

Town of Dudley

Board of Selectmen

Highway Commissioners

Cemetery Commissioners

August 3, 2020 @ 6:30pm

Dudley Municipal Complex

71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA

Room 321A

Approved August 17, 2020

Some matters have been taken out of agenda order but were typed up in agenda order for ease of locating information when necessary.

Chairman's Disclosure for Public Meetings:

Public Meetings:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor's Executive Orders imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, although a quorum of the members of the Dudley Board of Selectmen will be physically present for this meeting, no in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted. The meeting will be live broadcast on Dudley Cable Access Television, Channel 192, and members of the public can also access the rebroadcast of the meeting online via YouTube. In the event of an unanticipated interruption in this broadcast, we will post on the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Members of the public who wish to appear before the Board of Selectmen must make an appointment to appear on an upcoming agenda, by contacting Michelle Jervis at selectmen@dudleyma.gov or by calling Michelle at (508) 949-8001. Placement on the agenda is not guaranteed however, and persons requesting to appear before the Board of Selectmen should not attend a meeting in person unless and until the appointment has been confirmed by the Board of Selectmen. Persons with matters appearing on a meeting agenda may request that they attend via virtual means, such as via conference call rather than in person attendance. Such request should be directed to Michelle Jervis at selectmen@dudleyma.gov or by calling Michelle at (508) 949-8001 no more than three business days hours in advance, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

However, persons or representatives with matters appearing on the meeting notice/agenda who wish to be physically present at the meeting must observe the following requirements:

- 1. In accordance with existing requirements imposed by the Governor, meeting rooms will be limited in terms of the total number of persons that may be physically present at the same time, including Board/Committee members and staff. Satellite rooms will be available for overflow, and the meeting will be broadcast in real time in those satellite rooms.*
- 2. Persons who wish to participate in any particular matter on the meeting agenda will be asked to wait in a satellite room until that agenda item is reached, at which point attendees will be rotated between the main meeting room and the satellite room(s), as appropriate.*
- 3. Social distancing must be maintained in both the main meeting room and in satellite rooms. Face masks or coverings will be required in accordance with Governor Baker's May 1, 2020 COVID-19 Order No. 31, "Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible." A copy of that order can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-coverings/download>*
- 4. Failure to comply with these requirements may lead to an attendee's removal from the meeting.*

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:

Kerry Cyganiewicz called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. In attendance were John Marsi, Jason Johnson, Paul Joseph and Steven Sullivan. Also in attendance was Jonathan Ruda, Town Administrator and Michelle Jervis, Administrative Secretary.

Alex Morse for Congress – Alex Morse, candidate for Congress, called via conference call and thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak about his candidacy and his background. He is currently in his 4th term as mayor of Holyoke and he is running against Congressman Richard Neal. A portion of this meeting was set aside for questions and answers and all thanked him for his candor and the opportunity to speak with him.

2. Consent Agenda:

John Marsi motioned to accept the minutes of July 13, 2020. Jason Johnson seconded. Unanimous 5-0.

Stevens Mill – Letter of Support for Stevens Mill Historic Tax Credits. John Marsi motioned for the Chairman to sign the letter in support of the Stevens Mill historic tax credits. Steven Sullivan seconded. Unanimous 5-0.

Jonathan Ruda stated that his evaluation needs to be reviewed. All agreed to post it on the agenda for August 24, 2020 @ 6:30pm.

3. Appointments/Resignations:

Personnel Board – Joan Gardecki – Paul Joseph motioned to rescind the Board of Selectmen vote of July 13, 2020 and to reaffirm her term on the Personnel Board for a term to expire June 30, 2021. Jason Johnson seconded. Unanimous 5-0. Joan Gardecki stated that she looks forward working with Jon Ruda. John Marsi thanked her for returning.

4 Town Administrator's Report:

Jonathan Ruda stated that we have received notice that we have been level funded for local aid. He is working with Debi Thibaudeau, Town Accountant to prepare for the October town meeting. Regarding Chapter 70, it appears as if it may be going in the direction of being level-funded, plus an additional \$107 million more statewide for inflation but they have not announced it at this time. Mr. Ruda also informed the Board that the national economy as well as the state economy will have a heavy influence on our local revenues so his initial recommendation is even as we look to re-staff as needed, spending restrictions that were directed by the Board should remain in place throughout the summer and through the date of town meeting. This is a very important piece of the puzzle that must be considered. Regarding the library, the Trustees have contacted him and they are working on resuming library services with curbside pickup. The Building Inspector will be holding hours on Monday from 4pm to 7pm.

Michelle Jervis, Administrative Secretary stated that we are receiving several resumes for the Highway Superintendent position but not as many as we have anticipated. It might be advantageous to extend the deadline for resumes. All agreed that August 24th can be the new deadline.

5. Public Business:

Lori Smith, Town Clerk came before the Board to request to hold the fall town meeting on October 19, 2020. Steven Sullivan motioned to approve the date of October 19, 2020 for the Fall Town Meeting. John Marsi seconded. Unanimous 5-0.

Ms. Smith also wanted to inform the Board on the upcoming elections. Postcards have been mailed out by the State and they are receiving responses for ballots to be sent out. The primary election is slated for September 1, 2020. The deadline to register to vote is August 22, 202; deadline for vote by mail application is August 26th @ 5pm and deadline for absentee ballot application is August 31st @ noon. Early voting: Saturday, August 22nd 2-8pm; Sunday, August 23 8am to noon; Monday, August 24th 8am to 4pm; Tuesday, August 25th 8am to 4pm; Wednesday, August 26th 8am to 4pm, Thursday, August 27th 8am to

4pm and Friday, August 28, 9am to noon. She also gave the Board the dates for the Presidential Election which include 14 straight days of early voting in person beginning October 17th through October 30th. She will be utilizing election workers for some of these days. All thanked her for the information.

9. Board Member Comments:

10. Departmental Communication:

Adjournment and Executive Session:

Paul Joseph motioned to adjourn at 8:30pm and to convene into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3): to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiation with non-union staff and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (SEIU 888) as open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining as declared by the Chair and not to reconvene into public session.

John Marsi seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

Paul Joseph, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

John Marsi, Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Jervis
Administrative Secretary