

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.

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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, *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

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

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

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

Capital Budget Update

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Motion to Accept Various Grants

Motion to Accept Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Grant

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

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

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

Motion to Accept Dispatch Training Grant

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

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

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

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

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

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

Discuss Funding Requests for N2N and Program Update

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

Bloomer Girls Holiday Request

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

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

Selectman Matellian recused himself, explaining his wife is a member of the Bloomer Girls.

Second: Chairman Simas, Majority Action
Brett Simas, aye, Maureen Dwinnell, aye,

RECOGNITION

Andrew St. George

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

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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

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

ADJOURN MEETING

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hakala, Executive Assistant