



Town Of Webster

Est. 1832

Massachusetts

Office of the Town Administrator
350 Main Street
Webster, MA 01570

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 3, 2021 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 5:40 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 Becker (via Zoom meeting), Selectman Andrew Jolda (via Zoom Meeting), Selectman Lisa Kontoes (via zoom meeting), Selectman Earl Gabor (via Zoom meeting), Selectman Thomas Klebart (via Zoom Meeting), Town Administrator Doug Willardson (via Zoom meeting), and Executive Assistant Courtney Friedland (via Zoom meeting).

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.

Chairman Becker announced the name of each member/attendee who attended via Zoom.

REQUEST TO APPROVE "ONE DAY" LIQUOR LICENSE FOR STS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK

ORTHODOX CHRICH: Mr. Willardson stated the Board of Selectmen received a request late last week for a "One Day" liquor license for their Annual Gyrofest on June 12, 2021. He said this late submission required the Board to hold this special meeting.

Motion by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to approve the "One Day" liquor license request for Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church Annual Gyrofest for June 12, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

DISCUSSION ON LATE "ONE DAY" LIQUOR LICENSE SUBMISSIONS: Mr. Willardson stated he spoke with Town Counsel and they recommending not having the Chairman be authorized to approve a "One Day" request before a Selectmen's Meeting. Chairman Becker stated he was not comfortable approving the last "One Day" request prior to a Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Selectman Jolda stated it is part of the Board's "One day" liquor license policy that the request be submitted 30 days in advance. A letter will be sent to entities that typically request these licenses to plan accordingly.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Town Hall will be closed on June 18th for Juneteenth
- Police Cruise Night June 30th 4:00 to 8:00 PM
- Touch-a-Truck Day Town Hall Parking Lot July 10th 10:00 AM to Noon

1. Public Health and Safety

a. Fire

- i. Fatal fire at 124 High Street. Fire likely started from smoking/cigarette butts on the back porch. The fatality was caused after the man returned into the home to save his cat.
- ii. Two fires this past weekend at 248 Main Street. Original fire was in the kitchen of the Caribbean Grill. While there the Fire Chief noticed damaged wires on the building and order them to be repaired. Coincidentally, the wires created a fire on Monday evening.

b. Police

- i. Officer Trainor made a narcotics arrest on May 24th. See details here: [Webster Police Department Massachusetts - Posts | Facebook](#)
- ii. On May 16th, Officer LaRochelle was sworn in as our newest Sergeant. Congratulations to him on an outstanding career to this point. To the extent possible, please keep this in confidence. Officer LaRochelle was promoted because we expected Sergeant Trainor to be moving to another position with the State Police. At the last minute, we found out that this was not going to happen, but Officer LaRochelle had already been promoted. There are savings within the Police budget and the costs are somewhat minimal. When the next Sergeant leaves through attrition, that position will not be filled.
- iii. Junior Police Academy is accepting applications for the program to be held Aug 2-6th.
- iv. Currently recruiting a full-time dispatcher

c. Coronavirus

- i. 9 Cases last week; cases have consistently dropped for the last month.
- ii. Vaccine site at Southbridge Armory is now available to walk-ins for Webster residents

2. Financially Responsible

- a. 2022 Budget completed and in place.
- b. Expecting significant funding from recent Federal stimulus; \$5 million latest estimate. Expenditures are somewhat limited, but more guidance is expected. My recommendation is to spend mostly on water/sewer infrastructure and small business development.
- c. Reallocating our net metering credits from solar power. Our electric usage appears to be dropping.

3. Economic Development

- a. Monte Bianco and Mike's Crunchies and Munchies opened in May.

- b. Working with Mike's Crunchies and Munchies and the Wine Bar for the State's vacant storefront program. Applications submitted in May.
 - c. Awarding our regional PILOT grant to assist local entrepreneurs/local business owners
 - d. Worcester Chamber of Commerce is holding an even June 8th at the Samuel Slater Museum
 - e. We are planning on fireworks for the 3rd of July
4. Maintain Infrastructure
- a. Lake Parkway/Klebart Ave. Work to continue through June.
 - b. South Main. NGrid to finished gas lines on East Main and South Main; now doing repairs on side streets. Road will be milled in early July.
 - c. Town Hall roof. Project started. More than expected rot. Project will be extended due to the extra scope.
 - d. Water Main Improvements. Mobilized. Working to get all work done on East Main first so the roadway can be repaved.
5. Effective Delivery of Services/Operations
- a. Implementing improved online bill pay. Will be able to look up bill information including prior payments, schedule payments, etc. Will be able to use same system for beach/compost stickers, birth/death certificates, dog licenses, marriage licenses, etc. Working on dog licensing transition over the summer.
 - b. Interviewing last Water/Sewer Superintendent candidate this week.
 - c. State is funding a study to analyze the possibility of Charlton and/or Sturbridge joining the SWCCC Dispatch Center.
6. Transparent, Open and Friendly Government
- a. Committee vacancies: recruiting for new year effective July 1st

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, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

ADJOURN: At 6:20 p.m.,

Motion by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to adjourn.

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 Meeting: June 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570

