



TOWN OF FREETOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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Monday, June 15, 2020 - 5:00pm
Council on Aging Pavilion
227 Chace Road, East Freetown, MA 02717
JA Brown

5:00 P.M. Call to Order Chairman Lisa A. Pacheco calls the meeting to order at 5:02pm. Selectman George L. Grunwald is present; Selectman Charles B. Sullivan is participating remotely. Administrative Assistant Timm McIntosh and Board of Health Agent are also present, and Town Administrator David DeManche is present remotely. The meeting is being recorded by the Selectmen's office.

5:00 P.M. Public Hearing – Board of Health Variance
5 Island Road Extension

Mr. Macedo reads the green cards received back; Mr. Paul L. Barrows and Ms. Pamela Barrows are present. Selectman Pacheco notes that Outback Engineering is seeking a variance in setbacks – from 100' to 60' from an existing private well, from 100' to 85' to an existing private well at 3 Island Road Extension, and from 100' to 60' to an existing private well at 25 Mohawk Ave. Jason Youngquist from Outback Engineering is present and presents the plans of the property to the Board and to the abutters. Mr. Youngquist explains that the septic system is in failure, and while they are keeping the new system in the same general area, the tight nature of these lots does not allow for many options. The abutters present ask questions about the site and why the new system cannot be located differently; Mr. Youngquist explains that no matter where they locate it, they are going to run into the setbacks on wells. He notes that as the current system is in failure, any option is an improvement. The abutters note that their wells are not deep in this area, so any disruption of the earth will have an impact on their wells, noting that recent tree work and the perc test that made their water rusty. Mr. Youngquist says the test they described was not done by Outback, and their testing showed this would be a typical installation of a septic system. Mr. Barrows says his main concern is the equipment disturbing the ground; Selectman Pacheco understands this concern, he she thinks the contamination from a failed system is number one, though she certainly values the input from the abutters. Mr. Macedo and the abutters discuss utilizing a tight tank; Mr. Macedo says the only way a tight tank can be approved is if there are no other options. Mr. Youngquist explains that the State allows for variances to up to 50', beyond 50' is when you start considering tight tanks.

Selectman Grunwald asks for the opinion of Mr. Macedo; Mr. Macedo says while he doesn't like this variance, it's unavoidable anywhere on the property, so he would recommend this variance.

Selectman Sullivan asks how much the distance changed between the well and the old system vs. the new system; Mr. Youngquist explains the new system is further away, getting it greater than 50' from the well and all other wells. Selectman Grunwald asks if there are any other site options; Mr. Macedo says there are not many options, as you'll be up against other wells. Selectman Pacheco asks about the existing system. Mr. Youngquist says they could pick up around 7' or 8' feet by pushing it just under 60' to 5 Island Road Extension, making it around 70' from the abutters. Mr. Macedo consults the plans to see what Mr. Youngquist is referring to and sees that that could work. Selectman Pacheco confirms with the abutters, that they are more concerned with the disruption to the Earth than the system itself; they agree that if the system is moved a bit, there will be less disruption on their side of the road. Mr. Youngquist will explore moving the system closer to the home, and that all distances will be greater than 50'; Mr. Macedo is fine with that.

VOTE: Motion (Sullivan/Grunwald) to grant the variance, knowing that the engineer will do his best to move it over to the East, alleviating some of the pressure and work that has to be done to satisfy the neighbors at the same time; motion carries unanimously.

Selectman Pacheco closes the Board of Health Hearing, and tells the abutters if they see something happening with tree cuttings that isn't right, to contact the Town Administrator.

5:00 P.M. Public Hearing

Petition submitted by Verizon New England Inc. and NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, to request permission to relocate three poles (Poles 9/29, 9/31 & 9/33), place one new pole (Pole 9/30), remove two poles (Poles 9A/18 & 9/33S) and renumber one pole (Pole 9A-18A to Pole 9A/18) on Richmond Road.

Selectman Pacheco opens this public hearing. There are no abutters present, and no representatives from Verizon or Eversource. Selectman Pacheco asks if the Board wants to approve these anyway.

VOTE: Motion (Grunwald/Sullivan) to approve; motion carries unanimously.

5:00 P.M. Public Hearing

Petition submitted by Verizon New England Inc. and NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, to request permission to relocate one pole (Pole 35/20), and remove one pole (Pole 35/20PB), on Forge Road.

Selectman Pacheco opens this public hearing. There are no abutters present, and no representatives from Verizon or Eversource. Selectman Sullivan wants it noted to the petitioners that it would have been nice to have them present for this meeting. Selectman Pacheco agrees, saying these are for the South Coast Rail project; it would have been nice to have someone from the petitioners or from the rail here this evening.

VOTE: Motion (Grunwald/Sullivan) to approve; motion carries unanimously.

Board of Selectmen:

1. Discussion/Vote on Town Hall Offices

Mr. DeManche says the issue with the Assessors office space is all set. There are still some work in progress by the Building Commissioner to finish up preparations, but the hope is to finish by Thursday, when we are planning on reopening. Selectman Pacheco explains to Selectman Grunwald that the extra meeting space that is part of the Assessors office will be used to allow people to get out of the hallway to fill out paperwork as needed. She notes there were concerns with the security of some paperwork to consider, but Mr. DeManche says it's been taken care of. Selectman Pacheco says that Town Hall belongs to the people, not individuals, that people need to be open minded to changes when they are being made for a reason. Mr. DeManche says he was pretty clear with the Assessors that the Town Hall is in the custody of the Board of Selectmen, not the Board of Assessors. He thinks this will work out.

Selectman Pacheco questions if Thursday is a target date or the reopening date. Mr. DeManche says the doorbell system is not yet installed, and there is still work to be done in the Water Department, among other tasks. He says the Building Commissioner is doing his best. The plan is to open on Thursday, but if there are any changes, he will let the Board know. Selectman Pacheco would really like to see Town Hall open on Thursday, as this has gone on a while; she thinks residents need to see Town Hall open, as she sees lots of chatter questioning why it isn't open. She doesn't think the doorbell thing needs to be in place immediately. Selectman Pacheco wants to make sure the rest of the Board wants to see things open

as soon as possible. Selectman Sullivan says the safety of employees and residents should be the first concern, and he understands the work the Building Commissioner needs to do on top of being the Building Inspector; he doesn't see a problem with pushing this off a day or two to get the job done right. Mr. DeManche says we will be opening on Thursday.

Mark Rosofsky, Chace Road, wants to make sure residents will be able to use Town Hall if it is open. Mr. DeManche says it will be by appointment, but we will not turn people away without appointments, they will be asked to call the office they are looking to visit. Mr. Rosofsky says it is the Board's responsibility to make sure employees are safe, and that has been done; as a Town's resident, it's the individual's responsibility to keep themselves safe. He understands not wanting to open fully, but thinks it puts a burden people when they can't just show up where they need to go. He thinks the Town needs to focus on safeguarding the employees, but to trust the residents to keep themselves safe, as this isn't a virus that will be going away. Selectman Pacheco says we are asking the people to make an appointment, but we are not going to turn people away; the doorbell system was a way to remedy that.

Personnel Board:

2. Appoint Jeremy Tavares as Temporary Election Worker, effective June 15, 2020

VOTE: Motion (Pacheco/Grunwald) to approve; motion carries unanimously.

At 5:33pm, motion (Sullivan/Grunwald) to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Timm McIntosh
Administrative Assistant

Documents/Exhibits Used by the Board in This Meeting

- Application for Board of Health Variance for 5 Island Road Extension
- Correspondence with Verizon re: petitions #MA2019-48 and #MA2019-49
- Petition for Joint or Identical Pole Locations, #MA2019-48, with abutter list and other paperwork
- Petition for Joint or Identical Pole Locations, #MA2019-49, with abutter list and other paperwork
- Draft Certificate of Appointment for J. Tavares