

Town of Nahant, MA
Board of Selectmen
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:00 PM

Mark P. Cullinan, Vice Chairman
Joshua A. Antrim, Recording Secretary
Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator

*Mr. Lombard was absent from this meeting

1. Meeting Opening 7:00 pm

Mr. Cullinan- Chairmen Lombard is not feeling well tonight. Mr. Cullinan will be sitting in as acting chair at tonight's meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Comments

Mr. Antrim- follow up on a motion made on January 30th- a request for Northeastern to notify us five days in advance of any significant operations up there. In short, Northeastern has denied that request.

Mr. Cullinan announced the following open comment;

- a. Charles Kelley Scholarship - Accepting Essays now. Due April 1st.

TA explained the details pertaining to this scholarship.

2. New Business

- a. Approve the event request for a Birding Trip hosted by the Linda Pivacek on February 29th at Lodge Park from 9am-11am

Mr. Antrim made a motion; I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the event request from the Arlington Bird Club, Mass Birders to host a Birding Trip on February 29th from 9am-11am at Lodge Park/East Point.

Seconded by Mr. Cullinan

Unanimous vote in favor

- b. Oceanview proposal for a seasonal tent on the existing outside event space

*A brief discussion on this topic took place with the Board of Selectmen and TA.

- c. Approve the Board of Selectmen's Budget and send to the Advisory & Finance Committee

TA- In front of you there are a couple of things; estimated revenues, appropriations summary and further detail on appropriations. At this time, this is a balanced budget. Tonight, we will be sending the budget to the FinCom so that they can begin their process. The Board has the ability to make changes after tonight and prior to final acceptance from the FinCom. We will continue to work with them for the next step of the process. We estimate the revenues for this year at about \$13,959,497. Our estimated appropriations are \$14,413,726. We balanced that with overlay surplus of \$60,000 and free cash of \$621,922. This budget follows the commitment that the Town made last year proposing a 2.5% override. That commitment was to use the \$600,000

override to try and begin to take the Town off the reliance of free cash. We are seeing a trend of free cash decreasing year to year. With \$621,000 in free cash; \$227,000 of that amount will drop to free cash to help build that reserve going forward. The remaining amount is being used to balance the budget but mainly being used for reserves. So \$100,000 in stability, \$20,000 into OPEB \$50,000 into a buyback program for retiring employees. We only needed roughly half of our free cash to balance the budget and the other half that we used was for onetime expenses. A couple of new things you will see here; vacation sick time buyback. We also created a new line item for grant matching. \$25,000 in that. We have applied for grants from the state where those applications ask for matching funds from the Town. When you are able to express that you already have funds appropriated to match, that makes your application that more competitive.

*A discussion about the budget between the Board and TA took place.

Mr. Cullinan made a motion; I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to endorse the Town Administrator and Selectmen Budget for FY2021 and to forward it to the Finance and Advisory Committee for their on-going review in the FY2021 Budget Development process.

Seconded by Mr. Antrim

Unanimous vote in favor

d. Clerk Appointment

Mr. Cullinan- stated that since their last meeting they have received (3) resumes from Town residents interested in the Town Clerk interim appointment.

TA All three folks have indicated that they plan on pulling papers and running for this seat, as well. Given the high volume of quickly approaching activity, it might make more sense to hire an interim from the outside to help maintain operations and to not give any one prospective candidate an advantage over the over. His recommendation is to not have a vote at this time & wish the three candidates good luck. He will continue his search for a qualified person to help carry the operations in the interim.

The Board agreed with TA's recommendation.

3. Ongoing Business

a. Open and Close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and send to the Advisory & Finance Committee

Mr. Antrim made a motion; I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to open the May 16, 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant for submittal of articles by all Town Boards, Committees, personnel, and the public for consideration of placement onto the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Seconded by Mr. Cullinan

Unanimous vote in favor

*TA explained the articles on the warrant.

*A discussion regarding the articles took place between the TA, the Board & Town Council.

Mr. Cullinan made a motion; I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to accept and close the Annual Town meeting warrant as presented and to send it to the Advisory & Finance committee to begin taking positions with the understanding that ongoing review will occur by the Board of Selectmen & that modifications may occur at a later time.

Seconded by Mr. Antrim

Unanimous vote in favor

b. Proposal from Play It As It Lies regarding rent abatements

TA Our current leasee was invited to come and speak to the Board tonight regarding his proposal for changes to the current structure of the lease. I don't see him here tonight. We are going into Executive Session to speak about this as well.

4. Town Administrator Report

5. Citizen's Forum

6. Adjourn:

Mr. Cullinan; an executive session is necessary to protect our litigation position regarding the Northeastern University Marine Science Center, and a legal demand filed by Chris Howard. An executive session also is necessary to protect our negotiating position regarding the lease pertaining to 1 Willow Road.

To Executive Session – Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(6) to discuss the lease and valuation of real property – Kelley Greens Golf Club, 1 Willow Road, Nahant. And pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation – Tort Claim, 12 Castle Road, Nahant. And pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation – Northeastern University Marine Science Center, 430 Nahant Road, Nahant.

Mr. Antrim made a motion; I move to go into executive session to consider the lease regarding 1 Willow Road, to discuss our litigation position regarding the Northeastern University Marine Science Center, and to discuss the legal demand filed by Chris Howard. We will not reconvene in open session.”

Seconded by Mr. Cullinan

Discussion: **Mr. Cullinan-** as many of you know prior to him becoming a member of the Board of Selectmen, he was a member on the Board of the Nahant Preservation Trust (NPT). He resigned from the Board of NPT, but he was also a plaintiff on a lawsuit against Northeastern University. After becoming elected as a member of the Board of Selectmen, he withdrew his name from that lawsuit. He also notified the State Ethics Commission regarding about his position regarding this. They advised him to draft a disclosure statement, which he has. This closure statement has been filed with the Town Clerk and is on record at the Town Hall.

Roll Call Vote
Mark Cullinan- I
Josh Antrim- I
Unanimous vote in favor

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm
Meeting Minutes prepared by Bobbie-Jo Blair, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen on the _____ day of _____ 2020.

Board of Selectmen