



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,
October 18, 2021 6:00 P.M.**

Bartlett High School, Second Floor Meeting Room
52 Lake Parkway, Webster, MA 01570
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 Second Floor Meeting Room, Bartlett High School, 52 Lake Parkway, Webster, MA. The following individuals were present: Chairman Becker, Selectman Andrew Jolda, Selectman Lisa Kontoes, Selectman Earl Gabor, Selectman Thomas Klebart, National Grid Representative Kim Tavallaimla (via Zoom meeting), Town Accountant Timothy Bell, Interim Town Administrator Greg Balukonis, and Assistant Town Administrator 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.

Meeting Minutes

Motion by Selectman Klebart, seconded by Selectman Jolda, to approve the meeting minutes of September 27, 2021. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – abstain.

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Jolda, to approve the meeting minutes of September 23, 2021. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - abstain, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

CLASS III LICENSE APPLICATION – JK AUTO BODY AND GLASS, LLC:

Chairman Becker stated the Board received an application for a Class III License Application from JK Auto Body and Glass, LLC. Building Commissioner Theodore Tetreault is in support of granting this license.

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to approve the Class III License Application filed by JK Auto Body and Glass, LLC, 63 East Main Street, Webster, MA. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

NATIONAL GRID POLE HEARING – KOSMAS STREET:

Motion by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to open the Public Hearing for National Grid's request to approve National Grid's request to install 1 JO Pole on Kosmas Street beginning at a point approximately 475 feet east of the centerline of the intersection of Thompson Road and continuing approximately 20 feet in a south direction. Install 1x midspan pole between poles 4 & 5 on Kosmas Street. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

Chairman Becker asked if there was anyone from the audience or Zoom that had any questions, concerns, or comments. Hearing none he asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to close the Public Hearing for National Grid's request to approve National Grid's request to install 1 JO Pole on Kosmas Street beginning at a point approximately 475 feet east of the centerline of the intersection of Thompson Road and continuing approximately 20 feet in a south direction. Install 1x midspan pole between poles 4 & 5 on Kosmas Street. 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 Klebart, to approve National Grid's request to approve National Grid's request to install 1 JO Pole on Kosmas Street beginning at a point approximately 475 feet east of the centerline of the intersection of Thompson Road and continuing approximately 20 feet in a south direction. Install 1x midspan pole between poles 4 & 5 on Kosmas Street. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

RESCIND APPOINTMENT – KELLY BALDERELLI:

Chairman Becker stated the Board received letters from the Chairman of the Planning Board and Historical Commission requesting the Board rescind the appointment of Kelly Balderelli. He stated Ms. Balderelli sent an email stating extenuating circumstances have kept her from attending meetings. She understands and respects the Boards decision.

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Jolda, to rescind the appointment of Kelly Balderelli to the Planning Board and Historical Commission. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

TED AVLAS – RESIGNATION TO THE CABLE ADVSIORY COMMITTEE:

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Jolda, to accept the resignation Ted Avlas to the Cable Advisory Committee with regret and gratitude for his efforts over the past several years.. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

REVIEW ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES:

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to recommend the approval of Article 1 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Jolda, to recommend passing over for more information Article 2 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Klebart, to recommend passing over for more information Article 3 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

Motion by Selectman Kontoes, seconded by Selectman Klebart, to recommend the approval of Article 4 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to recommend passing over for more information Article 5 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Jolda, to recommend the approval of Article 6 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

Motion by Selectman Klebart, seconded by Selectman Gabor, to recommend passing over for more information Article 7 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

Motion by Selectman Gabor, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to recommend the approval of Article 8 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. 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 Kontoes, to recommend the approval of Article 9 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. 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 Kontoes, to recommend the approval of Article 10 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

Selectman Jolda recused himself from the next Town Meeting Article vote.

Motion by Selectman Kontoes, seconded by Selectman Gabor, to recommend the approval of Article 11 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. Coronavirus & Public Health
 - i. There are 30 new cases and 61 active cases during the past week ending October 17th. There is a total of 18 so-called breakthrough cases, 5 in school age children and 7 in congregate care settings. The good news there are no hospitalizations or deaths to report.
 - ii. A Mask Order is in-place for all municipal buildings for the past 2 weeks. There have been no issues brought to my attention.
 - iii. A couple of municipal employees have been ill over the past weeks and exercised caution in not reporting to work- there are no known positive cases in the workforce. Health
 - iv. Laurie Keefe is the shared Community Health Coordinator. She started work today and comes to us via Blackstone where Laurie was the COA Director.
2. Human Resources- Employee Comings/Goings/Transfers/Other
 - a. New employees- Traci Corporale, ConCom Recording Secretary; Bruce Morando, Highway Motor Equipment Operator/Laborer
 - b. Transfers- Eric Guiou, from Highway to Water/Sewer
 - c. Job Reclassification- Courtney's position has been reclassified as Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director based on my recommendation with input provided by Selectmen Becker and Jolda. Her new job description which provides a switch in responsibilities was approved by the Personnel Advisory Board. Going forward, the office will be undergoing a transition with the Clerk position remaining vacant until a new Town Administrator is on-board in CY 2022.
3. Financial Issues
 - a. Work in the FY 21 financial audit has commenced with the independent auditors on-site beginning last week.
 - b. I'm waiting for confirmation the annual Tax Classification which needs to take place in order to set the FY 22 tax rate. There are no issues that I am aware of that would cause a problem in setting the tax rate.
4. Economic Development
 - a. The ARPA business grant program for local businesses and non-profit organizations was launched with several applications being reviewed by the Development Team.

- b. Work is beginning on the MVP grant that address climate preparedness and opens Webster up to receive additional grants. A Core Group has been assembled which will work closely with State officials and the grant consultant.
5. Infrastructure & Projects
- a. Work on the Town Hall roof project has recommenced.
 - b. The Water and Sewer Commission is arranging a public hearing on a date TBD but expected between October 26th and 29th. Public notification will be made once a date is finalized.
 - c. Town officials attended a Mass DOT public hearing on reconstruction of the Rt. 395/Rt. 16/Sutton Ave intersection. The project is still early in the design phase and is being funded under the State's TIP program.
6. Other
- a. Selectmen Jolda recused himself from the next discussion item. A property owner has filed a complaint claiming the Conservation Commission has not published or made drafts of minutes available required under the open meeting law. In addition, the complaint alleges certain statements made by Commission members as they relate to Loveland Road are false. Chairman Becker is aware of the issue and is working with the parties to resolve this matter. He asked if another Selectman was interested in reviewing the matter with him to let him know.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Gabor, to adjourn at 6:54 p.m.

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 Meetings:

November 8, 2021, Board of Selectmen's Meeting 6:00 p.m. Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570