

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2021

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.

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*

Public Comment

None

Board Discussion Items

Discuss Annual Town Election Date and ballot questions

Discuss American Rescue Plan Funding

Review Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The Town Manager briefed the Board what the implications of the American Rescue Plan Funding may have on the Warrant. ARP Funding amounts to approximately 2.4 million. What is not known at this time, is how both the town and the schools can use what amounts, to almost \$3 million in federal funds. The Department of Treasury is still working on guidance, expected to be released in mid-April.

It suggests that this money can be used for infrastructure, but in parentheses, they put water and sewer infrastructure. The first question the Town would want to know is what types of infrastructure or is it just going to be focus on water and sewer. In the legislation, it talks about using percentage of these dollars to replace lost revenue to municipalities. Third component was to support local businesses. The Board approved the warrant last week which included a 1.4 million override requested by the school district and the 12.4 community center debt exclusion. The conversation turned to how might the ARP funding mitigate the school override. The issue with the election being May 11, the ballots must go to print at the end of the week.

The Town Clerk, Kelly McElreath recommended the Selectmen either change the date of the Election to May 18 at Nipmuc Regional High School or keep the original date but move the polling location to the Town Hall. The Selectmen will decide at their next meeting.

After much discussion, the Selectmen did vote to rescind the Prop. 2 ½ override ballot question for the Mendon Upton Regional School District due to the probability of the School Committee recertifying its budget at a lower number.

Motion #1: Motion made by Selectman Matellian to rescind the vote regarding Question 2 on the ballot, for override question in the amount of \$1,042,672 for the purpose of funding the MURSD.

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

Adjourn Meeting

Motion #2: At 8:28PM Selectman Dwinnell made motion to adjourn.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Hakala, Executive Assistant