

SELECTBOARD MEETING
Joint Meeting with Appropriations
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020
MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM – 6 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 6 p.m.

END OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 TRANSFERS

During a joint meeting with the Appropriations Committee, Sullivan highlighted various adjustments the town needed to make in different areas such as the legal services budget, the snow and ice budget, and unemployment insurance budget. The transfers will come from the Group Health Insurance account, as it is generally healthy and transferring from one single account is easiest.

The Appropriations Committee unanimously recommended approval of these transfers from the Group Health Insurance account.

Etelman motioned to accept the Appropriations Committee's recommendation to approve the transfers from Appropriations as presented. Forcier seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Etelman – Aye

Miles– Aye

Geraghty– Aye

Forcier – Aye

Cyr – Aye

COVID-19 UPDATE

Public Health Director Sharon Hart said the number of confirmed COVID cases is 147, up four from last week. Contact cases are up to 135 from 130. There is one probable case. The numbers are still rising.

Hart noted changes to the governor's ordering regarding assemblies. No more than 25 persons are collectively allowed indoors, with new spacing requirements of eight persons per 1000 square feet. Outdoors, the 8-foot spacing is in place and there can be no more than 100 persons per event, including staff.

Sullivan said it is difficult to enforce the continually changing guidelines. The town often receives calls about people in public not wearing face masks. However, he said 90 percent of the public is cooperative.

Etelman reminded the public there is a reason for basketball hoop removal, mask requirements and signage at parks. New health reports are showing devastating short-term effects of COVID-19 in survivors, she said, and no one knows about long-term effects.

Hart noted it is not only older folks who are contracting the disease. A local eight-year-old had to go to the hospital in connection with COVID-19. "It's here. It's not going anywhere," she said.

Regarding the return of Mount Holyoke College students, Hart said a hybrid model has been adopted where 50 percent of students will work remotely while the other 50 percent returns to campus. There is a college emergency response team that will work with the health department with contact tracing in case there is an outbreak. Schools are following Department of Education guidelines.

RECREATION UPDATE

Recreation Department Director Andy Rogers said due to the pandemic, the department lost its spring sports programs and issued 487 refunds to families. He is hoping to be able to have a fall sports program. The department also had to cancel its trips to Celtics and Red Sox games, as well as to Tanglewood, in addition to tennis programs and camps. Instead, yoga in the park, virtual science and art ventures, and a scavenger hunt through various park and trails have been added. The spray parks are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weather permitting. The threat of EEE has impacted programs occurring after school and at night. Without program fees, the department has no funding for alternative programs like pickleball.

Rogers reminded the public to "pack in, pack out" at parks and playgrounds to keep the grounds clean. Dogs are not permitted on trails, but if residents do take their four-legged friends with them they must remain on leash. Residents must pick up dog waste and bring it with them out of the park / trail area.

Signage reminding folks to social distance and wear masks are installed at parks.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON MEETING PLATFORM

Miles motioned to appoint Town Meeting members Renee Sweeney and Paul Dobosh, Town Moderator John Hine, Town Clerk Carlene Hamlin, Cable Studio Manager Dan Pease, Commission on Disabilities Chair Johnstone Campbell and Selectboard Member Chris Geraghty to the Ad-Hoc Virtual Meeting Platform Committee. Etelman seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Etelman – Aye

Miles– Aye

Geraghty– Aye

Forcier – Aye

Cyr – Aye

BORROWING ISSUANCE / ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

Etelman motioned that the sale of the \$11,695,000 General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes of the town dated July 15, 2020 to BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC, at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$184,522,54, further voted that in connection with the marketing and sale of the notes, the preparation and distribution of a notice of sale and preliminary official statement dated June 24, 2020, and a final official statement dated July 1, 2020, each in such form as may be approved by the town treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted, further voted that the town treasurer and the Selectboard be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a significant events disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the town, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the notes for the benefit of the holders of the notes from time to time, further voted that we authorize and direct the town treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures and continuing disclosure procedures in such forms as the town treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the notes and to comply with relevant securities laws, further voted that each member of the Selectboard, the town clerk and town treasurer be and hereby are authorized to take any and all such actions and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes, further voted that all votes relative to the various underlying capital authorizations are hereby affirmed and ratified. Forcier second.

Roll Call Vote

Etelman – Aye

Miles– Aye

Geraghty– Aye

Forcier – Aye

With this, Sullivan said TOSH is able to save \$489,000 over a 10-year span. Of that sum, \$413,863 will go back to taxpayers as it was part of a debt exclusion for Plains School. This retroactively lowers the cost of the school.

Etelman motioned that in order to reduce interest costs, the town treasurer is authorized to issue refunding bonds, at one time or from time to time, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 21A of the general laws or pursuant to any other enabling authority, to refund all or a portion of the town's \$8,180,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2013 Bonds, Series A, dated December 18, 2013 maturing on and after May 15, 2022, that such refunding bonds may be issued on a tax exempt or taxable basis as shall be determined by the treasurer, and that the proceeds of any refunding bonds issued pursuant to this vote shall be used to pay the principal, redemption premium and interest on the refunded bonds and costs of issuance of the refunding bonds, further voted that the sale of the \$5,665,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the town dated July 21, 2020 to Piper Sandler & Co, at the price of \$5,638,181.25 and accrued interest, if any, is hereby approved and confirmed. The bonds shall be payable on May 15 of the years and in the principal amounts and bear interest at the respective rates as presented, further voted that the bonds maturing on May 15, 2038 shall be subject to mandatory redemption or mature as presented, further voted that in connection with the marketing and sale of the bonds,

the preparation and distribution of a preliminary official statement dated June 24, 2020 and a final official statement dated July 7, 2020, each in such form as may be approved by the town treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted, further voted that the bonds shall be subjects to redemption, at the option of the town upon such terms and conditions as set forth in the official statement, further voted to approve and confirm the provisions of the bond purchase agreement dated July 7, 2020, including the consent to the purchase of the bonds by Piper Sandler & Co. on a negotiated basis, further voted to authorize the execution and delivery of a refunding escrow agreement in connection with the bonds to be dated July 21, 2020 between the town and U.S. Bank National Association, as refunding escrow agent on such terms and conditions as may be approved by the town treasurer, further voted that the town treasurer and the Selectboard be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a continuing disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the town, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the bonds for the benefit of the holders of the bonds from time to time, further voted that we authorize and direct the town treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures and continuing disclosure procedures in such forms as the town treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to comply with relevant securities laws, further voted that each member of the Selectboard, the town clerk and the town treasurer be and hereby are authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes. Cyr seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Etelman – Aye

Miles– Aye

Geraghty– Aye

Forcier – Aye

DOR SOUTH HADLEY FINANCIAL POLICIES DISCUSSION

Sullivan said the Selectboard should review the draft Financial Policy Manual from the Division of Local Services Department of Revenue as part of the Baker-Polito Administration’s Community Compact Cabinet initiative. Most of the policies are already being followed by the town. Sullivan said the town auditor is pleased with what the town is doing accounting wise, and TOSH is in good financial shape. The board agreed to have Sullivan go through draft and highlight policies the town is not yet following to present to Appropriations to look at and consider adopting.

ADJOURN

Etelman motioned to adjourn. Miles seconded. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
Kristin Maher
Executive Assistant to Administration