

**Town of Nahant**  
**Joint Meeting**  
**Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, and School Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday February 4, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom and Cable TV**

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

**Attendance:** Mark P. Cullinan (MC), Joshua A. Antrim (JA), Eugene Canty (GC), Antonio Barletta (TA)

**1. Meeting Opening 6:30pm**

**Motion:**

**MC:** Made a motion to open the Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health and School Committee at 6:30pm on Thursday February 4, 2021.

**a. Coronavirus update with Health Nurse Deborah Murphy and Health Officer John Coulon**

- i. Statistics
- ii. COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center
- iii. Testing
- iv. Approve Appointment of Assistant Public Health Nurse
- v. Administrative Help Wanted at Vaccine Clinic

**Deborah Murphy (Health Nurse)-** Although tonights numbers reflect that we are still in the red we are really in better shape. We reported tonight with 28 new COVID cases in the last 2 weeks. There was an outbreak at the Jesmond Nursing home with 15 active cases. Two people passed away and the others recovered. The Jesmond continues to have everyone tested 2x a week. In Nahant there are only 4 active COVID cases and its one of the lowest numbers we have had. Lynn Vaccine Clinic using Pfizer vaccine now but switching to Moderna next week.

**TA-** Went to the Vaccine Clinic yesterday and was a smooth operation with many local departments coming together to help. Our Vaccine Call Center has been successful in helping residents secure appointments. Call center is open Mond-Thurs 7:30am-4pm and Fridays 7:30am-12:30pm. We have another day this Saturday open for Free COVID testing at St. Thomas Church from 1-3pm.

**John Coulon (Health Officer)**- Governor Baker announced today that we will be entering Phase 3 Step 1. It begin Monday February 8, 2021 at 5:00am. This phase will increase capacity limits from 25% to 40%. This effects libraries, places of worship, offices, restaurants and close contact personal services. The capacity limits do not include employees. The State of Emergency had expired but it is now extended indefinitely. The capacity limits for private and public gatherings remain the same at 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. If you have any questions you can email or call the town hall and speak to John Coulon.

**Tony Pierantozzi (Johnson School Superintendent)**- We continue to be open and continue to report that due to the protocols we have in place we have not been able to trace any COVID-19 that has been transmitted at the school. We had 7 students test positive with COVID all of the transmission took place outside of school and no positive tests in teachers to date. Thanked Deb Murphy for her help and guidance, the School Nurse Cheryl Dilisio and the rest of the school staff. Protocols are in place for students if they are sick to stay home and parents have been following protocols.

**TA-** We decided to post an Assistant Public Health Nurse position that will be funded through reserve funds from the finance committee. We had two applicants. The job is still open so if people want to submit resumes we will take them.

**Deb Murphy-** We hired an Assistant Public Health Nurse Anna McNicholas. She is excited to help at the clinics and will be big help.

**Anna McNicholas (New Assistant Public Health Nurse)**- Excited and glad she can help out

**Motion:**

**Gene:** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve Anna McNicholas as the Assistant Public Health Nurse.

**JA: Seconded**

**Roll Call vote:**

**GC:** yes

**JA:** yes

**MC:** yes

If you are looking to offer Administrative Help at the Vaccine Clinic you can contact the Town Hall and we will take your information.

## **2. Opening Comments**

**MC-** Winter parking ban in effect until March 20, 2021 from 12am-6am. DPW is seeking snow removal equipment with operators. CPC accepting grant applications until March 12, 2021. Applications can be sent to [ktaylor@nahant.org](mailto:ktaylor@nahant.org) or manual submission to the town hall. Applications can be found online.

**JA-** CPC Match is 70%. So every dollar Nahant puts into the CPA Fund we get a 1.75\$ back.

### **3. New Business**

#### **a. Chief of Nahant Police Department Robert Dwyer**

**Chief Robert Dwyer (Nahant Police Dept)** – Announced his retirement effective July 31, 2021. It's been an honor serving the town the last 11 years. Thanked the Board of Selectmen, town and residents for their support. Thanked his wife and kids for their support.

**TA-** Chief Dwyer has been one of my most reliable department heads and a mentor. He is a solid public servant and understands our community. Thanked Chief Dwyer for everything.

**Deb Murphy-** During Covid Chief Dwyer has been so helpful and responds anytime of the day.

**MC-** The Chief and I go back a long way. Any success I may have had is related to you. Your staff was always loyal to you and respected you.

**JA-** Thanked the Chief for everything.

**GC-** Hopes the Chief enjoys his retirement

#### **b. Joint Vote with the School Committee and Board of Selectmen for Appointment to vacant seat on School Committee**

**TA-** Lori Ballantine resigned from the School Committee and we wish her luck in her future endeavors. When we have a vacant position on an elected board or committee our bylaws stipulate that a joint vote of the remaining members of that board with the Board of Selectmen can vote to appoint someone to fill that seat until the Election Day as the appointed. Then on Election Day the remaining years of that term will be on the ballot.

#### **Motion:**

**Regina Laine (member of School Committee);** Made a motion to nominate Patty Karras to the vacant seat on the School Committee.

**Tom Tria (School Committee):** Seconded

**Roll call vote from School Committee members:**

**Tom Tria-**yes

**Mary West-**yes

**Regina Laine-**yes

**Lauren Sherlock-**yes

**Roll call vote from the Board of Selectmen**

**JA-**yes

**GC-**yes

**MC-**yes

**Discussion:**

**Patty Karras (School Committee nominee):** I am very humbled and honored and look forward to serving on the School Committee

**Motion:**

**Tom Tria (School Committee):** made a motion to appoint Patty Karras to the School Committee

**Mary West:** Seconded

**Roll call vote from School Committee members:**

**Tom Tria-**yes

**Mary West-**yes

**Regina Laine-**yes

**Lauren Sherlock-**yes

**Roll call vote from the Board of Selectmen:**

**JA-**yes

**GC-**yes

**MC-**yes

c. Vote to Open and Close Annual Town Meeting Warrant

**Motion:**

**JA-** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to open the May 15, 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant for submittal of articles by all town boards, committees, personnel and the public for consideration of placement on the 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

**GC- seconded**

**Roll call vote:**

**JA-yes**

**GC-yes**

**MC-yes**

**TA-** Our bylaws state all citizen petitions or committee requested articles for town meeting warrant be submitted by January 31, 2021. The Board of Selectmen also have the authority after tonight to make amendments to the warrant and open,edit and close. We will be going through the draft of the warrant, close it and send to the finance committee. Read the articles that are on the warrant for this years 2021 Annual Town Meeting.

**Motion:**

**JA-** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to accept and close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as presented and send it to the Advisory and Finance Committee to begin taking positions with the understanding that ongoing review will occur by the Board of Selectmen and that modification may occur at a later time.

**GC- Seconded**

**Roll call vote:**

**JA-yes**

**GC-yes**

**MC-yes**

**d. Vote to approve FY22 Budget and send to the Finance Committee**

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to endorse the Town Administrator and Selectmen Budget for FY22 with the understanding that ongoing review will occur by the Board of Selectmen and that modifications may occur at a later time and forward it to the Finance and Advisory Committee for their on-going review in the FY22 Budget Development process.

**GC- Seconded**

**Discussion:**

**TA-** Very proud of this budget. It was a difficult year but we pulled together a good budget. The Department heads put together their budgets. We want to continue to build up our reserves and slow down our spending. We are in the second year of a three year union contract with Police, Fire and DPW and clerical. The second and third year have 3% increases. We were able to come up with a contract that would benefit the town in the short term and benefit them in the long run. We were cautious about how much we borrowed this year. We prioritized public health.

#### **4. Ongoing Business**

- a. Approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes from January 7, 2021 and January 21, 2021.

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes from January 7, 2021.

**GC-** seconded

**Roll call vote:**

**JA-**yes

**GC-**yes

**MC-**yes

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes from January 7, 2021.

**GC-** seconded

**Roll call vote:**

**JA-**yes

**GC-**yes

**MC-**yes

#### **5. Preserving East Point**

- a. Recap of the Eminent Domain Q&A

**MC:**Felt the Q&A session went great. Thanked Tony and the two lawyers for putting it together

- b. Update on Article 97 Litigation**

**MC:** Last year the Board of Selectmen voted to join Nahant Preservation Trust in their lawsuit against Northeastern. The lawsuit was based on a provision in the Massachusetts Constitution referred to as Article 97. Article 97 takes property that is dedicated to Open Space, natural resources, conservation purposes and controls it from being developed on. It requires a 2/3 vote from the State Legislature for any development on that property. It has been delayed because of COVID. Northeastern at the time submitted a motion for summary judgement for it saying the lawsuit has no merit. A hearing was held on January 26, 2021 on Northeasterns

summary for judgement. Northeastern was trying to dismiss all claims brought by the town of Nahant and the Nahant Preservation Trust. The judge indicated that the motions were not appropriate at this time and was clear that he would deny them if Northeastern pressed them. So Northeastern agreed to withdraw them. Northeastern was also trying to rescind the cases back to land court claiming that they had exclusive jurisdiction which the judge also rejected indicating that given the prior orders he was transferring the case to superior court and he would clarify that he was being assigned to sit as land court judge to hear both cases. Northeastern had sought to keep the cases on separate schedules and the judge rejected this too. The judge also indicated that it will be some time before the case can be heard by a jury of 12 and that given his review of the papers it was clear some if not all of the claims would need to be heard by a jury. The judge concluded by recommending that the parties consider mediation using a program affiliated with the Essex Superior Court. Read a letter from the Board of Selectmen that will be sent to Mr. Ralph Martin (Northeastern general counsel)(letter to be made available to the public on nahant.org).

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the letter as read and submit to Northeastern University.

**GC:** seconded

**Roll call vote:**

**JA:** yes

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

**6. Town Administrators Report**

- a. Mosquito Control Dredging Project
- b. ACOP DEP part five of timeline due February 8, 2021.

**TA:** The next milestone of the ACOP from the DEP is due February 8, 2021 to set up an Emergency Response Plan. We are on pace with this plan and will submit by February 8, 2021. Mosquito Control- We pay into Essex County Mosquito Control just like everyone else in our County every year and the past 3 years they have not come out and done any work but they have been out here for the last 2 weeks and finished up work right before our most recent storm and it has provided many benefits. The work of mosquito control and the town with dredging has already shown a difference in flow. Showed before and after pictures of dredging and vegetation removal. Went over areas that were dredged throughout town. This past Monday we had our first Northeaster of the season. Ward Rd, Lowlands, Willow rd and Nahant Rd all saw water/impacts of the storm. On Tuesday night the ditch on Ward Rd was filled to the brim with water. On Wednesday morning we hooked up one of our new portable pumps at bear pond around 10am. We didn't even have it on full throttle and let it

run over night. This morning we looked at Ward Rd ditch and it was about ¼ filled of what it was before pumping. The golf course was also almost dry today as well due to pumping.

## 7. Citizens Forum

**Ken Carangelo (resident)**- The town warrant article that accepts gifts, that going away you mention had to do with something the Municipality Modernization Act, can you explain why that goes away?

**TA:** The Municipal Modernization Act provided for authorization that in the past would require a town vote, but I will get a more formal explanation of what that is.

**Ken Carangelo (resident)**- Would it make sense for the town to hold in advance all the activities moving towards Eminent Domain?

**MC:** I will have an open mind going into mediation

**Cora Long:** Is there an update on the streetlights and the expected date of installation?

**TA:** The biggest hold up was getting the shields but we do have a contractor waiting for the delivery and I will give an update at the next BOS meeting.

## 8. Adjourn

### Motion:

**GC:** Made a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting on February 4, 2021 at 8:54pm

**JA:** seconded

### Roll call vote;

**JA:** yes

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

Meeting Minutes prepared by Administrative Assistant, Kristin Taylor on February 17, 2021.

Meeting Minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of Feb  
2021 via Zoom