

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Select Board  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021  
Remote Online Meeting (Zoom 839 3771 0543)  
Called to Order at 7:05 p.m.**



**Video Recording:** Click [HERE](#)

Select Board Members	Present	Staff Members	Present
Laurie Bent - Chair	Yes	Leon A. Gaumond, Jr., Town Manager	Yes
Harvey Boshart	Yes	Kara Fleming, Asst. to the Town Manager	Yes
Christopher Houston	Yes	Stephen Fogg, Town Engineer	Yes
		Jonathan Witten, Town Counsel	
		Deborah Davenport, Town Clerk	Yes
		Rip Hastings, Moderator	Yes
		Lisa Yanakakis, Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director	Yes

Chair Ms. Bent called the remote meeting to order and read the following: *Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings in the Town of Weston will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. We will strive to provide access to such meetings via a link to call in, or other similar option. In the event we are unable to accommodate the same, despite best efforts, we will post recorded sessions of the meeting as soon as possible following the same. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings.*

**Resident Comments**

Mr. Boshart commented that he watched the Financial Committee (FinCom) with the heads of the DPW and Police departments, and that there was an unprofessional interaction from a FinCom member. He is concerned about how department heads are being treated and recommends that department heads not attend the FinCom meetings until the committee members are more respectful to the heads. He suggested that one person on the FinCom act as a liaison to department heads to maintain communication.

Ms. Bent thought his proposal was reasonable and asked if it is workable. Mr. Gaumond said he thinks the liaison suggestion could work, although it would be difficult for the Facilities Department.

Mr. Hastings said he is concerned that the entire FinCom will be deprived of the chance to speak to the department heads because of the behavior of one member and encouraged the Select Board to express these concerns with the chair of FinCom.

There was a discussion of this issue and suggestions about how to approach it. It was decided to let the FinCom Chair know that if the behavior does not stop, then the committee will be deprived of access to department heads.

**Eversource Utility Pole and Infrastructure Upgrades on North Avenue**

Representation: From Eversource: AnnMarie Walsh, Community Resource Representative; Vinny Visconte,

Director of Electric Field Operations, MetroWest Region; Tommy Jasset, Manager of Electric Operations; Kenny Rice, Manager of Distribution Engineering; and Chris Gonzales, Supervisor of the Vegetation Maintenance Group.

Overview: Mr. Rice and Mr. Visconte explained why the upgrade is needed and that the project will use a contractor, and go from the Waltham line to the Lincoln line, replacing 72 poles which will improve reliability. They expect to begin on March 15, 2021 and continue for about 3 months. Mr. Visconte said the project should not cause a lot of disruption.

Discussion: Ms. Bent asked if the new poles will go in the existing holes. Mr. Jasset confirmed this and that all clearances will be maintained. He also offered that if there are any poles or pole pieces left behind that he should be contacted directly.

Ms. Bent asked about transferring lights onto these poles. Mr. Jasset said he is confident that he can get the contractor to do this.

Ms. Bent asked about the trees that need to come down. Mr. Gonzales said in addition to some routine pruning, there are 7 trees that will need to be removed and an additional 7 that are suggested to be removed. The list was given to the Tree Warden and they are waiting for his decision.

Mr. Boshart asked if the Tree Advisory Group (TAG) looked at the trees in question, but Mr. Gonzales does not know if they saw the plan. There was a discussion of the tree removal, and Ms. Bent asked that they ensure that TAG is brought into the conversation.

Mr. Houston asked if the new poles will be usable to put cell units on to help improve service in town. Mr. Jasset said the polls are slightly higher so there should be room.

Mr. Fogg said that DPW is supportive of the project. He asked that any new guy wires or braces be done in a thoughtful and logical way and asked if there were specific locations where this will be needed. Mr. Visconte said they don't anticipate this unless the existing poles are not sufficiently guyed. There were no public comments on the project.

***MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to support the proposed project as described. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boshart. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.***

## **Weston Media Center Annual Report**

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Representation: Nathan Suher, Weston Media Executive Director; Joel Angiolillo, Weston Media Board Treasurer

Overview: Mr. Suher provided a summary of WMC’s activities during the last year and outlined their goals for the coming year, especially a website update to provide easier access to on-demand viewing, easier accessibility for devices other than TV, virtual open houses, etc.

Mr. Angiolillo provided some of the budget highlights. They are concerned about the cost of insurance and are working with their broker. The major cost is Staff, followed by rent paid to the AIC. They spent almost nothing in Marketing last year and plan to increase that significantly to update the website, do a community mailing to determine interest in membership in the WMC, and fundraising events and projects. Raising money is important because income from Comcast and Verizon is going down due to “cord cutting” when people drop TV service.

	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021
<b>OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>			
<b>STAFF</b>	\$258,400	\$258,115	\$255,827.48
Payroll & Taxes	\$215,000	\$216,116	\$221,400
Filming and Editing Support	\$25,000	\$24,610	\$20,000
Financial Management Support	\$5,500	\$4,158	\$4,274
Insurance (D&O, WC, Gen Liab)	\$4,300	\$7,146	\$7,553
Training and Prof Development	\$2,400	\$411	\$1,400
Misc Staff	\$1,200	\$1,279	\$1,200
<b>FACILITIES TOTAL</b>	\$20,565	\$22,567	\$21,800
<b>EQUIPMENT &amp; SOFTWARE</b>	\$20,700	\$14,880	\$20,050
<b>MARKETING</b>	\$2,400	\$792	\$12,000
<b>OPERATIONAL EXPENSES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$297,065</b>	<b>\$291,354</b>	<b>\$309,677</b>
<b>BANK ACCOUNTS</b>			
	31-Dec-19	31-Dec-20	
Operating Account	\$174,041	\$174,150	
Capital Account	\$147,521	\$148,000	
<b>INCOME</b>			
	\$285,125	\$270,569	\$280,642
Comcast	\$152,582	\$148,935	\$145,957
Verizon	\$132,543	\$119,491	\$107,542
Other	\$0	\$2,143	\$2,143
Fundraising	\$0	\$0	\$25,000

Discussion: Members of the Board expressed their gratitude for the contributions of WMC during the pandemic.

Ms. Bent disclosed for the record that she and Mr. Angiolillo are spouses.

There was a discussion of the need and ideas for fundraising.

Public Comments: There was no public comment.

## **Town Election and Annual Town Meeting**

Mr. Gaumont advised the Board that the case on the election changes was successful at the State level, and that Weston was granted injunctive relief for the Town Meeting. He asked that the dates for the elections and Town Meeting be set.

### **a) Nomination Papers**

This item was not discussed.

### **b) Time, Location, Logistics**

Mr. Gaumont suggested the Town Election for May 15, 2021, and Town Meeting for May 22, 2021 (rain date: May 23<sup>rd</sup>). This provides enough time to prepare the Warrant and other materials and logistics. There was a discussion of these issues, possible timelines, and concerns. It was decided to have the election on May 8<sup>th</sup> and Town Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> (if needed), with May 22<sup>nd</sup> held as a rain date.

Mr. Houston suggested that the Warrant and reports be available on the Town website (perhaps with hard copies at Town buildings such as the library) instead of printing hardcopies and sending them out. Mr. Hasting said he thought it was a good idea to have all this information in one place and be able to bring it to Town Meeting. There was a discussion of this suggestion. It was decided to consider this for next year.

Resident Mary Ellen Sykes said she does not think this is they year to switch to virtual Town Meeting documents because of the ongoing fear of going to public places because of the pandemic.

**MOTION:** *Mr. Houston moved to call for the Annual Town Election to held on May 8, 2021 and the Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 15, 2021 with a second date of May 16, 2021 and a rain date or third date of May 22, 2021, and further to open the Town Meeting Warrant Petition Articles until March 23, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boshart. Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart, and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. Approved unanimously.*

### **c) List of Potential Warrant Articles**

Mr. Gaumont shared a list of the Warrant articles that he currently knows about and is expecting, and there was a discussion of who should come to meet with the Board.

## **Amendment to the Commercial Dog Walker Regulations**

Ms. Bent is suggesting an amendment to the regulation in order to comply with the ADA, specifying that the regulation mentions only Emotional Support Animals (so delete the word ‘service’).

**MOTION:** *Mr. Houston moved to delete the word “Service” from the regulation to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boshart. **Roll call vote:** Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart, and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.***

## **Consent Agenda**

**MOTION:** *Mr. Boshart moved the consent agenda as follows:*

Approve Select Board Minutes: September 8, 2020 regular session

Approve a request from the Weston Public Library to accept a donation of \$25 from Cheryl Alpert and \$12,000 from the Friends of the Weston Public Library, both of which to be applied to the Library General Purposes Fund.

*The motion was seconded by Mr. Boshart. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.***

## **Executive Session: Exemption 2 – Town Manager Contract Negotiations**

**MOTION:** *Ms. Bent moved that the Select Board vote to go into Executive Session for the following purpose: Exemption 2 – to conduct a strategy session in preparation for contract negotiations with the Town Manager, and the chair must declare that an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Board and further that the Board will not resume in open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boshart. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.***

## **Upcoming Meetings**

March 16, 2021

March 23, 2021

March 30, 2021

## **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** *Mr. Boshart moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Houston. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.***

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HARVEY BOSHART  
Clerk