

REC'D UXB TOWN CLERK
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**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
LOCATION: BOARD MEETING ROOM AND REMOTE
21 S. MAIN STREET, UXBRIDGE, MA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020 6:30 P.M.**

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chair Brian Butler, Vice Chair Jeffrey Shaw, Clerk Brian Plasko, and Select Board Member Stephen Mandile. Also present: Town Manager Steven Sette, Ken O'Brien, Principal Town Assessor, Michelle Laramee, Town Accountant, Benn Sherman, Director of Public Works, Dale Bangma, Uxbridge Waste Water Treatment Facility Committee Chairman, Courtney Pepin, Marlene, Corinne Cosmoa, Melissa DaCosta, residents of Uxbridge, Uxbridge TV and Kathy Tipping, Administrative Assistant.

1. CALL TO ORDER & SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020, Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Uxbridge Board of Selectmen was conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to view/listen to this meeting live may do so by watching the Government Channel @ www.uxbridgetv.org or on Uxbridge Community Television Channel 191. For those unable to watch it live, you may view the recording of the meeting on the Government Channel @ <http://archive.uxbridgetv.org>.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Butler announced that the continuation of the Fall Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at the Valley Chapel at 7:00 pm. There will be a review and discussion on a couple of articles and Mr. Butler encouraged as many people that can attend, to do so.

Volunteers Needed – See Town Clerk's Office or Town Manager's Office for list of openings.
Community Highlight – Capital Planning Committee. Mr. Butler read the Job Description for the Capital Planning Committee and advised if anyone is interested to please complete a Talent Bank Form and return it to the Town Clerk's Office or the Town Manager's Office.

UXCELLENT NEWS (Brian Plasko)

- Mr. Plasko wanted to recognize the Town of Uxbridge and all the residents who turned out to vote. He also recognized and thanked the Town Clerk and her team for their efforts during the election and the Town Meeting. Mr. Butler also thanked Ms. Cote and her team on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

3. CITIZEN'S FORUM

No Citizen Forum questions or concerns.

4. BUSINESS

a. **Solar Pilot Agreement: ZPD-PT Solar Project, 197 Rear Providence St. & 14 Rear Quaker St.**

Mr. O'Brien explained the 20-year Solar Pilot Agreement to the Board for personal property tax only – not real estate tax.

MOTION: Mr. Shaw moved that the Board of Selectman approve the Solar PILOT agreement for ZPD-PT Solar Project at 197 Rear Providence Street & 14 Rear Quaker Street (as negotiated) and have the Board of Selectmen sign the agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion approved 4-0.

b. **Discuss October 27, 2020 continuation to November 18, 2020 Fall Town Meeting Warrant Articles, recommendations, and/or take any action related thereto.**

The Board discussed Articles #12, #13 and #14 with Town Manager Sette. Mr. Sette suggested that Article #12 be corrected and suggested Article #13, be withdrawn through the Planning Board, for now. Articles #14 (Tucker Hill Estates Phase 1) and #Article 15 (Maslow's Way) are citizen's petitions and were brought forward by Mr. Smith. A discussion was held with the Board on the two Citizen's petitions. Mr. Jim Smith gave an update and commentary on the concerns of the properties and answered the Board's questions. Mr. Sherman also gave update and commentary regarding concerns at Tucker Hill Estates and Maslow's Way and provided photos of the area. He also answered all of the Board's questions. Mr. Shaw would like an opinion from Council regarding liability before accepting roadway. "Marlene", resident at 44 Tucker Hill Rd. also called into the Zoom meeting to express her concern regarding safety on the Street. Mr. Plasko would like to see the street repaired before taking on liability. Mr. Mandile would also like to see it done before bringing it in front of the Town Meeting for vote. Mr. Sherman would like to see something done with the swales. Mr. Shaw stated it shouldn't be up to taxpayers of the Town of Uxbridge to resolve these issues. Mr. Sette stated a recommendation is needed and will be part of the report for the continuation of Town Meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Shaw motioned to vote unfavorable action on Article #14 Tucker Hill Estates). Motion seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote, Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion Passed 4-0.

MOTION: Mr. Shaw motioned to recommend unfavorable action due to the fact that the road has not been laid out by the Board of Selectmen and does not meet the legal requirements necessary to become a public way. Motion seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES, Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

c. **Shared Planner Discussion**

The Town Manager has entered into preliminary discussions with CMRPC and the Towns of Mendon and Millville regarding the possibility of the three Towns sharing a Town Planner; an MOU between the three Towns has been developed and the Town Manager is looking for the support of the Board of Selectmen to move this item forward. Mr. Sette stated he was approached by the CMRPC to see if the Town of Uxbridge would be interested in sharing a Town Planner with the Towns of Mendon and Millville. Mr. Sette stated it would be very helpful to have someone 15 hours per week right now. He stated he may adjust hours at later time. The Shared Planner would be based in the Town of Uxbridge and under the Town Manager's direction. The Planner would devote a portion of time to what the other towns commit to and that a benefits package would be offered through the Town of Uxbridge and the two other towns would contribute to the cost of the benefits. The Planner would interact with Planning Board, help with projects and spearhead the development of a Master Plan. The Board members stated their support and had no questions for Mr. Sette.

MOTION: Mr. Mandile motioned to support the suggested MOU regarding a Shared Town Planner. Motion seconded by Mr. Plasko. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES, Mandile YES, Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

d. **Linwood Road Closure Request. Waterline Construction Week of 11/9/2020**

Dale Bangma attended the meeting via Zoom to discuss closing Linwood Road for one day during the next week in order to run water lines to complete a construction project. He explained the project of building 3 condominium units and the need for water lines. He explained maps and photos that were displayed and asked for a detour of Linwood Street, along with answering the Board's questions. Mr. Sherman also answered the Board's questions and expressed getting it done as quickly as possible and re-directing traffic. The Police and Fire Department have been notified for the one-day closure which was changed from Wednesday, November 11th (Holiday) to **Thursday, 11/12/20**, weather permitting.

MOTION: Mr. Mandile motioned to approve the Road Closure as requested. Motion seconded by Mr. Shaw. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

Uxbridge resident, Corinna Cosmoa called into the Zoom meeting due to technical difficulty attempting to call in during Citizen's Forum regarding her Water/Sewer bill being 3x as much as usual. She would like to understand why the high increase. Mr. Sherman stated the new rates have not been applied into the bills as of yet. Mr. Sherman stated he has also received phone calls. Mr. Sherman will look into her usage and asked Ms. Cosmoa for her contact information, as he will look into the matter and get back to her.

Uxbridge resident, Melissa DaCosta, also called into the Zoom meeting due to technical difficulty attempting to call in during Citizen's Forum. She will also send her contact information to Mr. Sherman regarding the same concern with her Water/Sewer bill.

e. **Town Manager Vacation Carryover**

The Town Manager recently celebrated his 1-year anniversary with the Town and, as stated in his contract, his new allotment of vacation time has begun. The Town Manager is requesting an okay to carryover two weeks of his previous vacation allotment due to being new in the position and with the Covid-19 pandemic, he was unable to take any vacation time.

Mr. Butler explained the request is not beyond reason. Mr. Mandile agreed and was appreciative of all Mr. Sette's work. Mr. Sette explained this request is no different than what he's allowed other employees to do. Mr. Plasko agreed and thanked all employees. Mr. Butler also agreed and thanked everyone for stepping up.

MOTION: Mr. Shaw moved the Board of Selectmen approve the request from the Town Manager to carry over 45 hours of vacation time, as requested. Motion seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

f. **2021 BOS License Renewal Fees**

The annual licenses are up for renewal. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many towns are considering reducing the Annual fees for 2021. The Board discussed the possibility of a reduction in License Fees for 2021. The Board also reviewed other neighboring towns reduction in fees due to COVID-19.

Mr. Sette explained in recognition of the very difficult year for all businesses – for restaurants, etc. with a reduction of customers, limited to space, etc. – a lot of money has been spent and lost and that Restaurants are just trying to pay their bills. After consulting with Ms. Ellen Welch, and if a reduction in rates is approved, that it would be done with the exception of liquor stores (that remained open with minimal impact) along with car sales/dealers that also remained open. Mr. Mandile asked that clubs/memberships were also affected and should be included if any reduction of fees. Mr. Plasko agreed. Mr. Shaw agreed as many businesses were forced or required to shut down. Mr. Butler suggested a 25% reduction and Mr. Shaw agreed on a 25% reduction, not including Liquor Stores and Class I-III car sales. Mr. Mandile agreed with the businesses mentioned but would like to see a 50% reduction. Mr. Plasko stated he would support Mr. Mandile's recommendation of 50%. Mr. Shaw and Mr. Butler also agreed to a 50% reduction with the exception of Liquor stores and Class I, II and III car sales/dealers.

MOTION: Mr. Mandile motioned that the BOS reduce the 2021 License Renewal Fees by 50% for the businesses minus alcohol package liquor stores and Class I, II and III vehicle sales. Motion seconded by Mr. Plasko, Roll Call: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES, Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

5. **TOWN MANAGER UPDATE**

Mr. Sette stated a quorum of 50 people would be needed to open the Town Meeting continuation on 11/18/2020. One article, may be withdrawn from the four articles. He added the meeting should not be a long meeting, but items need to be taken care of. He would like to ensure enough attend to conduct the meeting and finish off this year. The budget process will also be beginning within the next month for the Spring Town Meeting. Also, the McCluskey

school is now completely boarded up. The Toys for Tots/Teens will be using the facility to store gifts for the holiday – it is a great cause and Mr. Sette is proud the Town can help them out.

6. **MEMBER ISSUES & COMMENTS**

Mr. Plasko reiterated to reach out to Mr. Sherman and the Department of Public Works with any concerns regarding water/sewer bills. Mr. Shaw seconded Mr. Plasko's request on water/sewer bills – and that he has had discussions, calls and complaints from residents. He added that as the Board of Selectmen acting as Water/Sewer commissioners, a discussion should take place with Mr. Sherman to determine why the large increase in some bills and noted the new water/sewer rates have not been applied yet. Mr. Butler added residents should call the DPW and see what formula is being used and obtain suggests for decreasing usage. Mr. Shaw added he would like to ask Mr. Sherman for a presentation or case study – and to pull out bills (with no names) that have dramatic increases, as well bills that remained the same or went down. Mr. Sette will request Mr. Sherman bring these items and present to the next Board of Selectman meeting on November 23, 2020. Mr. Butler added he cannot stress enough how important it is to make every effort to attend the continued Town Meeting 11/18/2020. It is very important to attend to ask questions and vote.

7. **MEETING MINUTES**

- Meeting minutes of Executive Session 10/5/2020 (Vote to approve and seal) and October 26, 2020

MOTION: Mr. Shaw motioned to approve and seal the Executive Session minutes from the Board of Selectmen session on 10/5/2020. Motion seconded by Mr. Plasko. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

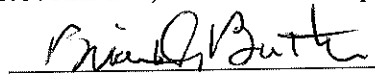
MOTION: Mr. Shaw motioned to approve the meeting minutes of 10/26/2020 as crafted and written. Motion seconded by Mr. Plasko. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler. Motion passed 4-0.

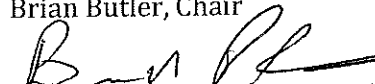
8. **ADJOURNMENT**

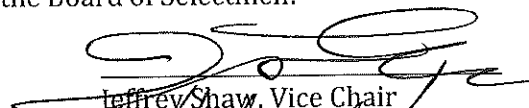
MOTION: Mr. Mandile motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Plasko. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

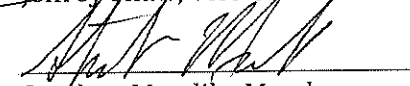
Next Regular Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Tipping.
November 9, 2020 minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen:


Brian Butler, Chair


Brian Plasko, Clerk


Jeffrey Shaw, Vice Chair


Stephen Mandile, Member

11/09/2020
Date