnect with the masks, stressing that they are meant to protect you from me, not me from you, but if everyone wears a mask, it goes both ways. Mr. DeManche continues to note that he has already received an inquiry from an employee about a mask policy once we reopen, that the employee says they cannot wear a mask. He says in that case, we would need to provide reasonable accommodation for them in terms of social distancing. Selectman Grunwald thinks they should try a different mask, asking if this is a medical concern; Mr. DeManche isn't sure, and could not disclose that either way. Selectman Grunwald thinks if there is a medical condition, they should not be working. Selectman Pacheco thinks we need to enforce this mask order and set an example here. Selectman Sullivan reminds the Board that many local businesses have licenses from the Town, suggesting warning the businesses that we can pull said licenses if they are not complying with the mask order. He does not want to see us do this, but perhaps it is needed down the line. Mr. DeManche says if this is not enforced, everything will go sideways, saying we cannot make this optional. Selectman Grunwald completely and likes threatening licenses if that is the case. Selectman Grunwald would like the entire Board of Health be in on these decisions. Selectman Pacheco says she's asked questions of various department heads and the conversations came from those; she likes to have these answers before meetings. She would suggest that we should see how the mask order is going in a couple weeks and reevaluate in a couple weeks. Mr. Macedo will be making sure businesses are all aware of the order and possible penalties and will put new information on the Town signs; Selectman Grunwald would like to see the word "mandatory" on the signs.

Mr. Macedo would also like to discuss the Town Beach and Boat Ramp. He asked if the beach is going to open this year, perhaps with new rules or regulations. He has learned that the boat ramp must be open, per the state. He has ordered new signs but would like to discuss how we are running the operations at the boat ramp. He notes that workers start Memorial Day, and it is too much to ask them to handle all the enforcement, so he is bringing this up now. Selectman Pacheco believes we should listen to the governor on the beach and let him handle that decision for now; she isn't sure about the Boat Ramp. Selectman Grunwald asks what the issue is; Mr. Macedo says it is mostly logistics. The worker is there to essentially collect the funds. Selectman Grunwald asks how reasonable it would be to waive the fee until this is all over. Selectman Pacheco says we cannot make the boat ramp a free-for-all, as the Lake District people are already unhappy with how things are run. She says the workers regulate the parking lot as well as just taking money. Selectman Grunwald asks about traffic. Mr. Macedo says traffic is completely weather dependent and varies. He adds that he had the same thought about waving the fee but agrees with Selectman Pacheco on making it a free-for-all. This is why he brought it before the Board. Selectman Sullivan would like to ponder this a bit further. Selectman Grunwald asked if there is a booth at the boat ramp; Mr. Macedo says there is a booth, but there is not much to it. The Board will revisit this.

2. Postponement of the Annual Town Meeting / Scheduling of the Annual Town Meeting & Special Town Meeting

Selectman Pacheco says the Board had previously discussed June 20th for the Town meetings, on the

football field, and the schools have ok'd the date and location. She says a conference call was held yesterday with the Town Clerk, Town Administrator and Moderator, where we talk logistics behind an outdoor meeting; she believes this will work. Selectman Grunwald asks about the sound system; Selectman Pacheco and Mr. McIntosh say this is all set and already in place, or else the office has a PA system we can utilize. Mr. DeManche has put together a list from the conference call of all things we would need to consider, this will be distributed. A rain date of June 27th, also voted by the Board, has also been ok'd by the schools, though the Moderator would need to handle continue the date if that was necessary.

VOTE: Motion (Sullivan/Grunwald) to have the Annual & Special Town Meeting on June 20th, 2020, with a rain date of June 27th, 2020, outside on the Apponequet Football Field; motion carries unanimously after a roll call vote.

Selectman Pacheco asks that the other Board members let Mr. DeManche know if they think of other concerns that may come up with an outdoor meeting.

Mr. DeManche asks if we would like to discuss the time of this meeting, as we will be having three meetings on that day and we'll need to potentially clear the field between the Lake District meeting and the newly posted meetings. Selectman Pacheco says she's suggested to the Moderator to talk to the Lake District petitioners to see where they are and if they are ready or would rather wait, she thinks we should wait to hear back from them before we set a time. Selectman Grunwald's recommendation would be to schedule the meetings close together, and not expect people to sit around and wait in between, noting that it could be extremely hot and detrimental for some people. Mr. DeManche says in a perfect world, the Lake District people say they'd be willing to postpone until the fall. Selectman Pacheco thinks we should be considering water stations and bottled water. These are still more logistics to consider before setting the time. Mr. Macedo says EEE won't be concern if we are doing this in June, though mosquitos could be. The Board will return to the time of the meeting at a later date.

Before continuing, Selectman Grunwald asks to discuss employee wages for people not getting raises on a future agenda; Selectman Pacheco says there is a department head meeting scheduled for later today that will address this. She reminds the Board that the Town needs to be extremely careful in terms of the budget, as we don't know where this is all headed. She says it does not make sense to lay off people while we are still giving raises, but we can go into more depth in a couple weeks. Selectman Sullivan is in favor of having this discussion, but thinks we need to adhere to today's agenda and get back on track. Selectman Pacheco agrees.

3. Approve/Authorize Town Administrator to Sign Lease Paperwork for Two (2) New 2020 Dodge Durangos for the Police Department

Mr. McIntosh says that this was actually taken care of back in the fall, so it can be skipped by the Board today.

Personnel Board:

4. Re-Appointment: Jeffrey Field to the Board of Assessors, effective April 6, 2020 (though the Annual Town Election)

Mr. McIntosh explains this was previously done by the Board, with the intention that the appointment

would expire with the Annual Town Election, but the appointment slip specifically said April 6, 2020. This would correct that.

VOTE: Motion (Pacheco/Grunwald) to appoint; motion carries unanimously after a roll call vote.

At 10:47am, motion (Sullivan/Grunwald) to adjourn; motion carries unanimously after a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timm McIntosh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Timm" and last name "McIntosh" clearly distinguishable.

Timm McIntosh
Administrative Assistant

The Board used no additional documents/exhibits in this meeting.