

Town of Brimfield
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes – November 23, 2020
21 Main Street Road and Virtual

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

Or call in (audio only)

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Phone Conference ID: 770 524 930#

The chair of the Board or Committee should state at the beginning of the meeting that the meeting will be available online; what follows is a standard to be stated at the opening of the meeting.

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 imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Brimfield [Board of Selectmen] is being conducted via remote participation. Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to participate in this meeting while in progress may do so by following the link on the website or calling the phone number:

Members Present: Chair; Mike Doyle, Vice Chair; Paul McCarthy, Member; Carolyn Haley, Member; Suzanne Collins, Member; Ryan Olszta (absent), Recording; Admin; Carol Camerota

Others: Assessor; Cynthia Powers, Assessor Deputy; Cynthia Poirier, Treasurer-Collector; Sharon Ashleigh, Assessor & Town Clerk; Bob Sullivan,

Call to order: by (Doyle) at 6:15p.m.

6:15 p.m. - Joint with Board of Assessors:

Assessors called to order. Board of Selectmen are holding a joint hearing with the Board of Assessors for the purpose of determining property tax classifications and the setting of the FY2021 tax rate for the Town of Brimfield. Documents presented by the Assessors to the Selectmen while Accountant joined remotely. Reviewed were the LA_5 options and certification, along with the LA-13 comparison and the proposed recap. B. Sullivan recommended the following as presented on the Assessors agenda. The selection of a Residential factor of 1.000000 is a desire to maintain 100% of its full values tax share equal between all classes.

1. No discount was granted in computing the residential factor for Open Space.
2. No residential exemption was adopted in computing the residential factor.
3. No small commercial exemption has been adopted.
4. The Assessor's presented the excess Levey capacity figure for the current fiscal year of \$17,776.77. Figure is subject to change on the final DOR review.

M. Arsenault explained that the proposed tax rate was a result of the assessments being adjusted upwards, along with new growth resulting in 19 million in additional valuation. The proposed single rate of \$17.55 for all classes was recommended.

Motion: by (McCarthy) move to accept #'s 1-4 as presented from Assessors office, seconded by (Doyle), all in favor. Roll call as follows: (Collins)-Yes (Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes. All Assessors in favor.

Poirier thanked everyone's commitment to the process which shows on the recap from Building, Treasurer-Collector and Accountant while working together during the Covid. Hearing ended at 6: 23 p.m.

Board completed signing payroll and warrants until 6:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

(Doyle) called to order

Payroll and Warrants:

Signed by the Board

Minutes:

Review & approve minutes of November 9, 2020.

Motion: by (Haley) move to approve minutes of November 9, 2020, seconded by (McCarthy), all in favor. Roll call as follows; (Collins)-Yes (Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees:

Town Clerk RE: Open Meeting Law update:

Bob Sullivan will be electronically sending out a brief guide to OML. From time to time boards and committees should review the basics. Atty General office has helpful webinars on line and possibly the chairmen from each board or committee should watch. Dept of Local Services also has educational webinars available. Would the board consider an article at ATM requiring new board members to seek this education each year? Assessors are required 40 hours in the first 6 months as new board members. Doyle agreed and thought it should be a prerequisite to run. (Collins) would like to see an orientation and recommendations available to new members, adding MMA also has webinars. (Doyle) It's time for all boards meeting with the new budget season coming up. Perhaps Bob can inform boards at that time on December 7th. Budgets will be going out this week. Sullivan will be sending out an update to all boards.

2021 Liquor Licenses:

All necessary documents have been received with sign offs from Treasurer-Collector and Zoning Officer making these Annual Liquor License applications for 2021 ready for approval.

Motion: by (McCarthy) move to accept Dipali, Inc.-Brimfield Market, 13 Main Street and MK Fuel, 341 Sturbridge Road for package stores Licenses, Apple Barn Café, 52 Palmer Road and Francesco's Restaurant, Inc., 45 Palmer Road for Restaurant Licenses and Auction Barn Innovations – Brimfield Winery & Cider Barn, 35 Palmer Road, for Farmer Series Pouring Permit 19H for 2021, seconded (Haley), all in favor. Roll call as follows; (Collins)- abstain (Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees: (cont.)

Tree lighting and Santa on the common:

Brimfield Community Partnership and the Fire Department with the help of Boy Scouts and Rec Committee would like to decorate the common for the holidays and Santa's visit. This year Santa will be arriving on Sunday, December 6th at 5:00 p.m. with all protocols and social distancing in place. A bench will be placed 6' away from Santa for children.

Motion: by (Haley) move to approve use of common, Santa's visit and ride around town and decorating for the holidays, seconded by (McCarthy), all in favor.

(Doyle) would like to make sure after the holidays that the decorations be taken down. Don Contois, wanted clarification on Santa riding around town. He can stop but he must be socially distant.

(Collins) asked if the BOH had been contacted and will be people be present. Kids can sit on a bench 6' away, keeping it as close to normal as possible. Refreshments will be served by the Boy Scouts. (Doyle) would like the scouts to check with BOH.

Gazebo update (Administrative only, no public discussion):

(Doyle) had one more meeting with M. Connors. B. Corry is looking for more information from the State on using bricks. Waiting to hear from other contractors as well.

Grants:

Police dept was awarded a Grant for \$11,750. It will enable the purchase of a portable breathing machine and training. (Olszta) did most of the work.

Another grant came in for an Urban agenda program but does not fit Brimfield.

Reports of Special Committees:

Special Orders:

Contract with Constellation energy:

Constellation Energy is our electric service provider. Rates will be continuing to go up.

(Collins) asked if other prices are being compared. (McCarthy) confirmed that Constellation comes back with the best plan.

Chair to sign contract for public purchasing – HGAC-BUY:

Public purchasing cooperative applied for will help the Fire Chief purchase a new truck next year. Chair signed

7:00 p.m. Public Access:

None

Flea Market Licenses RE: timing of State Promoters license:

The Board received an email from Lois Shelton regarding Annual Owner Operator Licenses due date and how this would impact deadlines without knowing if all 2021 shows will be able to take place. Refunds from the State for 2020 still haven't been received. Must they apply to the State before applying to the town? (Haley) felt it was too soon to determine.

Motion: by (McCarthy) move to consider holding off application deadline until February 15th. Discussion by board. Amended by (McCarthy) to extend deadline application in 2021 to March 15th, seconded by (Haley), all in favor. Roll call as follows; (Collins)- abstain (Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes

Final Warrant date for 2021:

Caucus is in April. Board agreed to make the final Warrant due date on March 12th for 2021.

Unfinished Business and General Orders:

Removal of tree on the common:

Removal of large pine tree on the east end of the common was held off due to much disagreement by residents.

Motion: by (Haley) to rescind the last vote taken at the November 9th meeting from an overwhelming response from residents. The tree is still healthy. Seconded by (Collins), all in favor. Roll call as follows; (Collins)-Yes (Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes

(Collins) continued to comment that it wasn't the Selectmen's decision to cut the tree but the tree warden. (Doyle) disagreed since it was on the common. Regardless the vote was made to not take it down.

Phone system update:

No update

Parking contract for School Dept at Highway update:
(McCarthy) There hasn't been a meeting, so no news.

New Business:

Discussion heard of the sign for Sherman Lake going on private property, if so the Highway Surveyor will not install.

All Boards meeting:

All boards meeting will be during the Selectmen's meeting on December 7, 2020. Discussion will revolve around budget items, personnel policy and signature pages, BOH and Covid, Grants and Sr. worker available for grants and open meeting law. Possibly send signature pages out to each department. 30 minutes total time.

COVID testing:

Email regarding testing guidance for communities. Let BOH decide.

Apple Rd. complaint:

(Collins) spoke about a phone message from a resident on Apple Rd. complaining about loud noises from trucks pulling out of a sand pit. She felt it was important to address this complaint and any complaint should not be ignored when a person leaves their name. (Haley) Police could make rounds to check. (Doyle) took offense to voicemail insinuating that people in town were aware and not doing anything. Police Chief will look into it.

Office Matters & Mail:

COVID cases:

(McCarthy) reported from BOH that the most cases Brimfield has had were 16 and it is now down to 6 still being monitored.

Motion: by (Doyle) move to adjourn from open session at 7:25p.m. and convene in Executive Session: M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a) #3-To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Police Officer. And adjourn from tonight's meeting from there.

Seconded by (McCarthy), all in favor. Roll call as follows; (Collins)- Yes (Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes

Upcoming Meetings: December 7, 2020 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Camerota

Transcribed by: Carol Camerota

ACCEPTED:  DATE: 12/7/2020

Documents Utilized for this meeting

MATERIALS FOR BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE

1. Assessor's minutes from tax classification hearing
2. Meeting minutes of November 9, 2020
3. Emails re: decorating common and Santa
4. Email from L. Shelton
5. Warrant deadline
6. HGACBuy contract