

Minutes of the Meeting
Of the Board of Selectmen
Remote Participation Only
June 8, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.

Present Remotely: Board Members Daniel S. Carpenter, Doreen M. Goodrich and Lionel R. Berthiaume
Also: Town Manager Julie A. Jacobson and CFO/Assistant Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz

Chairman Daniel Carpenter called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Mr. Carpenter announced that the meeting was being recorded by Auburn Cable Television. He asked if anyone else was recording the meeting. No one so indicated.

The Board of Selectmen observed a moment of silence and acknowledgement of the death of Auburn Police Officer Ron Tarentino in the line of duty in 2016.

The Board of Selectmen observed a moment of silence for our fallen veterans and their loved ones, those suffering from or who lost their lives to Covid-19, essential businesses, essential workers and first responders, and those who are in need.

Public Hearings/Presentations

There were no public hearings or presentations.

Communications

There were no items.

Board of Selectmen General Items

Transient Vendor License Application- Juniper Farms Ice Cream Co., Inc.

An individual identifying herself as Cassia May was participating remotely on behalf of the application. She described the business operations.

The Development Coordinating Group (DCG) had submitted the following recommendations for conditions on the license:

- The applicant shall receive all necessary approvals and inspections from the Auburn Board of Health prior to operating.
- The applicant shall abide by all conditions listed on their license.
- The applicant shall inform the Board of Selectmen of any changes in hours of operation.

Hours of operation for the mobile truck were stated in the DCG memo as Monday – Sunday from noon to dusk.

In addition, the Police Chief has written that he has no issues or objections to the application.

DDIS Director Darlene Coyle was participating remotely to speak on the application and she advised the Board that the business had been previously licensed in the past, but the license

expired. Ms. Coyle said that, as stated in the DCG's memo, Cassia has been in touch with the Board of Health today prior to opening.

Mr. Berthiaume made a motion to approve the license, provided that all applicable requirements of the state and town and any of its departments, boards and 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 recommended by the DCG to be placed on the license. Mrs. Goodrich seconded the motion for discussion.

Mrs. Goodrich asked if the Board should be putting specific COVID-19 guidelines on the license applications.

Cassia described the precautions that they are taking per their operation plan. In response to a member's question, she said that there would be only one truck in Auburn.

Ms. Coyle stated that the State updated guidelines for ice cream trucks will be followed; e.g. packaged individual ice cream only, etc.

The vote on the motion was by roll call: Mrs. Goodrich, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Carpenter, Yes – passed 3 to 0.

The Board of Selectmen voted to move up and take in sequence Board of Selectmen Item 5g), Town Manager Items 6a) and 6c) and Board of Selectmen Items 5d) and 6b); motion made by Mrs. Goodrich; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume – voted by roll call: Mrs. Goodrich, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes Mr. Carpenter, Yes – passed 3 to 0.

5g) Discussion of the report provided by the Town Clerk on the cost of a Special Election and potential vote on the Special Election to fill the two vacant seats on the Board of Selectmen.

Town Clerk Debra Gremo was participating remotely and she discussed her report, as requested by the Board of Selectmen, on special election costs. Ms. Gremo advised that this meeting tonight would be the latest date to schedule an election for August 11th.

Mr. Berthiaume said that he thought that four elections in one year might be too much for the voters. He suggested combining the local special election with the State Primary or General Election in November. He said that maybe there would be a better turnout for the local election. Mr. Berthiaume discussed cost impacts he deduced after his review of Ms. Gremo's report in terms of poll workers and ballots.

Ms. Gremo said that normally she needs 30 workers for a town election, but this year because of the circumstances she had a waiver for the town election to use less workers. There would need to be more workers for a dual election and there would be two separate ballots with corresponding procedures for each.

Mrs. Goodrich said that she thinks August would be too soon for an election because of the government's phased re-opening plan.

Mr. Carpenter advised that the Board had received a citizen's petition this morning for a special election. It was submitted to the Board of Selectmen as per the proper process and then forwarded to the Town Clerk for certification of the signatures.

Mrs. Goodrich said that the Board came to the meeting intending to call a special election and now with the petition the Board is mandated to hold the special election. She said that she doesn't support August 11th because it would be too early. She said that the Board could still call for the special election on September 1st (same date as the State Primary) at their June 22nd meeting.

Following the discussion, Mr. Berthiaume made a motion to hold a dual election on September 1, 2020, the Tuesday before Labor Day, for the local Special Election to be on the same date as the State Primary Election to fill two vacant seats (1 three-year term and 1 one-year term) on the Board of Selectmen. Mrs. Goodrich seconded the motion and the Board of Selectmen voted by roll call: Mrs. Goodrich, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes Mr. Carpenter, Yes – passed 3 to 0.

6a) Vote to Authorize, Accept and Expend 2020 MVP Action Grant Funds from Mass Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and Board Vote on Letter of Support.

Town Manager Julie Jacobson presented the agenda item.

Town Planner Adam Menard explained the grant, which is the 2020 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant, which is awarded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The grant award would pay for a project to improve water quality and mitigate the contaminating effects of stormwater with continued educational outreach and the improvement of a long failing set of culverts that Kettle Brook traverses under Sword Street.

The Board of Selectmen voted to authorize, accept and expend 2020 MVP Action Grant Funds from the Mass Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and authorize a letter of support for the grant application (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mrs. Goodrich) roll call vote: Mrs. Goodrich, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes Mr. Carpenter, Yes – passed 3 to 0.

6c) Informational Item Only – The Town of Auburn is seeking comments on the draft Best Management Practices to Protect Drinking Water Supply Areas.

Town Manager Jacobson advised that the Town had received a grant through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program this past winter to develop drinking water protection measures. The draft Best Management Practices document is on the Town of Auburn website. She said that the Town Planner is seeking comments by the end of the week.

5d) Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw Delay Request.

The Town Manager presented the background of the agenda item.

Darlene Coyle, DDIS Director and Health Director, reviewed her letter that explains the Board of Health's support for holding off the enforcement of the Plastic Bag Reduction bylaw until January 1, 2021. Ms. Coyle asked the Board of Selectmen to take this matter under consideration. She stated that on March 25, 2020 Governor Baker issued an order banning the use of reusable checkout bags in grocery and pharmacy stores until further notice and putting on hold any municipal ordinances or regulations banning single-use plastic bags in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts due to the COVID-19 virus and uncertainty about methods of transmission.

The Board of Selectmen then voted to hold off the enforcement of the Plastic Bag Reduction bylaw until January 1, 2021 (Motion made by Mrs. Goodrich; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Mrs. Goodrich, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes Mr. Carpenter, Yes – passed 3 to 0.

6b) Update on the new Town of Auburn Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services Contract.

Julie Jacobson introduced the item and Darlene Coyle described the highlights of the new Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services Contract with Casella Waste Management, which will begin on July 1, 2020 for a period of three years with an optional renewable two-year term. She discussed the challenges in seeking an agreement keeping in mind the contract needs in the areas of customer service, recycling requirements and costs and an appropriate inventory of carts for the solid waste program in the coming years. These highlights and other improvements were built into the new contract proposal. The proposal that was most advantageous to the Town was awarded to Casella Waste Management.

Drainlayer License (licenses within the past 5 years) Slims and Berthiaume Sewer Service Inc. of Charlton, MA.

The Board reviewed the license application for the business that was licensed within the previous 5 years under GJB Construction Services, Inc. Mr. Berthiaume stated that he was not related to the company owner, he has no contact with the individual and he has no financial interest in the company.

The Board of Selectmen voted to approve the license, provided that all applicable requirements of the state and town and any of its departments, boards and 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 (Motion made by Mrs. Goodrich; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Mrs. Goodrich, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes Mr. Carpenter, Yes – passed 3 to 0.

Board and Committee Re-Appointments.

Finance Committee – Kevin Kennedy (Precinct 1) and Trevor Sansoucy (Precinct 2) would like to be re-appointed to the Finance Committee. The Board of Selectmen voted to re-appoint Mr. Kevin Kennedy and Mr. Trevor Sansoucy to terms on the Finance Committee that expire on June 30, 2023 (Motion made by Mrs. Goodrich; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Mrs. Goodrich, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes Mr. Carpenter, Yes – passed 3 to 0.

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) - Meghan Roche and Michael Marin would like to be re-appointed to the ZBA. The Board of Selectmen voted to re-appoint Ms. Meghan Roche and Mr. Michael Marin to terms on the Zoning Board of Appeals that expire on June 30, 2023 (Motion made by Mrs. Goodrich; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Mrs. Goodrich, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes Mr. Carpenter, Yes – passed 3 to 0.

Board of Registrars - Jerry-Jirair M. Balayan would like to be re-appointed to the Board of Registrars. The Board of Selectmen voted to re-appoint Mr. Jerry-Jirair Balayan to the Board of Registrars for a term that expires June 30, 2023 (Motion made by Mrs. Goodrich; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Mrs. Goodrich, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes Mr. Carpenter, Yes – passed 3 to 0.

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

There were no items.

Proclamations and Recognitions

There were no items.

Tabled Items

There were no items.

Board of Selectmen Member Items

There were no items.

Town Manager Julie Jacobson gave an update on the town's re-opening plan.

At 6:31 P.M. the Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn the meeting (Motion made by Mrs. Goodrich; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Mrs. Goodrich, Yes; Mr. Berthiaume, Yes Mr. Carpenter, Yes – passed 3 to 0.

Submitted: Sharon A. Kwiatkowski
Assistant to the Town Manager, Admin.

The following documents were part of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of June 8, 2020 and are retained in the Executive Office of the Town Manager:

- June 8, 2020 Agenda
- Application Documents - Transient Vendor License Application Juniper Farms Ice Cream Co., Inc.; Memorandum from Development Coordinating Group (DCG) dated June 3, 2020; Email dated June 3, 2020 with Chief of Police Comments
- Report from Town Clerk Debra Gremo dated June 3, 2020 on Special Election Costs
- Letter from Town Planner Adam Menard dated June 3, 2020 on 2020 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant and Draft Letter of Board Support
- Letter from DDIS Director/Health Director Darlene Coyle dated May 25, 2020 on Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw

- Letter from DDIS Director/Health Director Darlene Coyle dated June 4, 2020 on Solid Waste and Recycling Contract
- Drainlayer License Application Documents (licensed within the previous 5 years) - Slims & Berthiaume Sewer Service, Inc. of Charlton, MA.