

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JAN. 5, 2021
MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM – 7 P.M.**

Present were Chair Jeff Cyr, Vice Chair Sarah Etelman, Member Chris Geraghty, Member Bruce Forcier, Member Andrea Miles, and Town Administrator Michael J. Sullivan.

CALL TO ORDER

Cyr called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Etelman motioned to approve the draft minutes of Dec. 15, 2020. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Assistant Kristin Maher said nomination papers for Selectboard, School Committee, Board of Assessor, Board of Health, Planning Board, Municipal Light Board, Trustee for Free Public Library, Housing Authority, Town Moderator and Town Meeting Member are now available digitally until Feb. 19 at 5 p.m. The deadline to return papers is Feb. 23 at 5 p.m.

She said residents can bring Christmas trees to the transfer station with no reservation required on Jan 8 & 9 and Jan. 15 & 16 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or leave trees curbside in the spring. Pick-up is not occurring in January to give a third spring yard waste pick-up to all residents, which is more equitable to all.

RESIGNATION

Etelman moved to accept the resignation of Valerie Young from the Sustainability and Energy Commission. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

COVID UPDATE

Emergency Management and Public Health Director Sharon Hart said confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue to rise. Simply put, COVID-19 is going through South Hadley households. She predicted positive case numbers won't steady for a couple of weeks.

She said vaccinations of first responders – police, fire and EMS – have begun. Hart signed TOSH's health department up to dispense the vaccine in the same way it coordinates the flu shot.

There have been 40 South Hadley residents who have died as a result of COVID-19. Two thirds have been at long-term care facilities and almost all deaths were listed with a comorbidity.

Monasia Ceasar has been hired as a health department compliance officer to assist with COVID-19 compliance through town. The position is funded through the CARES Act and Ceasar will be a grant-funded employee of the town.

Forcier promoted the free COVID-19 testing site at UMass Amherst and encouraged residents to use it if necessary.

FY 21 & 22 BUDGETS

Sullivan said the FY21 budget has no surprises and is consistent with what other communities are seeing. TOSH is well within what was predicted for revenues this year.

He said the FY22 budget is going to be difficult because of the large number of unknowns. Retirement costs are going to rise but there likely will not be a rise in health care premiums. He has seven budget meetings in the next two days with departments and is asking department heads to stay close to 2019 figures. He noted some organizational moves may need to occur.

SUPPORT LETTER FOR WOODLAWN PLAZA APARTMENTS

Etelman motioned to allow a letter of support for Woodlawn Plaza Apartments to be signed by the chair on the selectboard's behalf. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

SMART GROWTH FUNDS

Miles moved to approve a \$30,000 transfer of Smart Growth Funds for the ADA Grant Match. Etelman seconded. All favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye
Geraghty – Aye

TA REPORT

Etelman noted her appreciation for the work Sullivan has done for the town and Selectboard. Cyr agreed.

For the full town administrator's report, see the Jan. 5, 2021 Selectboard packet.

ADJOURN

Geraghty motioned to adjourn. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye
Miles – Aye
Cyr – Aye
Forcier – Aye
Geraghty – Aye

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Kristin Maher
Executive Assistant to Administration