



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, April 12, 2021 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"
6:00 p.m.

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 Becker, Selectman Andrew Jolda, Selectman Lisa Kontoes, Selectman Earl Gabor, Selectman Thomas Klebart (via Zoom Meeting), Michael Chiler (via Zoom meeting), Thomas Andrade (via Zoom meeting), Sondra Murphy (via Zoom meeting), Ericka Labonte, Town Accountant Timothy Bell, Town Administrator Doug Willardson, 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.

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

Meeting Minutes

Motion by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to approve the meeting minutes of March 8, 2021. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

SONDRA MURPHY – INTRODUCTION OF LIBRARY DIRECTOR: Mr. Willardson stated the town is excited to have Sondra Murphy as the new Library Director. He stated Ms. Murphy started in early March and has already got

the Library back on track. She brings great experience, and lots of energy. Ms. Murphy stated she is getting things organized and meeting with the Town Accountant to get up to date on the finances. She stated she has a lot of programs planned. The Board congratulated Ms. Murphy and they look forward to an active library.

WATER/SEWER COMMISSION – UPDATE: Chairman Thomas Andrade stated the Committee is actively searching for a Water/Sewer Superintendent. He stated new projects now require ramps to be ADA compliant. He said the Water/Sewer Commission has agreed to fund the ramps for the current project but doesn't want this to be ongoing. He stated the town and the Commission should be working with Community Development and the ADA Committee on future projects to seek funding sources. Mr. Willardson stated the Water/Sewer Commission does not want to seek precedence on other projects. He stated the ADA ramps could be absorbed into this project because the bids came in below project estimate. Selectman Gabor stated this only includes the ramps, it does not include the sidewalks. He said the Water/Sewer Commission needs to closely collaborate with Carol Cyr. He said they are still waiting for the PFAS testing. Chairman Becker asked how other communities fund the ADA requirements. Mr. Willardson stated most communities use Chapter 90 funding.

RENEWAL OF TOWN ACCOUNTANT, TIMOTHY BELL, CONTRACT: Mr. Willardson stated Mr. Bell is doing a great job. The town is in a much better position. He has gotten the town back on the right track. He said the proposed contract is mostly updates. He said one of the biggest changes was lowering the buy out for sick time. He said Mr. Bell would like to retire in 9 years. That would give him a total of 12 years a little under the required 15-year buyout for non-union personal. Mr. Bell thanked the Board for their support. He said it has been a very fast three years. Chairman Becker stated the town's finances have never been better. Mr. Willardson stated there are only three people with contracts in the town. Chairman Becker stated he personally felt comfortable with the change.

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Jolda, to approve the renewal of Town Accountant, Timothy Bell's, contract as presented for an additional three-year term. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

RONALD PREST – APPOINTMENT TO TRUSTEE OF SOLDIERS MONUMENTS COMMITTEE:

Motion by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to appoint Ronald Prest to the Trustees of Soldiers Monuments Committee. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

B. KIND CAFÉ – REQUEST FOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE: Mr. Willardson stated the owners of B. Kind Café are seeking an Entrainment License. Ms. Labonte stated she would like to have a piano player on the weekends, a comedy night and play soft guitar music. She said she currently has two outside tables.

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to approve the request for an Entertainment License for B. Kind Café, 8 Davis Street, Webster, MA Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

MIKE CHILER, MIKE'S CRUNCHIES & MUNCHIES – REQUEST FOR BEER & WINE LICENSE: Mr. Willardson stated Mr. Chiler was seeking the approval of the Beer and Wine License that was previously issued to Lobster Nook. He has taken over the lease at that location and plans to open up soon. He said Mr. Chiler will be seeking an Entertainment License at the next Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Mr. Chiler stated Mr. Willardson and his staff have been very helpful during this process. He said the Lobster Nook has not been in operation for a long time. He said he is currently making improvements to the building and is looking to open the second week of May.

Motion by Selectman Kontoes, seconded by Selectman Klebart, to approve the request for a Beer and Wine License for Mike Chiler, Mike's Crunchies and Munchies, 32 Main Street, Webster, MA Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

DISCHARGE OF LIEN – 24 JOYCE STREET:

Motion by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to discharge the lien granted to the Town of Webster by: Mr. Maciej Tomkiewicz, 24 Joyce Street, Webster, MA. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT: Mr. Willardson went through the articles:

1. Prior Year Bills
2. Prior Years Bills
3. Prior Year Bills
4. Snow and Ice
5. Capital Project – Paving of the Middle School
6. Cable Access Budget
7. Transfer to OPEB

Motion by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to recommend approval of articles 1-7 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant for the Special Town Meeting on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at Bartlett High School, 52 Lake Parkway, Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT: Mr. Willardson went through the articles:

1. Reports from the Finance Committee
2. FY22 General Fund Annual Budget
3. FY22 Sewer Annual Budget
4. FY22 Water Annual Budget
5. Short-Term Borrowings
6. Revolving Funds
7. Cable Access Budget
8. Appropriation to Economic Development Fund
9. Declare Police Boat Surplus
10. Authorize Funds to be used to Purchase New Police Boat
11. Donation of Property – 0 Oxford Avenue
12. Zoning District Change
13. Amend Zoning Table – Special Permit
14. Pre-existing Non-Conforming Buildings
15. Zoning Amendment
16. Amend Zoning Map
17. Gold Star Tax Exemption
18. Citizen's petition

Motion by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to recommend approval for articles 1-17 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at

Bartlett High School, 52 Lake Parkway, Webster as presented and amended. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

Motion by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Gabor, to recommend refer to sponsor for article 18 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Bartlett High School, 52 Lake Parkway, Webster. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

TOWN ELECTION WARRANT FOR MAY 3, 2021:

Motion by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Gabor, to approve the Town Election Warrant for May 3, 2021. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Patriot's Day April 19th – Town Hall closed
- Earth Cleanup Day April 24th

1. Public Health and Safety

- a. Three police officers start academy on April 24th
- b. Coronavirus
 - i. 27 Cases last week; a lot of children
 - ii. Vaccine
 1. Golden Heights Clinic held on 3/24; next dose April 27th
 2. Homebound vaccinations taking place this Wednesday

2. Financially Responsible

- a. 2022 Budget:
 - i. School department said they can use stimulus funds to close the budget gap on their side of the budget
 - ii. Joint Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee meeting on April 26th at 6:00 pm
 - iii. Expecting significant funding from recent Federal stimulus; \$1.67 million – not much direction on how this can be spent

3. Economic Development

- a. Tapped Jessica Valby, owner of Stave and Still, to be chair of Economic Development Committee. First time we'll have a local business owner as chair
- b. The Caribbean Grill opened in March. Two additional restaurants plan on opening before our next meeting.
- c. Received regional PILOT grant to assist local entrepreneurs/local business owners
- d. Chris Robert is looking to create a railroad demonstration area/museum downtown at the railroad tracks

- e. Samuel Slater Museum won the Silver Hammer Award from the Worcester Chamber of Commerce for best reuse of an old building.
 - f. We are planning on fireworks for the 3rd of July if permitted by the State
4. Maintain Infrastructure
- a. Lake Parkway/Klebart Ave. Paving to start around April 20th
 - b. South Main. NGrid to finished gas lines on East Main and South Main; now doing repairs on side streets. Work will continue in May
 - c. Town Hall roof. Project started. Completed by June 30th
 - d. Water Main Improvements. Preconstruction meeting tomorrow
 - e. Met with MassDOT in regards to a new “French River Connection” trail from Oxford through downtown and into Webster. We applied for a planning grant through the State.
5. Effective Delivery of Services/Operations
- a. Implementing improved online bill pay. Will be able to look up bill information including prior payments, schedule payments, ect. Will be able to use same system for beach/compost stickers, birth/death certificates, dog licenses, marriage licenses.
 - b. Posting closes for Water and Sewer Superintendents positions on Friday
6. Transparent, Open and Friendly Government
- a. Committee vacancies:
 - i. Finance Committee (2 openings)
 - ii. ZBA Associate Member (2 openings)
 - iii. Conservation Commission alternate (2 openings)
 - iv. Water and Sewer Commission (1 opening)
 - v. Historical Commission (1 opening)
 - vi. Youth, Parks and Recreation Committee (2 openings)
 - vii. Trustees of Soldiers and Monuments (1 opening)

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:19 p.m.,

Motion by Selectman Klebart, seconded by Selectman Gabor, 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.

- **Ralph v. Town of Webster et al.**
- **Bounphasaysonh v. Town of Webster et al.**
- **Finamore v. Town of Webster et al.**
- **BWC Chamberland Pond, LLC v. Planning Board**

- **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.**

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

The Board of selectmen returned to Regular Session from Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. where a motion was made to adjourn regular session.

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

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

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

Next Meeting: April 26, 2021, 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570