

Board of Selectmen
Emergency Meeting, 1:00PM
Tuesday, March 24, 2020
Remote Participation (Zoom)

Present: Selectman Murby, Selectman Peterson, Selectman Marcucci, Attorney Cerel, Michael Pastore, Scott McDermott, Nicholas Milano, Kristine Trierweiler

Chairman Murby opened the meeting at 1:00PM and stated the following: “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 Medfield Board of Selectmen is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be 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 listen to or view this meeting while in progress may do so by following the instructions on the agenda and meeting notice,” and disclosed that the meeting is being recorded and streamed on Medfield TV.

Chair Murby stated the meeting is subject to the remote participation policy and guidelines issued by the Town Administrator for virtual meetings.

Discussion

Town Administrator, Kristine Trierweiler, explained that the meeting had been called to discuss several items related to COVID-19 and therefore qualified as an emergency meeting.

March 30, 2020 Annual Town Election

Chairman Murby recused himself from the discussion as he appears on this year’s ballot.

Ms. Trierweiler explained that Governor Baker has signed legislation allowing for the postponement of elections to a time and date set. Board discussed the Governor’s stay at home advisory, safety of election workers and residents, social distancing, current inability to complete the election using absentee ballots. Selectmen will encourage absentee ballot voting for those that do not want to come out in person.

Vote: *Selectman Peterson made a motion to move the Annual Town Election to Monday, May, 4, 2020, second by Selectman Marcucci. Roll Call Vote: Marcucci-YES, Peterson-YES, Murby-Abstained. Vote was 2-0.*

Selectmen discussed the date of the Annual Town Meeting which had been scheduled to take place on Monday, May 4th at 7:00 PM. Town Moderator Scott McDermott and Warrant

Committee Chair Mike Pastore contributed to the discussion. Currently the BOS have the authority to postpone the town meeting only by 30 days which has been utilized in the past, however yesterday S2608 was passed allowing the BOS to move the Annual Town Meeting to no later than June 30th. After discussion on the readiness of the town meeting warrant and FY21 budget everyone was in agreement to postpone tentatively to Monday, June 15, 2020 at 7:00PM. At this time the Governor's order does not allow Towns to go beyond the typical June 30, 2020 cutoff date for an Annual Town Meeting however that is expected in the next round of municipal legislation. DOR is also expected to authorize spending each month at 1/12 of the prior year's budget in the next filing. There may be a need to defer longer depending on developments in the coronavirus public health crisis.

Vote: Selectman Peterson made a motion to move the Annual Town Meeting to Monday, June 15, 2020 at 7:00PM, seconded by Selectman Marcucci. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Marcucci-YES, Selectmen Murby-YES, Selectmen Peterson-YES) Vote was 3-0.

Update on Town Operations during COVID-19 state of emergency

Ms. Trierweiler provided the following update:

1. Governor issued Emergency Stay at Home Advisory effective at noon today, March 24, 2020.
2. Police/Fire on updated staffing schedule 24/7 normal operations
3. DPW has instituted a rotating staff schedule to minimize contact and practice social distancing
4. Town Hall staff has identified essential/non essential personnel and we are on a rotating shift schedule. All town buildings that are closed to the public are still staffed either in person or remotely and staff is ready to answer questions by phone or email.
5. MTS is now open on Sundays, we have had to suspend taking mattresses and items for the swap at this time temporarily, due to capacity, we thank everyone for their patience this past weekend.
6. Playground equipment, athletic fields etc. are closed. Governor's order includes notice that no congregating 10 or more, but no one is allowed on any fields
7. As of yesterday the Building Department is conducting inspections on a case-by-case basis, accepting alternative methods of field inspections. Field inspections have been suspended because we cannot assure proper social distancing, and we put both our inspectors and homeowners at risk.
8. All of our updates and important information can be found on our dedicated COVID-19 information site, we are posting information as it is available, providing links for small businesses, community members that want to help, we also ask that you use our social media sites on both Facebook and Twitter.
9. Sign up for our new alert system as well, again information can be found on our Covid website.

Ms. Trierweiler asked the Board to move the official board/committee meeting posting site from being physically located at the rear of the town hall to the Town's website: www.town.medfield.net. This is due to the decreased staffing at the town hall and the necessity of some emergency meeting postings. The website has the ability to track the posting date and time to ensure boards/committees are meeting the 48 hour Open Meeting Law rule, except in cases of emergency posting.

After discussion, it was determined the BOS had the authority to move the official location for public meeting notifications, and can move it back if necessary with another vote, Marion Bonoldi, Assistant Town Clerk will notify the Division of Open Government of the change.

Vote: Selectman Peterson made a motion to move the official meeting posting site to the Town of Medfield website www.town.medfield.net during this state of emergency, seconded by Selectman Marcucci. Roll call vote: Selectman Marcucci-YES, Selectman Murby-YES, and Selectman Peterson-YES. Vote was 3-0.

Town Administrator Update

Ms. Trierweiler stated that her goal during this time has been a continuity of operations and that includes maintaining our basic functions of government. Unfortunately that includes sending out the tax bills this week. She recognizes the timing is unfortunate but we have to continue our operations and that means water bills will also need to be sent in the coming weeks.

Boards and Committees are starting to meet again, if anyone would like to schedule a meeting please contact Kristine or Nick and we can get it set up for a zoom meeting and provide guidance. If anyone is having difficulty connecting to the meetings please reach out to Nick and he can provide assistance.

Attorney Cerel stated that he is available remotely in his office and can be reached via phone or email.

Carol Read, Chair of the Board of Health extended her thanks to Kristine and her staff, Dr. Marsden and both Fire and Police Chiefs for the guidance and work with the Board of Health during this time.

Board of Selectmen Updates

Board asked to schedule Evan Weisenfeld, Abby Marble and Georgia Colivas at the next meeting to discuss the HOME committee, Covid-19 Fund, and other available resources. BOS will also discuss the funding available in the Economic Vitality Fund to assist our small businesses in town.

Next Meeting is scheduled for March 31, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Marcucci-YES, Selectman Murby-YES, and Selectman Peterson-YES. Vote was 3-0