



Office of the Board of Selectmen  
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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**

**Monday, May 16, 2022 5:30 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 6:00 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, Kelly Seddiki, Nicholas Adamopoulos, David Hurton, Superintendent of Schools Ruthann Goguen, Business Manager Monique Pierangeli, Building Commissioner Ted Tetreault, Fire Chief Brian Hickey, Michael Botoelho, Finance Director Tim Bell, 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 February 15, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law a new session law extending certain COVID-19 related measures. The new law, Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, includes an extension until July 15, 2022, of the remote meeting provisions of the Governor's March 12, 2020, Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

Chairman Becker announced there was no one attending via Zoom.

Chairman Becker welcomes back Donald Bourque to the Board of Selectmen.

## Meeting Minutes

**Motion by Selectman Kontoes, seconded by Selectman Klebart, to approve the meeting minutes of May 9, 2022. Call Vote: Selectman Bourque – abstain, Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.**

### **MEETING WITH SCHOOL COMMITTEE – BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION – PROJECT UPDATE:**

Kelly Seddiki called the School Committee Meeting to order.

Chairman Becker stated the Board of Selectmen received a letter from the School Building Committee requesting the Board of Selectmen approve another Special Town Meeting and Ballot Vote to the community prior to the MSBA deadline of June 30, 2022. He stated the votes were very close at both the Town Meeting and Ballot Vote. He stated the MSBA isn't meeting again until the end of June and there is no guarantee that an extension will be granted by the MSBA. Ms. Seddiki stated the School Committee believes that the support of this project has gained momentum. She stated after careful consideration, she believes there is support for this project and the School Committee supports another chance to put the vote to residents. Selectman Gabor asked what approach would be used to get the word out and residents out to vote? Superintendent Goguen stated they have had many conversations about communication. She stated they have compiled an outreach plan. She stated there is a new message they need to get out to the residents about the condition of the building. She stated they need to focus on the current condition of the building. The Architect stated the MSBA can't guarantee an extension. He stated there isn't a lot of past practice of extension with an extension given for a renovation project. Superintendent Goguen went through the scenarios of what the cost would be if the project wasn't funded. The Architect stated the estimated cost to bring the building up to code would be \$66 million. Breaking it out into smaller projects over multi-years the overall costs would be close to \$113-\$129 million, without interest included. Chairman Becker stated this needs to be made clear to voters. He said the MSBA funding would not be available if broken out of a multi-year plan and would cost a lot more to tax payers over time.

Mr. Tetreault stated Chief Hickey and himself conducted an inspection last week. He stated the school is breaking down. He said it is not efficient to do a multi-year upgrade because these things need to be addressed now. He said there are safety issues. He stated he can't stress enough that things need to be done all at once. Chief Hickey agreed and said the health and safety of our children are priority. He said he fully supports this project and doesn't recommend a multi-year plan.

Chairman Becker stated communication is key. He stated there is new information that should be communicated. He said they have 45 days to get the public more educated. Selectman Klebart asked when taxpayers start paying for the project. Mr. Bell stated he didn't know. He said it could be beneficial to bond earlier depending on the interest rates. Chairman Becker stated it might be beneficial to put together an impact schedule. Mr. Bell said he will try to put one together. Mr. LaFond stated it is typically borrowed near the end of the project which would be in 2-3 years. Superintendent Goguen stated it takes a village to spread the message. She said the building has reached its life expectancy. Selectman Klebart suggested a full grassroots community initiative. Chairman Becker stated there was a

lot of misinformation on Facebook. He stated a fact sheet with FAQ's would help resolve some of this. He suggested having a point person that can answer questions on Facebook.

**APPROVAL OF BALLOT QUESTION FOR SPECIAL ELECTION:**

**Motion made by Selectman Kontoes, seconded by Selectman Klebart to approve and place the following ballot question on Town Election Warrant for June 28, 2022:**

**“Shall the Town of Webster be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two-and-one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to pay costs of the Bartlett High School Renovation Project, located at 52 Lake Parkway, Webster.**

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_”

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

**OPEN SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT:**

**Motion by Selectman Klebart, seconded by Selectman Gabor, to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant for Tuesday, 6/21/22 at 6:30 p.m. at Bartlett High School, 52 Lake Parkway, Webster with a Closing Date of 5/27/22 at Noon for Submission of Articles or Citizen Petitions. Call Vote: Selectman Bourque – yes, Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.**

**MUNRO ASSOCIATES, LLC – REQUEST TO AMEND HOURS:**

Mr. Botolho stated he would like the ability to tailor his hours during the year to customer usage. He would request the maximum and then reduce them as needed. This would allow him some flexibility without having him to come back when wanting to adjust hours. He stated he looks at his local competitors' hours and would like to match their times. He stated their Worcester store closes later. He is requesting the approved hours 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. seven days a week. Chairman Becker stated he would like to have Chief Shaw's input and approval.

**Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to amend Munro Associates, LLC hours of operation to 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. seven days a week, subject to the approval of Chief Shaw. Call Vote: Selectman Bourque – yes, Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.**

**PER-AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) - UPDATE:**

Selectman Gabor stated PFAS has been a topic for many months. He stated over the weekend the main well at Memorial Beach encountered mechanical issues. He stated a Code Red Alert was sent out regarding putting Bigelow well back online. He stated closing well 6 at Memorial Beach has nothing to do with the Treatment Plant as someone mentioned on Facebook. Mr. LaFond stated MassDEP required the town to send out the Code Red Alert as a precautionary measure. Chairman Becker stated the Water/Sewer Commission is looking at PFAS solution proposals. He stated there isn't a clear proposal or firm figures right now. Selectman Gabor stated he has been in touch with Representative McKenna and Senator Fattman regarding Massachusetts PFAS regulations. He stated there will be a Public Hearing in August. He stated proposals came in between \$19-\$39 million depending on different solutions. He

stated they built in 40% in contingencies. He stated they will have more realistic numbers in August. Chairman Becker stated this is affecting almost every town. Selectman Gabor stated they are looking at loans and grants.

**COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION:**

Chairman Becker stated he had a conversation with Attorney Hewig and asked what the Board of Selectmen (as a whole and individually) could do in regards to promoting the school vote. Mr. LaFond stated Attorney Hewig has advised that the Board can't utilize town's resources. They can't spend town money on promoting the project. Selectmen (1 or 2) are allowed to attend events and advocate and educate. Selectman Klebart suggested submitting an article to the editor. Chairman Becker stated he will work on a draft letter to be discussed at the next meeting.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

1. Personnel – The town has contracted with the Collins Center to conduct a Classification and Compensation Survey. This will be completed by the end of June. The Personnel Advisory Board will then review it. After this project is complete the town will start a Personnel Review. This will review all of our current policies and procedures in place and provide a report.
2. Cable Contract Renewal – The Cable Advisory Committee currently has six members. He sent all members an email and is looking forward to schedule meeting next month.

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

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

Finance Committee	Full Member - 1
Personnel Advisory Board	Full Member - 1
Water & Sewer Commission	Full Member - 1
Zoning Board of Appeals	Alternates - 2
Economic Development Committee	Full Member - 2
Historical Commission	Full Members - 2
By-Law Committee	Full Members – 2
ADA Committee	Full Members - 2
Cable Advisory Board	Full Members - 3

**NEXT MEETING:**

**May 31, 2022, 6:00 p.m. Selectmen's Meeting Room, Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570**

**June 13, 2022, 6:00 p.m. Second Floor Meeting Room, Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570**

June 21, 2022, 6:00 p.m. Second Floor Meeting Room, Bartlett High School, 52 Lake Parkway, Webster, MA 01570

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Selectman Klebart, seconded by Selectman Bourque to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Call Vote: Selectman Bourque – yes, 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 May 9, 2022 Board of Selectmen's Meeting
2. Document: MSBA Process handout
3. Document: School Renovation cost breakdown if construction over multiple years.
4. Document: Outreach Plan for the proposed BHS Renovation Project
5. Documents: Massachusetts Architectural Access Board Regulations
6. Correspondence dated 03/13/2022 from David Hurton, School Building Committee
7. Correspondence dated 05/12/22 from Mike Botelho Re: Request to amend hours

