

TOWN OF LAKEVILLE
Joint Meeting of Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2020 – 3:00 PM
REMOTE LOCATION

On April 14, 2020, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 3:00 PM remotely from various locations. The meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM by Chairman Fabian. Selectmen present were: Chairman Fabian and Selectman LaCamera. Finance Committee Members present were George Vlahopoulos; Brian Day; Jennifer Sipiora and Darren Beals. Also present were Maureen Candito, Town Administrator, Tracie Craig-McGee, Executive Assistant, Fire Chief Michael O'Brien, Deputy Fire Chief William Purcell and Firefighter Nathan Gagnier. LakeCAM was recording the meeting for broadcast.

Chairman Fabian read an introduction regarding the need for a remote meeting and how a remote meeting will be conducted.

The Finance Committee was called to order at 3:06 PM. Members of the Finance Committee present were George Vlahopoulos, Darren Beals and Jennifer Sipiora.

Discuss reappointment of Brian Day to the Finance Committee

Mr. Vlahopoulos said that Brian Day was appointed to fill a vacant position on the Finance Committee until the Annual Town Election that was supposed to be held in April. Since the election has been postponed, we need to reappoint him to serve until the 2020 Annual Town Election.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Vlahopoulos and seconded by Ms. Sipiora, it was:

VOTED: To recommend to reappoint Brian Day to the Finance Committee until the 2020 Annual Town Election.

Roll call vote: Ms. Sipiora – aye; Mr. Beals – aye and Mr. Vlahopoulos – aye.

Upon a motion made by Chairman Fabian and seconded by Selectman LaCamera, it was:

VOTED: To reappoint Brian Day to the Finance Committee for a term until the 2020 Annual Town Election.

Roll Call vote: Chairman Fabian – aye; Selectman LaCamera – aye.

Finance Committee review and vote to approve Reserve Fund Transfers

The list of Reserve Fund Transfers was reviewed. The first request is for \$6,000 to Property & Liability Insurance for increased premiums for the new Police Station and Cyber Security coverage.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Sipiora and seconded by Mr. Vlahopoulos, it was:

VOTED: To approve a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$6,000 to Property & Liability Insurance.

Roll call: Ms. Sipiora – aye; Mr. Beals – aye; Mr. Day - aye and Mr. Vlahopoulos – aye.

The next request is for the transfer of \$13,500 to Fire Safety Equipment. Selectman LaCamera said he has reviewed the equipment list with the Fire Chief. He has already purchased \$6,000 of the equipment from his current budget and feels he can fund this from his existing budget. The Fire Chief did not formally request this, so we should speak to him about this. Ms. Candito said the Town Accountant presented this. Chief O'Brien said he discussed with the Town Accountant how to buy needed equipment. Mr. Hassett mentioned a one-time transfer into the budget, but Chief O'Brien did not hear back from him, so he purchased the most needed items. There are still pending items on the list. He did not realize that this transfer was going forward. Right now he has 25% left in his line item and FEMA money that may be available. Mr. Vlahopoulos said the Finance Committee will look at this at the next meeting.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Vlahopoulos and seconded by Ms. Sipiora, it was:

VOTED: To table this request for further information.

Roll Call vote: Mr. Beals – aye; Ms. Sipiora – aye; Mr. Vlahopoulos – aye and Mr. Day – aye.

The next request is for \$21,000 to be transferred to the IT Director's Salary. This is due to technology projects requiring more time than anticipated. The projected budget was based on 25 hours per week.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Vlahopoulos and seconded by Ms. Sipiora, it was:

VOTED: To approve a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$21,000 to IT Director Salary.

Roll Call vote: Ms. Sipiora – aye; Mr. Beals – aye; Mr. Day - aye and Mr. Vlahopoulos – aye.

The next request is for \$10,000 for Facilities – Maintenance Expenses for unforeseen building repairs and \$5,400 for Public Health Nurse Services due to additional services required due to the Health Agent vacancy and a variety of health concerns. Ms. Candito said we are trying to get some grant funds for the nurse since there is a lot of reporting duties due to Covid 19. Ms. Sipiora asked if the Town will be submitting to FEMA for additional expenses. Ms. Candito said the Town has received \$4,200 so far. We are submitting another request that she signed last night. She noted that the \$10,000 also includes some routine maintenance on the Town Hall's septic system.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Vlahopoulos and seconded by Ms. Sipiora, it was:

VOTED: To approve a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$10,000 for Facilities Maintenance Expenses and \$5,400 for Public Health Nurse Services.

Roll Call vote: Ms. Sipiora – aye; Mr. Day – aye; Mr. Beals – aye and Mr. Vlahopoulos – aye.

The final transfer is for the Snow & Ice Account. There is a \$77,687 deficit resulting from 2019-2020 winter conditions. Ms. Candito said this line is only funded at \$50,000. We are typically in the red in the Snow & Ice Account. She added another \$50,000 to the budget for FY21.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Vlahopoulos and seconded by Ms. Sipiora, it was:

VOTED: To approve a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$77,687 for the Snow & Ice Account.

Roll Call vote: Ms. Sipiora – aye; Mr. Day – aye; Mr. Beals – aye and Mr. Vlahopoulos – aye.

Finance Committee to approve minutes of January 13, 2020

This item has been tabled.

FY21 Budget Update

Selectman LaCamera said we have had our Department budget meetings. We are negotiating three (3) contracts right now with Fire, Police and Laborers Unions, which will have an impact on the budget. He feels confident that the conservative revenue projection put together should be okay. We only receive Lottery and Smart Growth for State Aid. The House is putting together their preliminary budget. The State has signification reductions in income tax, sales tax and lottery sales. We will continue with the budget and adjust accordingly

Discuss any issues with FY20 Budget

Selectman LaCamera said overall we are in good shape with expenses. There may be a deficit for the Fire Department due to the two (2) Temporary Firefighter positions. We will be reimbursed 75%, but that takes time. He is concerned with revenue from the State. The revenue projections for the State were discussed on a conference call. We may get a slight reduction in lottery money, but he is concerned about the \$460,000 for Smart Growth.

Discuss FY21 Capital Plan

Chairman Fabian asked about the Capital Expenditures Committee. Ms. Candito said they have not met yet, but will schedule a meeting soon. We may not be able to fund everything right now and wait until the fall to fund some items. Selectmen LaCamera said we have \$1,080,000 for Free Cash. We need to look at our priorities on the Capital Plan. The State is allowing us to carry over any Free Cash not used by June 30th into next year. Mr. Day asked if the Police Department can prepare an outline like Fire and Highway. Ms. Candito said Police Cars are replaced based on mileage, not years. Selectman LaCamera said the FY20 plan has already been funded; we are looking at the second column.

Covid 19 update

Chairman Fabian said the Town Offices are still staffed and working. There are forms available in the Board of Health vestibule with a list of email addresses available to the public. Chief O'Brien said the Fire Department has been busy. Some of the people that we have not anticipated being positive for the Coronavirus have come back as positive. There are two (2) Firefighters that are

presently quarantined who will be tested. We have been able to contain the work groups so they don't have to intermingle, which limits exposure. He is working to keep everyone focused and not become complacent regarding exposure. Ms. Candito said we are sending out patrols in the Parks to make sure that people are not gathering. We had an incident over the weekend where a person scaled the tennis court fence.

Discuss voting to re-schedule Annual Town Election to June 16, 2020

Selectman LaCamera said the Lakeville and Freetown Town Clerks have suggested a date of June 16, 2020 for the Annual Town Elections. He didn't feel the Board should vote on the date for a few weeks until we know what is going on. Ms. Craig-McGee noted that the Freetown Selectmen voted at their meeting on April 13th to set the date for June 16, 2020.

Discuss rescheduling Annual Town Meeting and review draft Warrant

Chairman Fabian said the Annual Town Meeting was originally scheduled for June 1, 2020. She suggested a reschedule date of June 22, 2020. Selectman LaCamera said he would not recommend voting a date right now with all the uncertainty. Once you pick a date you are committed to it. He would wait a few weeks to see how this plays out. We are allowed to use 1/12th of our previous budget starting in July if we don't hold a meeting prior to June 30th. If we posted a date and then had to change it, the Town Moderator would have to call the meeting and then reschedule it.

Selectman LaCamera said the Regional School Committee technology article was missing from the draft Warrant. Ms. Candito said Article #5 was originally for 5G technology, which was removed. Article #6 was a placeholder for the FEMA Maps, which we just received. Mr. Day said there is nothing for Item #14. Selectman LaCamera was concerned that the Planning Board would not have enough time to hold a hearing on the FEMA Floodplain Maps. He said for Article #8, we wanted to have Town Meeting vote on the change to the Treasurer/Tax Collector position, and then let the residents vote at a Town Election so we won't need special legislation. Chairman Fabian was in agreement. Chairman Fabian said Article #10 is being suggested by Town Counsel, but she would like some additional information on this. Ms. Candito said the Treasurer/Tax Collector requested this. We already have this in place, but the present by-law states that we can't put a lien on property until after 12 months. This removes the 12 month clause. Chairman Fabian said Article #11 is to correct an error in the previous article. Selectman LaCamera requested an updated draft of the Warrant.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Vlahopoulos and seconded by Ms. Sipiora it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 4:04 PM.

Roll Call vote: Ms. Sipiora – aye; Mr. Beals – aye and Mr. Vlahopoulos – aye (Mr. Day left the meeting at 4:00 PM).

Discuss EEE spraying

Chairman Fabian said last year we were in the worst area for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). The Governor visited last year and spoke about this. There was supposed to be work done this winter, but she is not sure what was done. Ms. Candito said in March she reached out to Plymouth County Mosquito Control (PCMC) about spraying larvicide over standing water to stop the first layer of mosquitoes. PCMC said Mass Audubon would not allow spraying over the Great Cedar Swamp,

which they have control over. She has reached out to Mass Audubon and Mass Department of Public Health. PCMC spoke to Audubon who affirmed they will not allow spraying over the Great Cedar Swamp. If it is not getting sprayed, this will cause a huge EEE problem. PCMC can't do the two (2) smaller bodies of water; they need to do them all. She would like to send a letter to Governor about the concerns of the people in Lakeville. She has contacted Senator Rodrigues and Representative Orrall, who are in support of having this conversation. We need residents to write a letter to the Governor. She will post it to social media and ask residents to send it to the Governor. Chairman Fabian said she understands Mass Audubon's concerns, but a lot of what they are spraying with is more environmentally friendly.

Discuss appointing Selectman LaCamera as Selectmen Designee for Police Station Building Committee

Chairman Fabian said that Aaron Burke was the Selectmen's representative to the Police Station Building Committee until the building was brought to completion. There is still some work to be done to close out the project. Since Selectman LaCamera is on the committee, he would like to serve as the Selectmen's representative. Selectman LaCamera said the project has to be closed out by June 30, 2020. He wants to take the responsibility on to close it out.

Upon a motion made by Chairman Fabian and seconded by Selectman LaCamera, it was:

VOTED: That Selectman LaCamera will act as the Selectmen's designee on the Police Station Building Committee.

Roll Call vote: Selectman LaCamera – aye; Chairman Fabian – aye.

New Business:

Commendation for Nathan Gagnier, Firefighter

Chief O'Brien said on March 16th there was an exterior fire at 109 Rhode Island Road. Between the 911 call and arrival, the fire spread into the walls of the building into the attic. It was a large office building with many tenants. Nate Gagnier, who was a Call Firefighter at the time, was home and responded in his own vehicle to the scene arriving first. He made a quick search in the area of the fire to make sure people were not in the building and extinguished the fire on the outside. Without that fire, it slowed the fire inside the structure and we were able to save the building. Firefighter Gagnier was thanked by the Board and Ms. Candito. Mr. Gagnier said he was honored to receive this; he was in the right place at the right time.

Chairman Fabian asked for a moment of silence for two (2) residents, Janet Tracy, former Town Clerk and Sylvester Zienkiewicz, Planning Board Member that passed away recently.

Old Business:

Update regarding sale of Lakeville Hospital Property

Selectman LaCamera asked to have this item placed on every agenda under Old Business. We are telling residents what we know right now. We don't have plans yet, but when we do we will let residents know. We will notify abutters about any public meetings. The hospital was bought by Derek Maksy in 2017 for \$1 from Stop and Shop. They had the right of first refusal to build a grocery

store on that property. None of the buildings on site can be used. Mr. Maksy auctioned off some of the property. There are house lots on Route 79. There were three (3) lots sold on Main Street with a funeral home being built currently. There is approximately 50 acres of land left, including the nurses residence and the hospital building. The company looking at this are looking at the costs to remove the buildings and remediate the landfill. If you call the Selectmen's office or email the Selectmen, he will answer any questions he can.

Update regarding sale of Lakeville Country Club

Selectman LaCamera said the Lakeville Country Club, owned by Derek Maksy, is under Purchase & Sale Agreement for \$7.2 million. There has not been a discussion or any plans submitted for a distribution center. Residents are concerned about access. This property is under Chapter 61A and B. The owner is asking if the Town is going to purchase the property or they need to pay the back taxes for ten (10) years in order to release the property. If we want to purchase it, we need to do an appraisal of the property. A purchase would have to go to Town Meeting and then to Election. This is all the information we have right now. People have been asking about the two (2) year memberships that they have signed up for; you must speak to the owner about that.

Selectman LaCamera said that he, the Building Commissioner, Ms. Candito and the Superintendent of Streets met with two (2) members of the Park Commission to discuss staffing and how to make things better at the Parks. We spoke about providing a full-time foreman to be responsible for the parks with a full-time laborer. The Park Commission would fund the laborer and we would fund the foreman. They are now saying that the Town agreed to fund both positions. It is disappointing to hear this; he agreed to present to the Board the funding of the foreman. We also spoke of the maintenance people at Ted Williams Camp and Clear Pond would report to the Foreman. That issue has broken down. Ms. Candito said she understood that the Park Commission would fund the laborer at about \$42,000 a year, and the Town would fund the Foreman out of the Highway budget. Maintenance would be also under the Highway Department so the Park Commission could focus on sports and the events. We need to be on the same page and structure it for success. Chairman Fabian said we need to have a joint meeting with the Park Commission. Selectman LaCamera said we have already hired one (1) person for a position. If these employees are not going to report to Highway, we need to stop this now. We need the meeting immediately. Chairman Fabian said we need all the members of the Park Commission to participate.

Any other business that may properly come before the meeting

Ms. Craig-McGee noted that Ms. Candito's appointment as the Town's ADA Coordinator expired April 1, 2020. Chairman Fabian asked for it to be placed on the next meeting.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Chairman Fabian and seconded by Selectman LaCamera, it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 4:56 PM.

Roll call vote: Chairman Fabian – aye and Selectman LaCamera – aye.

List of documents provided at the Board of Selectmen Meeting of April 14, 2020

1. Agenda cover sheet
2. Agenda cover sheet
3. Agenda cover sheet; Reserve Fund Transfer sheets
4. Agenda cover sheet
5. Agenda cover sheet
6. Agenda cover sheet
7. Agenda cover sheet; FY21 draft Capital Plan
8. Agenda cover sheet
9. Agenda cover sheet
10. Agenda cover sheet; draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant
11. Agenda cover sheet
12. Agenda cover sheet
13. Agenda cover sheet; commendation letter from Fire Chief; commendation certificate
14. Agenda cover sheet