

Town of Nahant

Joint Meeting

Board of Selectmen & Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday September 16, 2020 6:30pm via Zoom

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)

Mark Cullinan made a motion to open the joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health via zoom at 6:30pm on Wednesday September 16, 2020.

1. Meeting Opening

- a. Coronavirus update with Deb Murphy and Health Officer John Coulon

Deb Murphy- Nahant currently has zero positive coronavirus cases and zero people in quarantine. Some surrounding communities still in the red and seeing more cases. We have the best percentage rate of all of our neighboring communities.

John Coulon- Everyone still needs to follow guidelines and mandates.

TA- In the Finance Committee and Advisory recommendation book on the first page for Town Meeting is information regarding the set up for this year's Town Meeting. Everyone is required to wear a mask the entire meeting. Seats will be spaced 6 feet apart however residents of the same household can sit next to each other. People in line for the microphone, check in line and the restrooms will be required to stand 6 feet apart. There will be compliance officers helping to usher people in and out and to and from seats. Anyone that is required to be in quarantine will not be allowed at the meeting. Parking lot will be one lane in and one way out. There will be parking in the Johnson School lot and on the park side of Flash Rd.

2. Opening Comments

JA- Wished the students, teachers and parent's good luck on the re-opening of school.

3. New Business

- a. Approve the BOS meeting minutes from July 8, 2020 and July 22, 2020 and Executive Session meeting minutes from September 3, 2020.

JA- I move that the BOS vote to approve the BOS meeting minutes from July 8, 2020.

GC- seconded

Roll call vote

JA-yes

GC-yes

MC- yes

GC- I move that the BOS vote to approve the BOS meeting minutes from July 22, 2020

JA- seconded

Roll call vote

JA-yes

GC-yes

MC-yes

JA- I move that the BOS vote to approve the Executive Session BOS meeting minutes from September 3, 2020.

GC- seconded

Roll call vote

JA-yes

GC-yes

MC-yes

b. Public Hearing: in conjunction with the Town Moderator, adjustment of Town Meeting quorum

GC- I move that pursuant to section 7 of chapter 92 of the acts of 2020 the BOS vote to reduce the requisite quorum of town meeting of 75 to

JA- seconded

Discussion:

TA- Section 7 of chapter 92 of the acts of 2020 helps to maintain quorum while reducing the quorum. Allows us to reduce the quorum to not less than 10% of our typical quorum amount which is 75 so 10% would be 7 ½ or 8. We had to post it in the newspaper 7 days prior to the meeting and the vote has to take 10 days prior to the meeting. It is also with approval from the town moderator. We have a choice. We do not have to go down to 8. But we also have a limited warrant and we are trying to keep the crowd small.

MC- I move to amend the motion to reduce the quorum amount from 75 to 15.

JA- seconded

Roll call vote:

JA-yes

GC-yes

MC-yes

- c. Approve the October 1/12th deficit spending budget.

JA- I move the BOS vote to approve the deficit spending budget for the month of October FY21

GC- seconded

Roll call vote

JA- yes

GC-yes

MC-yes

Discussion:

TA- If we are able to complete the annual Town Meeting on September 26th then this one month budget will not be necessary.

- d. Appoint new member to the Board of Registrars pursuant to Chapter 51 sec. 15

GC- I move that pursuant to Chapter 51 sec. 15 the BOS vote to appoint Lori Ballantine as the new member to the Board of Registrars.

JA-seconded

Roll call vote:

JA-yes

GC-yes

MC-yes

Discussion:

TA- The process started a little bit earlier then the new Town Clerk coming on. The process dictates that the BOS request three recommended candidates from the town committee party chair of the vacant seat.

The request is made by certified mail. Since there was only one candidate recommended we had to wait 45 days to make the appointment. Lori Ballantine came highly recommended.

- e. Board of Selectmen meeting-Fall/winter/spring schedule.

MC- The BOS meeting schedule will be switching from the summer schedule into the winter/spring schedule. Going forward the BOS meetings will take place on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Meeting times/dates and agendas will be posted on Nahant.org on the community calendar.

TA-There will be a meeting next Wednesday September 23 at 6:30pm as the final meeting before the annual town meeting. The new schedule will start in October.

4. Ongoing Business

- a. Preserving East Point- ongoing discussion

TA- We received a response from Northeastern from our letter to them requesting that they hold off in submitting any further permit applications, it was submitted to webmaster to have it posted on our website.

- b. Final Discussion regarding FY21 trash rates and change to distribution and abatements-vote to accept will be at the following BOS meeting.

Discussion:

TA- We began discussing this issue back in 2019 however due to a national crisis in the waste management industry the cost of services has went up and around the same time the towns contract was up. The plan is to go with a one year contract, develop a new system that would help distribute costs of waste and recycling services equitably to all residents and negotiate a long term contract with cheaper collection services and further provide equitable distribution of costs. One year contract with Waste Management was executed on July 1, 2020 with a 16.63% increase due to international recycling crisis, state is over its solid waste capacity due to landfill closures and a national labor shortage in Commercial Drivers and Diesel Technicians. We also looked at formalizing the abatement process and created a new abatement form.

5. Town Administrator Report

TA- Bobbie Jo Blair our Administrative Assistant announced her last day will be September 26th. The position has been posted on our website. Thanked Bobbie Jo for her dedication and commitment to the town and the Town Hall. We wish her well in the future.

- a. Water main project update

TA- Would like to apologize to any residents that were not informed that their water was going to be shut off during the water main project. Jobs are going well and happy with the engineer and contractor.

- b. Parrott Road Seawall update

TA- The repair project is almost completed. Zach and his crew did a great job. Positive feedback from residents.

c. Streetlight Conversion Project

TA- We are expecting delivery of our new LED lights in the next week. Replacing all outdoor streetlights with LED. Project should take about 3 weeks. The lights are dark sky compliant.

6. Citizens Forum

Alice Cort- Asked about trees on upper valley road and how to find out if the trees are homeowners or town trees.

Bob (American Legion post 215 Nahant)- Recently the post awarded Legion member Kenneth C. Gavin Lt Col U.S. Airforce Retired a certificate of recognition and achievement of his 100th birthday and for his outstanding service in the U.S. Army Air Core and the U.S. Airforce

Bonnie D'Orlando- Concerned the assistant Librarian at the Nahant Library is not being paid enough and wants to know why.

Nancy Cary- Asked for meeting minutes or a recording from September 2nd Fin Com meeting.

7. Adjourn

GC- I move to adjourn the Board of Selectmen and Board of health meeting

JA-seconded

Roll call vote

JA- yes

GC- yes

MC- yes

Meeting Adjourned 8:11pm

Meeting minutes prepared by Kristin Taylor Administrative Assistant 11/23/20

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

Board of Selectmen