

**BOARD OF  
SELECTMEN  
MEETING  
MINUTES**

**September 8, 2020**

**Virtual Meeting**

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

**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.

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 will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. We will strive to provide access to such meetings via a link to call in, or other similar option. In the event we are unable to accommodate the same, despite best efforts, we will post recorded sessions of the meeting as soon as possible following the same.

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, *State each staff members' name.*
- Anticipated Speakers on the Agenda, please respond in the affirmative. *None*

**REVIEW MEETING AGENDA/APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

***Motion #1:*** Motion made by Selectman Dwinnell to accept the Regular Meeting – July 7, 14, August 4

Second: Selectman Matellian, Unanimous, Chairman Simas  
Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

**INVITED GUESTS**

[Eagle Scout Presentation](#) –

Eagle Scout Flag Pole Project – Josh Crosby, an eagle scout is proposing to replace the old flag pole at Kiwanis. The old flag pole is in rough shape and the manner in which the flag goes up causes it to get tangled on the rope easily. With this project, there would be a raised circular planter with a flag pole in the middle. The flag pole would have solar lights so that the flag can

40 be left up and not taken down each day. There would likely be some funding requests from the  
41 Recreation Commission and additional support from the Men's Club, VFW, and other vendors.

42  
43 **Motion #2:** Motion made by Selectman Matellian allow Josh Crosby to pursue this Eagle Scout  
44 Project on the Kiwanis Beach Property

45  
46 Second: Selectman Dwinnell, Unanimous, Chairman Simas  
47 Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

48  
49 [Capital Budget Update](#)

50 Dan Lazarz presented to the BOS their proposed Capital Budget Planning Guideline and their  
51 intention to host a capital planning workshop this Fall. The BOS approved the planning  
52 guideline as a "draft" document knowing that this is a working document that will be modified  
53 over time. The BOS also request that this guideline be posted to the town's website and that  
54 the Dan Lazarz work with the town manager on the planning of the workshop.

55  
56 [DISCUSSION ITEMS](#)

57 [Motion to Accept Various Grants](#)

58 ***Motion to Accept Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Grant***

59 Chief DiFronzo requested an electronic static disinfecting sprayer for \$2200. This piece of  
60 equipment can be used to disinfect the apparatus rooms, furniture, space, and whatever needs  
61 to be disinfected.

62  
63 **Motion #3:** Motion made by Selectman Dwinnell to Accept Coronavirus Emergency  
64 Supplemental Funding (CESF) Grant.

65  
66 Second: Selectman Matellian, Unanimous, Chairman Simas  
67 Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

68  
69 [Motion to Accept Dispatch Training Grant](#)

70 The first 911 training grant for the amount of \$37,397 provides 32 hours of continuing training  
71 to each communications officer. This includes payment for training, fee certifications, salary  
72 and overtime replacement while in training.

73  
74 The second grant is also 911 in the amount of \$2279, for wages to reimburse staff, or time  
75 spent doing quality assurance and analysis of our Emergency Medical Dispatcher Program.

76  
77 **Motion #4:** Motion made by Selectman Matellian to accept a grant and the amount of 37,397  
78 dollars and 70% for the 911 training grant.

79  
80 Second: Selectman Dwinnell, Unanimous, Chairman Simas  
81 Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye

82  
83 **Motion #5:** Motion made by Selectman Dwinnell to accept the dispatch training grant, \$2279.

84  
85 Second: Selectman Matellian, Unanimous, Chairman Simas  
86 Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye, Steve Matellian, aye  
87

88 **Discuss Funding Requests for N2N and Program Update**

89 Janice Nowicki has been able to assist many residents in town with a variety of things, including  
90 food, rent, mortgage, utilities, medical bills, car payments within this program that was  
91 established in response to Covid 19. In summary 10 residents have been assisted in this  
92 program.

93  
94 **Bloomer Girls Holiday Request**

95 There have been no fundraisers for the Upton Bloomer Girls or other organizations in town and  
96 they still have a need to support residents with holiday dinners, gifts, and miscellaneous needs.  
97 In 2019 over \$8,000 was raised and close to \$10,000 was gifted for those in need during the  
98 holidays. The current Covid-19 pandemic may lead more families needing assistance. The  
99 foundation of the Upton Bloomer Girls is to give support to the townspeople and therefore  
100 request support from the trust fund.

101  
102 **Motion #6:** Motion made by Selectman Dwinnell to expend \$12000 from the Ella Risteen  
103 Welfare Fund to help the Upton Bloomer Girls with their annual holiday giving donations.

104  
105 Selectman Matellian recused himself, explaining his wife is a member of the Bloomer Girls.  
106  
107 Second: Chairman Simas, Majority Action  
108 Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye,  
109

110 **RECOGNITION**

111 Andrew St. George  
112 Recreation Commission member Deb Amorelli spoke to the Selectmen concerning Andrew St.  
113 George's efforts to move forward with the summer Kids@Play program and the summer  
114 concerts. She stated he accomplished something that most other towns did not even attempt,  
115 coming up with a very detailed plan that was fun but safe and was reviewed by the Recreation  
116 Commission and the Board of Health. No cases of Covid were reported as a result of the  
117 summer programs.

118  
119 **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

120     • The STM is scheduled for November 10th.  
121     • The finance department working with the bank regarding one of the financial articles,  
122         which is really probably going to be the article that necessitates STM this Fall.  
123     • For further consideration is whether to take any action to reduce the quorum of the  
124         STM in consideration of Covid  
125     • The Building Committee is considering two plans  
126     • The Fowler Street Bridge is ahead of schedule about 4 weeks.

127     • Code statistics as of late, and are keeping pace with the building construction same time  
128     last year.  
129     • Nexamp is live the projected electricity savings to the town is projected to be annually  
130     north of \$40,000 per year.

131  
132     **ADJOURN MEETING**

133     ***Motion #7:*** At 8:20pm Selectman Dwinnell made motion to adjourn.

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

136  
137     Respectfully submitted,

138  
139     Sandra Hakala, Executive Assistant