

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 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.

MINUTES

Miles motioned to approve the draft minutes of March 2, 2021. Geraghty seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

COVID-19 UPDATE

Emergency Management Director Sharon Hart said COVID-positive and COVID-contact cases are rising slightly. The health department is concerned about virus variants. Hart reminded the public to not let down their guards and to keep double-masking and distancing.

Sullivan said he and Hart began discussions on what steps would be required to reopen town hall to the public. These steps would include appointment scheduling, mandatory temperature checks for visitors, a sign in/out requirement, visitors being escorted to their destinations, and more. Curbside service and online services are currently available to fulfill virtually all resident needs.

PUBLIC HEARING: RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL TO AQUIRE 315 AMHERST ROAD UNDER MGL CHAPTER 61A

Cyr opened the public hearing at 7:21 p.m. and closed it at 7:29 p.m. Etelman moved to issue a Notice of Exercise, together with a proposed purchase and sale agreement, under MGL Chapter 61A, Section 14 for the property located at 315 Amherst Road, known also as Parcel 0058-00096-00, to acquire the property under the care and control of the Conservation Commission, for the amount of \$190,000. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOSIER STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Miles motioned to move forward with completing a statement of interest for Mosier Elementary School. No member seconded the motion. Geraghty said he wasn't comfortable voting in favor at this time and would like to see a funding plan. Cyr said conversations about this should continue throughout the year and suggested forming an ad hoc committee.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS AS SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

Etelman moved to designate the Board of Assessors as Special Municipal Employees in accordance with MGL c. 268A. Geraghty seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles - Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH UPDATE

Geraghty said members of the screening committee are meeting March 17, 18 and 22 to conduct interviews with semi-finalists. The TASC intends to meet March 22 to vote on which finalists they want to move forward to the Selectboard for final appointment. Executive Assistant to Administration Kristin Maher will reach out to Community Paradigm for draft town administrator contract samples to provide to the Selectboard.

FY 22 BUDGET UPDATE

Sullivan gave a brief update on minor changes to the draft budget. He will have an updated Sources & Uses sheet, and a draft budget, for members by the end of the week.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Highlighted from the report was the installation of a permanent voter ballot drop box between the police station and town hall which residents can use for the annual town election on April 13. Residents can apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot on the clerk's page of the town website.

Maher noted yard waste pick-up will begin March 29 and every residence will receive two pick-ups. Originally, three pick-ups were advertised in this spring to make up for the lack of Christmas tree pick-up in the winter. Upon review, the DPW decided it made more sense to have three pick-ups in the fall when there is more leaf debris opposed to in the spring.

See the March 16, 2021 Selectboard Packet for the full town administrator's report.

ADJOURN

Geraghty motioned to adjourn and enter into executive session under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 39 section 23B: Contract Negotiations AFSCME Units A&B and not return to open session. Etelman seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles - Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Maher
Executive Assistant to Administration**