



Town of Swampscott
Select Board and Board of Health Joint Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 20, 2020 – 6:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Peter Spellios (Chair), Naomi Dreeben (Vice Chair), Polly Titcomb, Don Hause, Laura Spathanas

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Marianne Hartmann, (Chair), Emily Cilley, Stephanie Goodman

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator; Jeff Vaughan, Health Director; Neia Illingworth, Public Health Nurse; Marzie Galazka, Director of Community Development; Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director; Tim Dorsey, Finance Committee Chair; Amy Sarro, Town Accountant; Patrick Luddy, Assistant Town Accountant

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm

COVID-19 UPDATE

Neia Illingworth provided a brief update on the COVID-19 lab-confirmed cases in Swampscott. To date, there have been 119 cases. She also discussed antibody testing and the process that an individual will undergo if tested for antibodies.

Select Board Chair Peter Spellios reiterated the purpose of Emergency Order #4 which was voted upon by the Select Board and Board of Health on Monday, May 18.

The Board discussed Section 9 of Emergency Order #4 updating it to read “Gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited, provided, that all gatherings of any size require adherence to social distancing of at least 6 feet of separation between all persons. Nothing in this order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit within a private residence.

On **MOTION** (Dreeben) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) it was **VOTED** by roll call to amend Emergency Order #4 by striking section 9 and replacing with language above which removes the word “not” in the first sentence.

Town Administrator Fitzgerald walked through new guidelines for Swampscott's beaches, which reflect the state's requirement for state coastal beaches. It was confirmed that the lifeguards will not be responsible for enforcing these rules and will be encouraged instead to call the police if there are concerns. Danielle Strauss discussed the delay of stickers.

On Board of Health **MOTION** (Cilley) and **SECONDED** (Goodman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to adjourn the Board of Health portion of the meeting. Roll call: Cilley (YES) Goodman (YES) Hartmann (YES)

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Town Moderate Michael McClung provided an update on the status of the proposed legislation to allow Town Meeting to happen virtually. It has not moved beyond the Ways & Means Committee and Mr. McClung discussed what would happen if the meeting cannot be held virtually. If held virtually, it will take place on June 22, 2020 on Zoom.

Assistant Town Administrator of Finance & Administration Ron Mendes presented proposed articles on the Town Meeting Warrant. There was a brief review of Warrant Articles that have been deferred due to the virtual nature of the Town Meeting on June 22 and the capacity of the virtual platform. These articles are proposed to be postponed until a future Town Meeting, which will be held in person as soon as possible. Mr. McClung provided a brief description of how the virtual platform will be able to accommodate all components of a Town Meeting.

FY20 & FY21 BUDGET

Town Administrator Fitzgerald and Assistant Town Administrator Ron Mendes presented an update to the FY20 and FY21 budgets and how they are affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19 on the State. The Massachusetts Taxpayer Foundation is predicting that State could collect \$6 billion less than anticipated five months ago. Town Administrator Fitzgerald presented the Town's worst-case scenario, which would be a shortfall of \$1.7 million for FY21. The process to balance the budget will involve reviewing revenue strategies, expenditure cuts, and utilization of reserves. The FY21 budget cuts will be shared by the School Department and the Town Department. The next steps are to engage in conversations with Department Heads and Unions and evaluate for a 1/12 budget option.

Town Administrator Fitzgerald presented FY20 Preliminary End of Year trends. Many line items are trending under budgets. There is a spending freeze and a new approval protocol for purchase over \$300.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 13
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 18

On **MOTION** (Dreeben) and **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve the meeting minutes from Wednesday, May 13. Roll call: Dreeben (YES) Hause (YES) Titcomb (YES) Spellios (YES) Spathanas (YES)

On **MOTION** (Dreeben) and **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve the meeting minutes from Wednesday, May 13. Roll call: Dreeben (YES) Hause (YES) Titcomb (YES) Spellios (YES) Spathanas (ABSTAIN)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator Fitzgerald ran-through the Town Administrator's Report

- Beach Guidance released from the state
- Summer Recreation and 4th of July Plan
- FY20 and FY21 Budgets
- Walker Road and Complete Streets
- Tri-Chair Meeting
- Swampscott Has Virtual Talent Show
- Memorial Day

On **MOTION** (Hause) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) it was **VOTED** by roll call to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call: Dreeben (YES) Titcomb (YES) Dreeben (YES) Spellios (YES)

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

True Attest,



Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 5/27/2020