

Date: March 14, 2020 (Annual/Special Town Meeting)

Date Minutes Approved: March 16, 2020

TOWN CLERK
2020 MAR 17 AM 9:13
DUXBURY, MASS.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Present: David Madigan, Chair, and Theodore J. Flynn, Vice Chair

Absent: Shawn Dahlen, Clerk

Staff: René J. Read, Town Manager; John Q. Adams, Finance Director; and Nancy O'Connor, Executive Assistant

Other: Jeff Blake, Esq., KP Law (Town Counsel); John Tuffy, Moderator; Betsy Sullivan, Chair of Finance Committee; and Fernando Guitart, Finance Committee member

CONVENED IN OPEN SESSION –

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Duxbury Schools' Performing Arts Center (cafeteria), 73 Alden Street, Duxbury.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Flynn moved that the Board of Selectmen approve/re-confirm the Selectmen's Minutes, as presented on the attached list. Seconded by Mr. Madigan Vote: 2:0:0

Discussions pertaining to the rescheduling of Annual and both Special Town Meetings and the Annual Town Election including requesting that the Governor file special legislation on behalf of the Town and any COVID-19 related matters requiring attention.

There were brief discussions regarding the need for towns to extend/postpone both their town meetings and their town election and whether or not they will be conducted by the end of the fiscal year. Attorney Jeff Blake mentioned that the State will probably do something to extend if towns cannot have their town meetings prior to the end of the fiscal year. Also discussed was the need for special legislation in order to also reschedule the Town Election.

Mr. Flynn then stated and moved the following motion regarding a request for special legislation:

The Board's vote to request that the Governor file the special legislation may be similar to the following:

Moved that, whereas the rapidly-evolving public health issues associated with coronavirus Covid-19, including the swift spread of the disease, present lack of containment, and the risk to the most vulnerable populations inherent in public gatherings; whereas various public and private entities, including professional sports leagues, universities, school districts, cultural institutions and events, and more, have been cancelled, closed, or temporarily suspended; whereas the World Health Organization has identified the current crisis as a pandemic; and whereas the Governor has declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth, the Town is taking action consistent with recommendations from federal and state agencies and officials to limit the spread of this disease amongst the residents and voters of the Town, its officials and employees, and visitors, including, closing or limiting the use of

schools and public buildings, suspending in-person meetings and other gatherings in Town office buildings, and encouraging residents to communicate with Town staff by e-mail and telephone to the extent possible. For all of these reasons, the Board of Selectmen votes to immediately request the Governor to file emergency legislation on behalf of the Town, a so-called "Governor's bill", seeking authorization to delay and reschedule the Annual Town Election to a date to be determined by the Selectmen in consultation with the Town Clerk, Board of Health, and other public safety personnel, and authorizing early voting by mail in connection with such postponed election, provided, further, that all nominations, ballot preparation, absentee voting and the like be ratified, validated and confirmed as though it was undertaken consistent with the date of the postponed election; and, further, if such legislation is not passed prior to the date of scheduled Annual Town Election, to ratify, validate and confirm the Board's vote to postpone the 2020 Annual Town Election; finally, the Board calls upon its legislative delegation to support the filing of this special legislation, and also wishes to provide direction to such delegation that it supports the filing of generally applicable legislation allowing for the postponement of municipal elections this fiscal year.

Seconded by Mr. Madigan. Vote: 2:0:0

RECESS AND ADJOURNMENT – Saturday, March 14, 2020

At approximately 8:30 a.m., Mr. Flynn moved that the Board recess until the start of the Duxbury Annual Town Meeting and then reconvene, recess, and adjourn in conjunction with the Town Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Madigan. Vote: 2:0:0

Note: This ATM/STM has been postponed until Monday, May 2, 2020 due to the seriousness of the recent COVID-19/coronavirus situation and the Town being vigilant for the safety of its residents and employees.

Minutes submitted by Nancy O'Connor

LIST OF DOCUMENTS (documents are kept in the Board of Selectmen files)

- 1) *Agenda*
- 2) *List of Minutes to be approved*
- 3) *Motion re special act*