



Office of the Board of Selectmen
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Randall V. Becker, Chairman
Andrew Jolda, Vice-Chairman
Earl Gabor, Secretary
Lisa Kontoes
Thomas Klebart

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, June 22, 2020 5:00 P.M.

Second Floor Conference Room

Bartlett High School, 52 Lake Parkway, Webster, MA
via conference call in accordance with Governor Baker's
emergency "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the
Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20
5:00 p.m.

MEETING OPENING: At 5:02 p.m., Selectman Becker called the meeting to order in the Second Floor Conference Room, Bartlett High School, 52 Lake Parkway, Webster, MA. The following individuals were present: Chairman Becker, Selectman Andrew Jolda, Selectman Earl Gabor, Selectman Lisa Kontoes, Selectman Thomas Klebart, , Conservation Agent Mary Overhault, Town Accountant Timothy Bell, Jason Paider , Michelle Boulay (via Zoom Meeting), Antoinette Dobosz (via Zoom Meeting), Town Administrator Doug Willardson, and Executive Assistant Courtney Friedland. The Board stood and took the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectman Becker stated on March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order modifying certain requirements of the Open Meeting Law, to enable public bodies to carry out their responsibilities while adhering to public health recommendations regarding social distancing as fully stated on the agenda. The Executive Order relieves public bodies from the requirement in the Open Meeting Law that meetings be conducted in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body through adequate, alternative means.

Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to approve the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes from June 1, 2020. Selectman Klebart recused himself.

Call Vote: Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Jolda, to approve the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes from June 5, 2020. Selectman Klebart and Selectman Kontoes recused themselves.

Call Vote: Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Selectman Becker stated he would open the floor up for a nomination for Chairman. Selectman Jolda nominated Selectman Becker. Selectman Becker asked if there were any other nominations for Chairman. Hearing none, he called for a vote.

**Motion made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes to appoint Selectman Becker as Chairman.
Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.**

Chairman Becker stated he would open the floor up for a nomination for Vice-Chairman. Selectman Kontoes nominated Selectman Jolda. Chairman Becker asked if there were any other nominations for Vice-Chairman. Hearing none, he called for a vote.

Motion made by Selectman Kontoes, seconded by Selectman Klebart to appoint Selectman Jolda as Vice-Chairman.

Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

Chairman Becker stated he would open the floor up for a nomination for Secretary. Selectman Kontoes nominated Selectman Gabor. Chairman Becker asked if there were any other nominations for Secretary. Hearing none, he called for a vote.

Motion made by Selectman Kontoes, seconded by Selectman Jolda to appoint Selectman Gabor as Secretary.

Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

APPROVE CHANGES TO INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR SWCCC: Mr. Willardson stated the town’s auditors have suggested the wording be changed to make it clear the employees that are part of the SWCCC are Webster employees.

Motion made by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Klebart to approve the proposed changes to the Inter-Municipal Agreement for Regional Dispatch Center between Webster and Dudley.

Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

EMERGENCY EXPEDITURE AUTHORITY (CHAPTER 44, SECTION 31): Mr. Willardson stated this would allow the town to expend from any available funds in the treasury in relation to the emergency (COVID-19) without an appropriation. These expenses would be extraordinary cleaning of public buildings, maintaining the health and safety of employees and the public, the purchase of personal protective supplies and equipment, and costs to implement remote participation. He stated the Board will need to put an estimate amount of these expenses. He estimated \$60,000.00 n COVID-19 related expenses.

Motion made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes to approve the Emergency Expenditures Authority (chapter 44, Section 31) in the amount of \$60,000.00.

Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

ACT RELATIVE TO MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY, CHAPTER 92, SECTION 12-13

OF THE ACTS OF 2020: Mr. Bell stated this would allow the town to pay for the school busing contracts that were negotiated with AAA Transportation for the timeframe in which the transportation was not used due to COVID-19. He stated this gives the town more latitude to pay the bills. He said it is consistent with what other towns are doing.

Motion made by Selectman Klebart, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve An Act Relative to Municipal Governance During the COVID-19 Emergency, Chapter 92, section 12-13 of the Acts of 2020 (the Act), contingent upon the School Committee approving the Act.

Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

SPECIAL AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANTS: Mr. Willardson reviewed and Special and Annuals Town Meeting Warrants. He stated there have been no changes from the last time the Board met.

Town Administrator Report: Mr. Willardson stated the town was told that bars and clubs would not be able to open until Phase 4, but if they are serving food tableside they will be allowed to open. He said a letter will be sent out to all of the establishments tomorrow.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN RE-APPOINTMENTS: Chairman Becker stated the Board of Selectmen received a couple letters of interest for the Conservation Commission. He suggested the Board can move forward with the re-appointments with the exception of the Conservation Commission.

Motion made by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the appointments as presented, with the exception of the Conservation Commission appointment. Chairman Becker recused himself from voting on the re-appointment of Marc Becker.

Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

Chairman Becker stated the Board received three letters of request for appointment to the Conservation Commission. He asked Jason Paider to come up and speak. Mr. Paider stated he currently lives at 91 Bates Point Road, has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Plastic Engineering and a Juris Doctorate from Massachusetts School of Law. He stated he is currently a patent Attorney. He has been a resident of Webster for the past 15 years and spends most of his summers on the lake. He has served as the President of the Webster Lake Association since 2014 and has overseen \$400,000 worth of restoration and environmental protection projects on Webster Lake. He secured the first ever herbicide study and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. He has worked closely as a collaborative partner to MassDEP and The Last Green Valley. He said he is familiar with threats of invasive aquatic plant species, erosion, and storm-water run-off. He stated he believes

he will be able to bring different viewpoints to the Commission, particularly to the proposed Wetlands Protection Bylaw. He stated his background and intimate knowledge of the lake makes him an exceptional candidate for the member position on the Conservation Commission. Selectman Klebart asked what changes he would propose to the Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Mr. Piader stated the setback is too cumbersome and there needs to be a better balance. He said there needs to be less discretion of the Commissioners. He said he has concerns of the policy as a whole and would like to get more collaboration from other Boards and Committees.

Mr. Willardson stated he just spoke with Mr. Hollows and he is pulling his request for appointment to the Conservation Commission.

Chairman Becker stated he has several concerns with reappointing Michelle Sherillo. He stated he has received feedback that the Conservation Commission: has shown to overreach their role; they have added their personal opinions to applicant requirements; residents feel they are not approachable; topics are dragged on over several meetings; projects can experience significant delays, and there is a perception they are difficult to do business with. He stated there has been issues between other boards and Committees. He said the Conservation Commission has difficult relationship with residents who have been complaining. He stated he is not pointing fingers at anyone in particular but thinks the Board needs a new member on the Commission to begin to change the direction. Chairman Becker indicated he has spoken with Chairman Wiiglesworth about these concerns. Mr. Willardson stated Mr. Wigglesworth has tried to redirect the Commission to be more business friendly. He said there has been specific complaints made about Ms. Sherillo. Ms. Overhault stated Ms. Sherillo did have a learning curve. She does bring experience to the Commission and comes prepared to the meetings. She stated Ms. Sherillo has attending training and has calmed down her sometimes-strong opinions. Selectman Kontoes stated she would like some insight on what complaints were received regarding Ms. Sherillo. Mr. Willardson stated he received complaints that Ms. Sherillo could come across harsh and not be customer friendly. Ms. Overhault stated Ms. Sherillo is one of their most outspoken members. Chairman Becker stated he feels the Commission's tactics towards businesses and residents will remain the same without some change. He said the Commission should be business friendly and working to get topics resolved in a timely manner. Selectman Kontoes stated should would like to hear from Ms. Sherillo before deciding. Chairman Becker stated the Board can post a meeting for Friday morning and invite her to attend.

Motion made by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Jolda to table the re-appointment to the Conservation Commission until Friday, June 26, 2020 in order to have Ms. Sherillo attend the meeting.

Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

ADJOURN: At 6:20 p.m.,

Motion by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Gabor, to adjourn.

Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney M. Friedland, Executive Secretary to the Board of Selectmen