

SELECT BOARD MEETING: VIA ZOOM

Date: January 12, 2021 6:30 P.M.

In Attendance: Selectboard- John Fenner (chair,) Lorie Costigan, Peter Beckett, Charles Garrigan, Danielle Gould
Town Clerk Elizabeth E. Dickerson
Kay Neufeld, Camden Herald

1. Call Select Board meeting to order

Chair Fenner called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

2. Meetings are recorded

Selectperson Fenner reminded attendees that Zoom meetings are recorded.

3. Approve the minutes of January 5, 2021

Motion to approve minutes: Selectperson Beckett made the motion, Selectperson Fenner, second

Discussion: none

Vote: Beckett: yes, Costigan: yes, Fenner: yes, Garrigan: yes, Gould: yes 5-0-0 the motion passes.

4. Public Comment: none

5. Road Commissioner- absent

6. Town Clerk- Elizabeth Dickerson- Some liens have been paid off. Dog registrations are coming in. Still not known when we can hold the rabies clinic, haven't heard anything from the vet. The fire chief came in and said when he knew, the town employees would be the first to know. A call back list is being maintained in the office for folks who have called wanting to bring their pets to the clinic.

7. Select Board

A. Committee reports- Selectperson Beckett- Took the issue that Brad Leeman was having to the TCSWO board meeting. A sub-committee has been set up to look into the problems. They will meet again on Monday.

Fred Brown contacted Selectperson Beckett concerning budget committee status. Selectperson Beckett asked whether the select board needs to appoint anyone to the budget committee. Selectperson Fenner said that committee members are appointed for three years on a rotating split basis, so their terms never all expire at once. Selectperson Costigan said that there is one vacancy. There are supposed to be nine members.

Selectperson Beckett will contact Fred Brown and make sure all members are on board for this year.

The town clerk said that there were a few people who had been appointed for budget committee who still needed to stop in to the town office and get sworn in. There are even more on the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

Selectperson Costigan recommended contacting the chair of that committee, Diane Schivera, to remind members to stop by the town office to get sworn in.

B. Town meeting by referendum voting at fire station

Selectperson Fenner has started on a schedule of events. He has informed the school superintendent that budget committee meetings would be in April, but meetings may need to be moved into March if voting is to occur by referendum. Last year the town was unable to hold a town meeting due to COVID restrictions so the format got changed to a referendum vote at the polls. Selectperson Fenner said that given the status of the world and progress of vaccinations it's extremely unlikely that the general population will be vaccinated in time to hold a traditional town meeting in June. Reluctantly, Selectperson Fenner recommends the town hold the meeting by referendum again. As an adjunct to that, he had to do the application with the Secretary of State's office in order for the townspeople to vote at the fire station last November. Having gone through all the regulations and requirements that are just standard, not to do with Covid piled on top of that, it became apparent that it is not possible to meet just the normal requirements of voting in the Town Hall, even before we add in COVID requirements. In that case, voting at the fire station should remain in place. This is more convenient than voting at the school because if election officials need something at the town office, it is easier to go get it. Also if there are people who are unaware that the voting location changed, the two buildings share the same parking lot. Based on whether the selectboard decides that voting by referendum should be the plan starting from now, that decision will affect whether to move the budget committee meetings into March instead of April.

Selectperson Garrigan asked to clarify that the reason the above decision would push back the series of events by a month is because more lead time would be needed due to printing of ballots.

Selectperson Fenner affirmed Selectperson Garrigan's comment and said that it takes 60 days because of the ballots. In the past, this wasn't as much of an issue because the only thing on the ballots would have been the election of officials, but if everything else is on the ballot, you have to approve the entire warrant, get everything off to the printers, get absentee ballots organized, there's the lead time for advertising a public hearing, and time needs to be left to make sure all details get worked out accordingly. Selectperson Fenner will also need to coordinate with the superintendent of schools. Their issue is that they only have the option of a referendum vote if the governor issues an executive order.

Selectperson Costigan said that hopefully the executive order is coming soon.

Selectperson Fenner made a motion that all of the town's town warrant articles would be voted on at the polls, and polling will occur at two places: the town office polling station will be used for people who vote early, and regular election day polling will occur at the fire station.

Further discussion: Selectperson Beckett- if we have only one voting machine, is the town warrant ballot processed by hand?

Selectperson Fenner said that town voting is all done by machine, but the school's was counted by hand the last time. State ballots are put directly in the machine, other ballots are put in the box and then fed into the machine once the state ballots are counted.

At the last election, the school ballots were more last minute so those could not be machine counted because there wasn't time to set up the programming for those ballots.

Selectperson Costigan said that this verbiage should be considered to be added to the motion- "In consideration of pandemic protocol" –

The motion is amended unanimously to state that: In consideration of pandemic protocol, all of the town's town warrant articles would be voted on at the polls, and polling will occur at two places: the town office polling station will be used for people who vote early, and regular election day polling will occur at the fire station.

Further discussion:

Selectperson Beckett asked that if we get into April and it turns out we can hold an in-person town meeting, would we have time to change back?

Selectperson Fenner said that once we've done the warrant and sent it off for the ballots it would be about impossible to change back and create a lot of confusion.

Selectperson Costigan said that if in the event that restrictions were lessened perhaps the town could at least have a public hearing.

Selectperson Fenner said that a public hearing is mandatory. If the town meeting articles are voted on by referendum, you have to have a public hearing. If you have a town meeting you don't have to hold a separate public hearing, the town meeting is the hearing. The public hearing would have to be on Zoom. That could change if somehow the restrictions got lifted- we could do the hearing and discussion at a public meeting rather than on zoom.

Selectperson Fenner's amended motion is seconded by Selectperson Garrigan

Vote: Beckett: yes, Costigan: yes, Fenner: yes, Garrigan: yes, Gould: yes 5-0-0 the motion passes.

Selectperson Fenner said that the budget committee will now need to be informed that meetings will have to be held in March. He will also explain the plan to the superintendent. He will attend the end of January school board meetings in order to explain and answer questions.

8. Other-

Selectperson Beckett- wants to mention that the town received the pumper truck, word from from the fire chief is that the department is very happy with it. The town treasurer registered it today with BMV, municipal plates will be obtained in Rockland due to

weight of truck. The chief was on his way to Bangor to get a radio and antenna for the truck.

The Lost Chihuahua type dog named Sweetie: if you see her, don't chase, the Animal Control Officer (ACO) Heidi Blood and her helpers have set up a feeding station trap with cameras and the dog will run away if chased. Please instead call the number on the posters if you have seen the dog.

Pheasant: the ACO contacted the town clerk and arranged to meet at Town Hall, where the pheasant had recently encamped. Citizens were reporting that the pheasant was flying up at residents, one woman said he attacked her knee. The town clerk was concerned that the pheasant felt threatened and was responding. There had been instances of the pheasant running into traffic. He is very tame, and according to a game warden contacted by the clerk, was probably farm raised for hunting and escaped. The ACO and family got the pheasant into a crate, and transferred to the clerk's crate. The pheasant is now residing with the clerk's chickens and guinea hens.

Selectperson Costigan asked for some clarification as to why the pheasant had to be captured. He had two hens with him, and residents were hopeful there would be chicks. The clerk answered that unfortunately, this is not a native species, and he will most likely not survive winter nor the interest of passersby at the town office. The ACO has a plan in place to also try to capture the two hens, and hopefully they can join the crew at the clerk's hen house. In the spring, if it seems feasible to set them all loose and they will come back in the coop for safety at night, the clerk will do that. If not, she will put them in the outside area that is fenced. So far, the pheasant seems to be enjoying himself.

Question from Selectperson Garrigan: a citizen had asked him a question about additional acreage on property suddenly appearing as the result of mapping efforts by the town. He now has 56 more acres than he thought he had. There have been tax map adjustments made by Assessor Curt Lebel. Letters of over/unders had been sent out to residents. Selectperson Fenner asked how many letters had been sent out. Selectperson Beckett said about 7 or 8.

9. Executive Session: none

10. Adjourn 7:11 pm, adjournment is by unanimous consent

A True Copy Attest,



Elizabeth Dickerson
Appleton Town Clerk