

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

September 2, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Chairman Brett A. Simas; Selectman Maureen Dwinnell; Selectman Stephen A. Matellian; Town Manager, Derek S. Brindisi; Executive Assistant, Sandra Hakala

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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 concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings in the Town of Upton are being conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. 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.

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As a preliminary matter, this is Brett Simas – Chair, Board of Selectmen. Permit me to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me.

- Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative. *Stephen Matellian, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye,*
- Staff, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative. Derek Brindisi, Town Manager aye, Sandra Hakala, Executive Assistant, aye. *State each staff members' name.*
- Anticipated Speakers on the Agenda, please respond in the affirmative. *None*

INVITED GUESTS

Board of Health & Finance Committee

Discuss Trash & Recycling

Upton's curbside trash and recycling program, overseen by the Board of Health, is paid for through the budget, partially offset by trash bag fees. Upton extended its contract for one year with E.L. Harvey, giving town officials time to determine the future of the trash and recycling program.

To eliminate recycling with Harvey, will still cost \$77,000 a year and by canceling recycling the state can impose thousands of dollars in fees. Options discussed were:

- eliminate curbside pick-up, making residents responsible for their own trash and recycling but with financial impact to those on a fixed income
- the town to do its own pickup but would be expensive – personnel and truck cost

- establish a transfer station but would need to find a site and follow state guidelines.

Finance Committee Chair Paul Flaherty stated the town's program is not sustainable. "In two years, it has increased \$170,000," he said, noting from FY 2019 to 2020 it rose \$127,000 and from FY 2020 to 2021 by \$43,000.

Town Manager Derek Brindisi explained Northbridge does not have a municipal trash pick-up program, but pays Blackstone \$7,500 a year to handle the town's recycling. Three containers are placed behind the Northbridge Fire Station, where residents bring recyclables on Saturdays. Trash is self-subscribed with Northbridge residents choosing from six approved trash haulers, who could also provide residents with curbside recycling. Brindisi stated the total costs of Upton's trash and recycling program is \$600,000 and the revenue from trash bags fees is \$215,000, showing a net cost to the town of approximately \$385,000 in the FY21 budget.

Selectmen will continue investigating a trash and recycling program for Upton.

Discuss the Town's position to Opt Out from Aerial Spraying

Governor Baker signed into law a program that gives state officials some expanded authority to engage in mosquito control only after the Department of Public Health confirms there is an elevated risk of the EEE virus in the region. Municipalities may opt out entirely from pesticide spraying; the process for towns to do so is underway.

Chair Simas said he believed the articles were voted down because residents didn't want spraying in the community. However, Board of Health member Al Holman felt the opposition could have been about spending the \$50,000.

At a future meeting, the Board will discuss a town Mosquito Control Board to be overseen by the Board of Health.

ADJOURN MEETING

Motion #1: At 9:30pm Selectman Dwinnell made motion to adjourn.

Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hakala, Executive Assistant