



Town Of Webster
Massachusetts Est. 1832

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 14, 2022 6:00 P.M.

Selectmen's Meeting Room

Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, 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"

MEETING OPENING: At 6:04 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 Becker, Selectman Lisa Kontoes, Selectman Earl Gabor, Selectman Thomas Klebart, Police Chief Michael Shaw, Attorney Brian Maser (via Zoom meeting), Attorney William Hewig (via Zoom meeting), Attorney Lauren Roche (via Zoom meeting), Town Administrator Richard Lafond and Executive Assistant Courtney Friedland. 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 June 16, 2021, Governor Baker signed into law An Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency. This Act includes an extension, until April 1, 2022, of the remote meeting provisions of his March 12, 2020, Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

Chairman Becker announced the name of each attendee who attended via Zoom.

Chairman Becker welcomed Richard LaFond to his first official Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Chairman Becker held a Moment of Silence for Joan Czechowski, retired Webster Principal, who recently passed away.

Meeting Minutes

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to approve the meeting minutes of February 1, 2022. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

CHIEF MICHAEL SHAW – BI-ANNUAL WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Chief Shaw thanked the Board of Selectmen for having him. He stated this bi-annual report was from July 2021 through December 2021, but the statistics he will provide later are for the full calendar year. He said this gives a great snapshot of the entire year. He stated he would review noteworthy activities, personnel, community events, statistics, crime rates, and outreach.

Noteworthy Activity

- 7/2/21 MV Stop leads to arrest and seizure of 14 grams of Crack and 14 grams of Heroin.
- 7/16/21 Arrest made in connection to Hartley Street Shooting.
- 7/29 New Police Boat in the water.
- 8/4 Shooting on Pleasant Street – Suspect arrested on 8/20.
- 9/6 Robbery at Sunoco. Juveniles apprehended by shift.
- 9/13 Pursuit resulted in arrest of 60-year-old man.
- 9/ 13 SWCCDTF investigation resulted in arrest and seizure of 84 grams of Fentanyl, 13 Suboxone Strips, and 10 Gabepentin pills.
- 10/26 MV Stop leads to 14 grams of Crack and 5 grams of Fentanyl
- 11/15 Head on Crash on Route 12 by Price Chopper. Detail officer provided lifesaving care until EMS arrived.
- 12/2 MV Crash leads to arrest for drugs and multiple summonses.

Community Involvement

- 7/10 Touch a Truck at Webster Public Library.
- 7/22 Cruise Night at the Webster Police Station.
- 8/2 National Night Out.
- 9/19 Webster FOP Bass Fishing Tournament.
- 10/2 Cruise In at the Webster Police Department.
- 10/6 Safety Fair at North Village.
- Main Street Trick or Treat/Trunk or Treat.
- 11/5 Concert at the Town Hall featuring “Peace Restored”.
- 11/15 Coat Drive started.
- 11/22 Turkey Drive with Our Bright Future.
- 11/30 Toy Drive started.
- 12/13 Christmas Parade.
- 12/19 Webster Police Elves pack up toys for families

Personnel

- 7/12 Sergeant Larochelle, Officers Jacek Ochocki, Jon Brooks, and Robert Rockwood recognized by the Webster Board of Selectmen for their heroic actions at a structure fire at 146 High Street.
- 8/1 Alex Johnson started as a lateral transfer from the Littleton Police Department.
- 8/30 Community Outreach Advocate, Jennifer Gnduso started full time.
- 10/4 Officers Robert Brooks, David Brooks, and Joseph Fitzpatrick graduated the Police Academy.
- 10/25 Sergeant Joseph Reed, Officers Francheska Cedeno, Jacek Ochocki, and Thomas Motyka received the TEAM Award by District Attorney Joe Early.

Statistics

2020

Calls - 22,065

Arrests – 548

2021

Calls – 21,875

Arrests - 530

Summons – 770
Citations – 1,326
Crashes – 304

Summons - 755
Citations – 1,220
Crashed 348

Crime Rates

2020

Crimes Against Persons – 530
Crimes Against Property – 510
Crimes Against Society – 114
“Group B Crimes” – 475

2021

Crimes Against Persons - 535 (+1%)
Crimes Against Property -441 (-14%)
Crimes Against Society - 91 (-20%)
“Group B Crimes” - 460 (-3%)

Community Outreach Since August 28, 2021

- Domestic Violence: Contacted 9, Assisted 6.
- Mental Health: Contacted 43, Assisted 21.
- Substance Use Disorder: Contacted 43, Assisted 24.
- Elder Services: Contacted 9, Assisted 9.
- Homeless/Housing: Contacted 5, Assisted 4.
- Other: Contacted 2, Assisted 2.

Regarding Community Outreach efforts, Chief Shaw stated Jennifer Genduso has done an amazing job and has been an asset to the town. She has also been working with Department Heads. Selectman Kontoes stated she is a valuable asset and is glad that we can provide services to residents in need. Selectman Kontoes asked if Chief Shaw could provide the Board of Selectmen a break-down of “problem areas” for vehicle crashes. Chief Shaw stated Exit 2 is a very common location but will provide the Board with a list. Chairman Becker stated Fentanyl is very toxic and wondered how the Police Department handled this kind of drug. Chief Shaw stated the masks have helped with protecting the officers. Since implementing the mask mandate, they officers are less exposed.

Regarding a question, Chief Shaw stated that Police Details are all handled the same. He stated that everyone follows the same procedure. If money is owed to the department for a Police Detail they are not allowed to pull other permits from the town until the entire balance is paid. Chairman Becker suggested the process be documented as a formal policy if it hasn't already.

The Selectmen thanked Chief Shaw for the Webster Police Department's excellent work and dedication.

PLEDGE OF COLLATERAL LICENSE APPLICATION – KINSLEY HOSPITALITY, INC:

Chairman Becker asked if all of the proper paperwork has been submitted. Ms. Friedland stated some of the documents required signatures. She has spoke with Mr. Kinsley and he will be in to sign this week.

Motion by Selectman Kontoes, seconded by Selectman Klebart, to approve the Pledge of Collateral License Application submitted by Kinsley Hospitality, Inc. dba Mohegan Bowl, 51 Thompson Road, Webster subject to the appropriate signatures being obtained. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

OUR BRIGHT FUTURE – “ONE DAY” LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST:

Motion by Selectman Kontoes, seconded by Selectman Klebart, to approve the “One Day” liquor license application submitted by Our Bright Future, Inc., 32 Everett Street, Southbridge for an event at St. Joseph School, 47 Whitcomb Street, Webster on Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 5:00p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

SAMUAL SLATER'S EXPERINENCE – "ONE DAY" LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST:

Motion by Selectman Klebart, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to approve Samuel Slater's Experience, 31 Ray Street, Webster for an event on Thursday, March 3, 2022. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

COUNCIL ON AGING APPOINTMENT – ELAINE GOULD:

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to re-appoint Elaine Gould to the Council on Aging for a term to expire June 30, 2024. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

COUNCIL ON AGING APPOINTMENT – PHYLLIS ROMAN:

Motion by Selectman Klebart, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to appoint Phyllis Roman to the Council on Aging for a term to expire June 30, 2024. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

COUNCIL ON AGING APPOINTMENT – JUDITH LEWINSKI:

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Klebart, to appoint Judith Lewinski to the Council on Aging for a term to expire June 30, 2024. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – TYLER ADOLFO SUSPENSION:

Chairman Becker stated Town Hall staff has expressed concern about Mr. Aldolfo's recent behavior. He stated he has sent and email Mr. Aldofo a notice of this meeting. He stated the Board of Selectmen will need to decide the next steps to take. Selectman Gabor stated he supported the suspension based on the information provided and would also suggest holding a formal hearing to rescind his appointment.

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Klebart, to suspend Tyler Aldolfo from the Economic Development Committee and to set a hearing for the next Board of Selectmen's meeting on March 14, 2022. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

RESCIND ALL ALCOHOL LICENSE – B. KIND CAFÉ:

It was noted that B. Kind Café recently closed.

Motion by Selectman Kontoes, seconded by Selectman Gabor, to rescind the all alcohol liquor license for B. Kind Café, 8 Davis Street, Webster. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. LaFond stated it was nice to be in Webster. He stated he has been very busy with budget discussions. He said it was a great way to meet Department Heads. He stated he should have a draft budget by the end of the month. He stated he was briefed by Mr. Balukonis regarding collective bargaining issues, Host Community Agreements, infrastructure issues, building maintenance, ARPA/CARES monies, benefits, grants and dispatch. Chairman Becker thanked Mr. LaFond for starting early without pay on Monday in order to attend the Department Head Budget meetings. He thanked Mr. Balukonis for all of his hard work and dedication throughout the last five months.

Chairman Becker also wanted to thank the Highway Department for their hard work during all of the recent weather events. He stated they are doing an outstanding job.

Motion by Selectman Klebart, seconded by Selectman Gabor, to approve the Town Administrator's Report. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:59 p.m.,

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Klebart, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

- SEIU Local 888 Clerical, SEIU Local 888 DPW, MassCop Local 473, Teamster Union Local 170 – Discuss Contract Extension
- Bounphasaysonh v. Town of Webster et al.
- Finamore v. Town of Webster et al.
- Town v. Boisvert: 529 S. Main Street
- Church of the Firstborn (Kahai HaB'cor)(AKA "CFB"), CFB President Nathan Marquis LeBaron, Corporation of the Overseer of CFB v. Town of Webster et al.
- Ralph v. Town of Webster et al. (Vote to release meeting minutes)
- Dowgiewicz v. Town of Webster et al. (Vote to release meeting minutes)
- MCAD Complaint - FILED 09/21/21, Docket Number 21WEM01910
- Approval of Executive Session Meeting Minutes
 - February 1, 2022

Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes. Chairman Becker noted the Selectmen will reconvene in open session once Executive Session concluded.

The Selectmen reconvened at 7:45 p.m. from Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF MOA WITH SEIU LOCAL 888 CLERICAL, SEIU LOCAL 888 DPW, AND MASSCOP LOCAL 473:

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to approve the MOA with SEIU Local 888 Clerical, SEIU Local 888 DPW, and MassCop Local 473 for a one-year contract extension, including a 2 ½ % pay increase. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

NEXT MEETING:

March 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m. at Webster Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Kontoes to adjourn the regular session meeting at 7:48 p.m. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Friedland, Executive Secretary to the Board of Selectmen**

EXHIBITS:

1. Draft Meeting Minutes from February 1, 2022 Board of Selectmen's Meeting
2. Document: Kinsley Hospitality Inc, Pledge of Collateral Application
3. Document: Our Bright Future, Inc. - "One Day" Liquor License Application
4. Document: Samuel Slater Experience – "One Dy Liquor License Application
5. Correspondence dated 02/03/2022 from Jean Travis Re: Council on Aging Appointments
6. Correspondence dated 02/07/2022 from Jean Travis Re: Council on Aging Terms
7. Document: Section 7-8 Removal and Suspensions of Town Charter
8. Document: Tyler Adolfo Facebook Posts
9. Correspondence dated 02/07/2022from Greg Robert Re: Basement Incident Report
10. **Correspondence dated 02/07/0222 from Greg Balukonis Re: B. Kind Café Liquor License**
11. Correspondence dated 02/07/2022 from Ericka Labonte Re: Liquor License

