

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Remote Participation
January 11, 2021– 6:00 P.M.

Participating Remotely: Doreen M. Goodrich, Tristan J. Laliberte, Daniel S. Carpenter, Lionel Berthiaume and Scott C. Wrenn
Also: Town Manager Julie A. Jacobson and CFO/Asst. Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz

The Chair Doreen Goodrich stated that this Open Meeting of the Town of Auburn Board of Selectmen is being conducted remotely, consistent with Governor Baker’s Executive Order of March 12, 2020, which suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible *physical* location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely as long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will allow for public comment under agenda item 2a) and there is a call in number for those who want to speak during that public hearing. For the public to join the meeting remotely by telephone, call 1-408-650-3123 and enter Access Code 235-235-861. Or, the public can join via computer at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/235235861>.

All supporting materials that have been provided to the members of this body are available on the Town’s website. The public is encouraged to follow along using the posted agenda.

As a preliminary matter, she identified herself as Doreen Goodrich the Chair of the Board and confirmed that all members and persons participating in the agenda were present and could hear her:

- Lionel Berthiaume - Yes
- Daniel Carpenter - Yes
- Tristan Laliberte - Yes
- Scott Wrenn - Yes

Also,

- Town Manager Julie Jacobson - Yes
- CFO/Asst. Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz - Yes
- Administrative Assistant Sharon Kwiatkowski - Yes

The Chair also noted that the meeting was being recorded by Auburn Cable Television and she stated that all votes to be taken in this meeting will be conducted by roll call vote.

Chairman Doreen Goodrich called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

AMG Enterprises LLC Auto Repair License at 451 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA.

The Board voted to open the public hearing (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Laliberte) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mrs. Goodrich, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

Mr. Adam Genuario was participating remotely representing AMG Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Midas of Auburn. He explained the application and that there were no changes in the operations, just a change in ownership.

The Development Coordinating Group (DCG) provided the following recommended conditions to be placed on the license:

- The applicant shall obtain all necessary permits and inspections from Town Departments, Boards, or Commissions;
- The applicant shall work with the Department of Public Works regarding the disposal of oil and waste at the property;
- The applicant shall obtain any necessary permits from the Building Department and review any applicable ADA requirements.

There were no questions by Board members and there were no public comments from abutters.

At 6:05 P.M, the Board of Selectmen voted to close the hearing (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Laliberte) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mrs. Goodrich, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

The Board of Selectmen then voted to approve the license, provided that all applicable requirements of the state and town and any of its departments, boards, commissions have been fulfilled. Said license is subject to all the conditions stated upon it. Failure to comply with any and all the conditions shall invalidate the license and render it null and void, and with the conditions of the DCG to be placed on the license (Motion made by Mr. Laliberte; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mrs. Goodrich, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

The Board then voted to move forward agenda item 5a) with 3a) – motion made by Mr. Laliberte; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume and voted by roll call: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mrs. Goodrich, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

Communications

Public Safety Facilities Advisory Committee Recommendation on Police and Fire Facilities

Mr. Kevin Kennedy, Chairman of the Public Safety Facilities Advisory Committee, was participating remotely and gave an overview of the work of the committee since August of 2019 and the subsequent recommendation that the Town of Auburn begins the process of building a new combined public safety facility for police and fire services. He discussed the committee's vote on December 28, 2020 as to how to proceed with the proposed Public Safety Facility Project. His report discussed the major factors of the project- the acquisition of a parcel of land to build the facility and the timeline proposals.

Town Manager Julie Jacobson presented further information concerning the timeline and specifics for land acquisition. She reviewed the timeline that had been provided to the Board for the meeting.

Police Chief Andrew Sluckis and Fire Chief Stephen Coleman were participating remotely in the discussion.

Selectman Lionel Berthiaume asked if eminent domain was an option that had been considered for land acquisition.

The Town Manager replied that it was an option, but that it was not preferable or recommended at this time because it is a long, expensive process and often results in litigation.

The Board voted to move forward agenda items 5b) and 3b) 61 Notification of Intent to Sell 50 Washington Street (Motion made by Mr. Laliberte; motion seconded by Mr. Wrenn) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mrs. Goodrich, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

Chair Doreen Goodrich announced that she would be turning over the gavel to the Vice Chairman Tristan Laliberte to preside over the items based on guidance she has received from the State Ethics Commission. Mrs. Goodrich stated that, although she is not a direct abutter herself, she resides in cooperative living where the entire property is considered an abutter and so she was recusing herself in the matter. State Ethics further advised that any time there is a change to property there is the potential for financial impact because of the valuation of the property, either positive or negative, and so she is required to recuse herself from any meetings or public hearings to do with the 61A Notice of Intent.

Mrs. Goodrich stated that since this is a remote meeting she was turning off her camera and microphone. She said that when the agenda item was completed, Mr. Laliberte would inform her via text and she would re-log onto the meeting and resume the Chair.

The Town Manager presented the Notice of Intent to sell land at 50 Washington Street (currently classified agricultural) for other use per M.G.L. c61. Town Manager Jacobson explained that the Town of Auburn (Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Assessors, Planning Board and the Conservation Commission) have received a “Notice of Intent to Sell Land for Other Use: Land located on 50 Washington Street, in the Town of Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, (Assessor Parcel ID: 027_014), containing 30.5 acres of land and being further described in deeds recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 44037, Page 370 and 63687 Page 297, Land owners James G. Cutting of Auburn, MA. and Laurel A. Post of Douglas, MA. The owners intend to sell the parcel of land to 190 Washington Auburn, LLC, a Massachusetts limited liability company. The proposed use of the land is commercial.

Ms. Jacobson said that when the Notice of Intent was submitted to the Town it was provided to Town Counsel per the Town of Auburn Lands Policy and Process: MGL Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B Land as part of the Town’s response requirements.

The Board of Selectmen voted to schedule a public hearing for the Notice of Intent to sell 50 Washington Street for the next meeting on January 25, 2021 at 6:15 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Wrenn) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes and Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Mrs. Goodrich then returned to the remote meeting via computer and resumed the Chair.

Board of Selectmen General Items

Gift Acceptances in Accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 53A

The Board of Selectmen voted to approve with gratitude an anonymous gift from a Library patron Auburn resident to the Auburn Public Library in the amount of \$20.00 to be used at the discretion of the Library Director (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Mr. Laliberte) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mrs. Goodrich, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

The Board of Selectmen voted to approve with gratitude a gift from Masterman's to the Department of Development and Inspectional Services, a donation of goods - 10 cases (120 bottles) of 16 ounce hand sanitizer (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Laliberte) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mrs. Goodrich, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

The Board of Selectmen voted to approve with gratitude gifts totaling \$385.00 to the Fire/Rescue Department, Fire Department Gift Account, from the following donors:

- Ann R. Spaziante in the amount of \$50.00
- Christopher Sacco in the amount of \$50.00
- Michael Roach in the amount of \$35.00
- Kevin J. Hussey in the amount of \$250.00

(Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Mr. Laliberte) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mrs. Goodrich, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

Proclamations and Recognitions

There were no items.

Town Manager Items

Request Vote of the Board of Selectmen for a Partial Waiver of Permit Fees for Pennrose Properties for the Redevelopment Project at the former Julia Bancroft Elementary School

Building Commissioner Caleb Moody was participating remotely for the item. Also joining the meeting remotely was Karmen Cheung of Pennrose Properties.

The Town Manager Julie Jacobson presented the request for a waiver of a portion of the permit fees charged to Pennrose Properties in the amount of \$30,000.00. The total building permit fees would be \$165,852.00 minus \$30,000.00 or \$135,852.00.

Ms. Jacobson discussed the closing on the Julia Bancroft building that is to happen at the end of January.

Ms. Karmen Cheung provided information on the anticipated construction period for the Julia Bancroft redevelopment project. She also gave an update on the status of the Mary D. Stone redevelopment project.

Mr. Caleb Moody advised that the waiver would be strictly for the building and would not affect the fees that the Town has to pay to the private contractors for the plumbing and gas inspections, etc.

The Board of Selectmen voted to waive a portion of the permit fees for Pennrose Properties for the redevelopment project at the former Julia Bancroft Elementary School in the amount of \$30,000.00 (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Laliberte) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mrs. Goodrich, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

Tabled Items

There were no items.

Board of Selectmen Member Items

There were no items.

The Chair asked if there were any corrections or omissions in the minutes of November 23, 2020. There being none, the Chair accepted the minutes of November 23, 2020 as written.

Chair Doreen Goodrich asked if there were any corrections or omissions in the minutes of December 14, 2020. There being none, the Chair accepted the minutes of December 14, 2020 as written.

At 7:06 P.M. the Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn the meeting (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Laliberte) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mrs. Goodrich, Yes – passed 5 to 0.

Submitted: Sharon A. Kwiatkowski
Adm. Assistant to the Town Manager

The following documents were part of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of January 11, 2021 and are retained in the Executive Office of the Town Manager:

- January 11, 2021 Agenda.
- Application Documents – AMG Enterprises, LLC for Auto Repair License at 451 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA; Memorandum (dated January 6, 2021) from Development Coordinating Group (DCG).
- Letter from Chairman of Public Safety Facilities Advisory Committee (dated January 7, 2021) - Recommendations for Proposed Joint Public Safety Facility.
- Notice of Intent to Sell Land (Pursuant to Mass. General Laws Chapter 61) 50 Washington Street, Auburn, MA.
- Gift Acceptance Forms – Auburn Public Library, Department of Development and Inspectional Services (DDIS) Public Health, and Fire/Rescue Department.
- Letter from Pennrose Properties (dated December 14, 2020) Request for Partial Waiver of Town Permit Fees for the Redevelopment of the Julia Bancroft School Building.
- Minutes of November 23, 2020 and December 14, 2020.