

Board of Selectmen
April 21, 2020, 7:00 PM
Minutes

Remote Participation (Zoom)

Present: Selectmen Gus Murby, Osler Peterson, and Michael Marcucci, Town Counsel Mark Cerel, Town Administrator Kristine Trierweiler, Assistant Town Administrator Nicholas Milano, Treasurer/Collector Georgia Colivas.

Chair Murby called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and read the following statement and reminded everyone that remote participation rules including roll call votes are in effect:

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/view] this meeting while in progress may do so by following the instructions on the agenda and meeting notice.

Chair Murby asked for a moment of appreciation for our troops serving around the world as well as our local health care professionals.

Letter of Engagement with Hinckley Allen

Treasurer Collector Georgia Colivas presented the opportunity to switch our bond counsel. The Town is currently served by Locke Lord (formerly Palmer and Dodge). Ms. Colivas and Ms. Trierweiler met with Jay Gonzalez from Hinckley Allen back in January to discuss their bond counsel services. They have offered a letter of engagement with significant cost savings on our bond issues and have capped the cost of borrowing for the future Dale Street School. The cost savings and the high level of attention from Mr. Gonzalez is why they are asking the Board of Selectmen to vote to change bond counsel services.

Chair Murby asked Georgia to summarize the differences between our Financial Advisor, Hilltop Securities, and the services provided by Bond Counsel.

Selectman Marcucci stated changing counsel was a good idea for the Town as we need someone looking out for our interests particularly as we looking at structuring our bonds for Dale Street. It will be beneficial to the Town to have a bond counsel who is working to retain our business.

Selectmen Peterson thanked Ms. Colivas for saving the town money and also supported the change. He stated that he had met Mr. Gonzalez with Mike and Kris when Mr. Gonzalez was Secretary of Admin and Finance to discuss the Medfield State Hospital.

Ms. Trierweiler stated that she appreciated the indications from Hinckley Allen that they were working for us and with us as we try to accomplish projects.

Mark Cerel said the engagement letter was typical of attorney engagement and had no issue with it, did understand there were some changes requested and those have been made.

Vote: Selectman Peterson made a motion to authorize Kristine Trierweiler, Town Administrator to sign the letter of engagement with Hinckley Allen, seconded by Selectman Marcucci. Roll Call Vote: Murby-AYE, Marcucci-AYE, Peterson-Yes. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Colivas thanked the Board of Selectmen for swiftly taking action at the last meeting regarding the moving of the June 1 bill due dates. The Town received its money last week from the banks and escrow companies avoiding a cash flow issue. Not all towns were as lucky as Medfield and the banks have started to notify them today that they will not receive the money until June.

Town Election-May 4, 2020

Ms. Trierweiler informed the Board of Selectmen that they have the authority to change the time of the polls at the election. Although absentee ballot requests are up, there will be a polling location set up with social distancing in place. Chair Murby recused himself from the discussion of the election.

Selectmen discussed keeping the hours the same of 6AM to 8PM would assist the Town in social distancing of the polls versus condensing the poll hours. Ms. Trierweiler does have authorization to hold the election outside if the weather cooperates. Selectmen agreed to leave the polling hours as they are currently.

Board of Health Facial Coverings Recommendation

Ms. Trierweiler reported that the Board of Health voted on April 16th to recommend cloth facial coverings for all essential employees as well as residents that are visiting those establishments. Chair Murby asked that everyone listen to the Board of Health, Medfield is lucky to have a Board of Health exercising great judgement that is both thoughtful and effective. It is important to listen and support them when they make these recommendations.

Selectmen Reports

Chair Murby stated that he has been made aware that Medfield is not immune to financial hardships and that this is having an effect on our residents. We need to be as helpful as possible, with similar programs such as Georgia brought forth last week to delay the due date of our real estate tax bills.

Selectmen Peterson agreed with Mr. Murby that we need to protect the infrastructure of our economic systems.

Vote: Selectman Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30, seconded by Selectman Marcucci. Roll Call Vote: Murby-AYE, Marcucci-AYE, Peterson-Yes. Vote was unanimous.