

Town of Dudley

Board of Selectmen

Highway Commissioners
Cemetery Commissioners
November 23, 2020 @ 6:30pm
Dudley Municipal Complex
71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA
Room 321A

Approved 12/7/2020

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 remote attendance were John Marsi and Paul Joseph and Richard Carmignani, Treasurer/Collector. In public attendance were Kerry Cyganiewicz, Jason Johnson and Steven Sullivan. Also in attendance were Jonathan Ruda, Town Administrator and Michelle Jervis, Administrative Secretary.

Jonathan Ruda stated that he called Town Counsel clarifying members of the Board participating remotely. Since we are still in a State of Emergency/COVID-19 pandemic, the Board can participate remotely as long as a roll call vote is taken.

2. Consent Agenda:

Jason Johnson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda (approval of minutes of 11/3/2020; approve but not release executive session minutes of 11/3/2020, License Renewals for 2021). Steven Sullivan seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

John Marsi, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

The Board acknowledged that Drafter's Sports Café is not seeking a renewal for 2021.

3. Appointments:

- a. Highway Foreman- Paul Joseph motioned to appoint Stanley Golenski as the Foreman for the Dudley Highway Department. Jason Johnson seconded.**

Roll Call Vote

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

Paul Joseph, Aye

John Marsi, Aye

- b. Highway Superintendent – Steven Sullivan motioned to appoint Jeffrey Murray as the Highway Superintendent with the start date of 12/7/20. Jason Johnson seconded.**

Roll Call Vote:

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

Paul Joseph, Aye

John Marsi, Aye

- c. MIS Director – Reappointment – Steven Sullivan motioned to reappoint Deborah Thibaudeau as the MIS Director for the Town of Dudley with a term to expire 12/31/2021. Jason Johnson seconded.**

Roll Call Vote:

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

Paul Joseph, Aye

John Marsi, Aye

- d. Dudley Police – Reappointment of Reserve Police – John Marsi motioned to reappoint Officer James Rivera, Officer John Glowacki, Officer Eric Gulkin, Officer Robbie L'heureux, Officer Anthony DiDonato, Officer Elizabeth Wojnar, Officer Paige Moroz and Officer Kristen Megaw as Reservists for the Dudley Police Department with a term to expire 12/31/2021. Steven Sullivan seconded.**

Roll Call Vote:

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

Paul Joseph, Aye

John Marsi, Aye

e. Rail Trail Coordinator – **Steven Sullivan** motioned to appoint **Vincent Polletta, Sr. as the Rail Trail Coordinator effective January 1, 2021.** Jason Johnson seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

Paul Joseph, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

John Marsi, Aye

Mr. Polletta thanked the Board for the opportunity and it is an honor to follow in Ken Butkiewicz footsteps, who passed away in 2019.

4. Public Hearing:

Lisa Berg, Principal Assessor – Tax Classification Hearing – Kerry Cyganiewicz opened the Public Hearing at 7:23pm. Ms. Berg stated that the purpose of this hearing is to determine whether to distribute the tax levy equally amount all class of property or to reduce the share of the levy by the residential classes and shift some of the burden to the commercial, industrial and personal property classes. The Board of Assessors voted recently to recommend a single tax rate and not to shift the burden. She stated that the top taxpayers in Dudley are Mass Electric (over \$5 million); Gentex, Hammel and Boston Gas (over \$4 million); 5 taxpayers over \$2 million and 16 taxpayers over \$1 million. The average assessed value for a single family home is \$281,400. Jason Johnson voiced his concerns about the 20% decrease in commercial property. Mr. Ruda stated that with the tax base and the economic development such as DMA Holdings, Inc. and Stevens Mill, an emphasis on these projects is necessary. Richard Carmignani stated that we should have level debt numbers since we are retiring \$400,000 of debt in the next few years. He would like to see this as an agenda item at a future meeting. The Public Hearing closed at 8:44pm. **Steven Sullivan motioned based on the recommendation of the Board of Assessors to the Board of Selectmen to vote on a residential factor of 1.00 which will continue our historical single tax rate.** Jason Johnson seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

Paul Joseph, Aye

John Marsi, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

5. Town Administrator's Report:

Jonathan Ruda stated that through the Green Communities Grant the town will be receiving new LED lights and weatherproofing in the town hall as well as the police station. The schools are eligible as well under the grant. He thanked both Debi Thibaudeau and Amanda Jacobson for their hard work working with him to submit for the CARES ACT. We have been approved through the 2nd round for \$700,000. Regarding the town hall, he provided the Board with the town hall cohort and tiered staffing policy effective 11/23/20 since COVID-19 numbers have been increasing in the community as well as the State. Finally we have received over 14 applications for the recycling center assistant position and will be working with the Foreman to review them and set up appointments to discuss the job.

6. New Business:

- a. Dudley Woman's Club – Presentation of Gift Cards to Veteran Agent for veterans – Andrea Kane, President of the Club, came before the Board. Members donated \$1,320.00 in gift cards covering a variety of businesses for the Veterans in Dudley. Steven Sullivan acknowledged their generosity. Stephen Rogerson, Veteran's Agent, came and accepted the gift cards and thanked the Club

members again for all their help with veterans. He will distribute them to deserving and needy veterans in the upcoming weeks

b.Ameresco – Solar Project on Dudley landfill –Authorize Town Administrator to Execute Final Agreement - Mr. Ruda stated that there have been several drafts of the annual ground lease and we are in good shape to move forward, after town counsel gives approval. The bottom line is \$85k-\$90k /annual payments with an estimated \$10k in annual energy savings, making this a \$95k-\$100k deal for the Town. He stated that we at \$35k total and a threatened lawsuit for failing to execute the 2017 contract. The format of the payments now will be \$22k PILOT-\$63k-\$68k lease payment (will not be less and depends on incentive block from national grid). Town Meeting has already authorized the lease, and he is inclined to call the entire deal a “lease” (which we can do) in order to have the entire amount of \$85k-\$90k go directly to capital improvement stabilization upon receipt. **Jason Johnson motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the agreement for the land lease and PILOT with Ameresco. Paul Joseph seconded.**

Roll Call Vote:

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

John Marsi, Aye

Paul Joseph, Aye

c. Board of Selectmen to vote to overspend snow and ice for FY2021 – Steven Sullivan motioned to allow to overspend the Snow and Ice account for FY2021. John Marsi seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

Paul Joseph, Aye

John Marsi, Aye

7.Board Member Comments:

Steven Sullivan motioned to adjourn at 8:15pm and to convene into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 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 Chief). Jason Johnson seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

John Marsi, Aye

Paul Joseph, Aye

Respectfully Submitted:
Michelle Jervis
Administrative Secretary