



Town Of Webster
Massachusetts Est. 1832

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Randall V. Becker, Chairman
Earl Gabor, Vice-Chairman
Thomas Klebart, Secretary
Lisa Kontoes
Donald Bourque

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 10, 2022 6:00 P.M.

Selectmen's Meeting Room
Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA

MEETING OPENING At 6:00 p.m., Chairman Becker called the meeting to order in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA. The following individuals were present: Chairman Randy Becker, Selectman Lisa Kontoes, Selectman Earl Gabor, Selectman Thomas Klebart, Selectman Donald Bourque, Town Assessor Marc Becker, Town Accountant Timothy Bell, Town Administrator Richard LaFond, Assistant Town Administrator Courtney Friedland, and Executive Assistant Kelly Lyman. The Board stood and took the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman 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. As further explained 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. On July 16, 2022, Governor Baker signed an extension of this law. The new law, an Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations, includes an extension until March 31, 2023, of the remote meeting provisions of the Governor's March 12, 2020, Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

Meeting Minutes

Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Klebart, to approve the meeting minutes of December 12, 2022. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO HOLD A DISCIPLINARY HEARING ON A LICENSE VIOLATION AT BUSH HALL

The Webster Police Department submitted a report to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen, of an incident at Bush Hall, 10 Dresser Street, that took place on December 22, 2022. Chairman Becker explained that this is not a public hearing and that the Board will decide tonight if a public hearing is necessary. After discussion, the Board decided that this violation should be handled at an administrative level with a meeting of the Town Administrator, Assistant Town Administrator, Police Chief and the owner of the establishment at a time and date to be determined. The Town Administrator will report back to the Board as to the outcome of this meeting.

Motion for the Town Administrator, Assistant Town Administrator, Police Chief to handle the matter of the license violation at Bush Hall made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Kontoes. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

REQUEST AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE THE “ONE-DAY” LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY ST. LOUIS CHURCH FOR A COMEDY NIGHT TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 4, 2023

Chairman Becker recused himself from this vote. He is a member of the parish.

Motion to approve the “One-Day” liquor license application submitted by St. Louis Church for a comedy night to be held on Saturday, February 4, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Church Hall at 14 Lake Street, Webster MA, by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Klebart. Motion passed unanimously 4-0, with Chairman Becker recused.

REQUEST AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE THE “ONE-DAY” LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL FOR A FUNDRAISER TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 4, 2023

Motion to approve the “One-Day” liquor license application submitted by St. Joseph School for a fundraiser to be held on Saturday, February 4, 2023 from 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm in the Parish Center, 47 Whitcomb Street, Webster MA, by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Kontoes. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

REQUEST AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE THE “ONE-DAY” LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL FOR A BANQUET TO BE HELD ON MARCH 18, 2023

Motion to approve the “One-Day” liquor license application submitted by St. Joseph School for a banquet to be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm in the Parish Center, 47 Whitcomb Street, Webster MA, by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Kontoes. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING - TAX CLASSIFICATION

Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to open the Public hearing in conformity with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 56, for the purpose of holding a Tax Classification Hearing to establish the relative tax burden to be borne by each class of properties for FY2023. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Chairman Becker read the public hearing notice. Town Assessor, Marc Becker explained that Mass. DOR completed the certification since the last meeting and the tax rate values have been finalized. Mr. Marc

Becker read the tax classification regulations. He explained that the total levy remained the same. The Board reviewed the report provided by the Assessor, which included the rates of levy growth for different types of properties, the comparison report, debt exclusions, and the history of Webster's yearly tax rates since 2006. The tax rate remained at the estimated \$12.50, as presented at the previous Tax Classification Hearing. Webster has had a single tax rate for the past 4 years. New growth is almost double this year. A Town news flash was posted to the Town website and Facebook page regarding this hearing and the tax billing cycle. Tax bills will not be due until May 1, 2023. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Marc Becker and staff for another year of good work. If residents have questions or would like more information regarding the tax rate for FY2023, they may contact the Town Assessor's office during normal business hours. There were no comments from the public.

Motion by Selectman Klebart, seconded by Selectman Gabor to close the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Gabor to accept the residential factor of 1 for the single tax rate of \$12.50 and set the tax burden to be borne by each class of properties for FY 2023. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPOINT COURTNEY FRIEDLAND, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND HR DIRECTOR, AS AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS STRATEGIC HEALTH GROUP (MSHG)

Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Klebart to appoint Courtney Friedland as an alternate representative for the MSHG. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPOINT A SELECTMAN TO THE WEBSTER SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Unfortunately, none of the Selectmen are able to commit to the Superintendent Search Committee's rigorous meeting schedule at this time, as they already serve on several other Town boards and committees. The Selectmen and Town Administrator recommended Courtney Friedland.

Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Gabor to appoint Courtney Friedland as a member of the Superintendent Search Committee. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

REQUEST AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CHRISTELLA GONSORCIK FROM THE PLANNING BOARD

The Board thanked Ms. Gonsorcik for her service to the Town as a member of the Planning Board from 2019 – 2022.

Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectmen Kontoes to accept the resignation of Christella Gonsorcik from the Planning Board, with regret. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

REQUEST AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPOINT JASON PIADER AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD

Mr. LaFond discussed this appointment with the Director of Planning and Economic Development, Ann Morgan and confirmed that there hasn't been any conflicts with Mr. Piader's role as Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals and his position on the Planning Board as of yet. If conflict arises in the future, Mr. Piader will recuse himself from that matter. Mr. Piader was present and stated that he is an active and involved member of the Board. He will serve for the remainder of Ms. Gonsorcik's term, which ends 2025.

Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectmen Gabor to appoint Mr. Piader as a full voting member of the Planning Board for the term ending 2025. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. Mr. LaFond sent a memo to the Selectmen regarding the liquor license violation at PACC. After reviewing the incident with PACC management and Chief Shaw, it was decided that a public hearing won't be necessary. The club will work with the Town and ABCC to define the terrace area, which should be clearly marked, and security cameras may be required.
2. The deadline of the HR review with the Collins Center is June 30, 2023. This review was approved at Town Meeting. This is a very comprehensive study with more than 40 points to be reviewed. The wage and classification plan is complete and Mr. LaFond and Ms. Friedland will be meeting with the department heads soon.
3. The Library is holding a Strategic Planning Meeting to develop a plan for the future. A community survey is the next step, followed by setting goals and objectives. Selectman Kontoes is involved with the Library Strategic Planning Committee. Vision Statements will be developed to help drive decision making. A Community Survey will be available starting on January 17 on the Library website. The Selectmen appreciate the committee's effort.
4. The regional Health Group was expanded with 5 additional communities and the current municipal agreement will be updated. There is no specific effective date of the new agreement.
5. The company, Crimson Power, will be working with the Town to recommend appropriate areas for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. These will be covered by State incentive programs at no cost for the Town. Selectman Gabor suggested that station sites downtown could attract new business. Chairman Becker noted that the new charging stations should be plugged into the network so EV owners can find the locations on the apps.

Chairman Becker mentioned that the FY2023 Budget Calendar is underway and demonstrates the number of and funding for ongoing Town projects.

The Finance Committee will meet tomorrow night, January 11, 2023.

Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Klebart to accept and approve the Town Administrator's report. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Finance Committee

Full Member - 1

Water & Sewer Commission	Full Member - 1
Zoning Board of Appeals	Alternates - 2
Economic Development Committee	Full Member - 1
Historical Commission	Full Member - 1
By-Law Committee	Full Members – 2
ADA Committee	Full Members – 2
Recreation Committee	Full Members – Open
Council on Aging	Full Member – 1
Conservation Commission	Alternates - 2

PROPOSED FUTURE MEETING DATE

Monday, February 13 2022, 6:00 p.m. Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Gabor to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Lyman, Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen**

EXHIBITS:

1. Draft Meeting Minutes, December 12, 2022 Board of Selectmen’s Meeting.
2. Document: Police Report, of incident on 12/22/2022, 1/3/2023.
3. Document: Application for 2/4/2023 and related documents, St. Joseph’s School, 1/4/2023.
4. Document: Application for 3/18/2023 and related documents, St. Joseph’s School, 1/4/2023.
5. Document: Application and related documents, St. Louis Church, 12/20/2022.
6. Document: Public Hearing Notice for the Tax Classification Hearing.
7. Document: Mass. DOR Division of Local Services Bureau of Accounts and Local Assessment for Fiscal Year 2023.
8. Correspondence: Email from Timothy Bell, 1/4/2023.
9. Correspondence: Email from Lori Marrasso, 1/4/2023.
10. Correspondence: Email from Christella Gonsorcik, 1/4/2023.
11. Correspondence: Letter from Jason Piader, 1/5/2023.
12. Correspondence: Memo, Town Administrator to Board of Selectmen, PACC violation, 1/9/2023
13. Document: Professional Service Agreement, Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management.
14. Document: Gladys E. Kelly Public Library Community Visioning Exercise, 1/9/2023.

15. Document: Gladys E. Kelly Public Library Strategic Planning Advisory Committee, Committee Charter 2022-2023.
16. Document: Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Calendar.
17. Document: Webster Capital Improvement Program Summary.
18. Correspondence: Email from Dr. Kevin Kelly, CEO Crimson Power & Blue Planet EV, 1/4/2023.

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