

Minutes for Tuesday, October 13, 2020 Sweden Selectmen's Meeting

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Frum offered the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Selectman Frum at 6:03 PM.

3. Introduction of Attendees:

Those in attendance included Selectman Frum and Selectman Carty. Town Clerk Porter and Fire Chief Cook were in attendance as well. Attendees from the community included: Laura Chadbourne; Chris Chadbourne; Julie McQueen; Gail DeWildt; Warren DeWildt; Bill Graham; Dell Foss; Wayne Farrington; Brad Nelson; Robin Nelson and Bruce Taylor. As a matter of record, attendees provided a phone number in case (given the nation's current pandemic), any contact tracing would need to occur. These numbers will be kept privately and not shared with any other person unless public health officials need to begin a contact tracing event.

Members Absent: Selectperson Ridlon was not in attendance

4. Approval of previous minutes (9/22/20):

Mr. Frum presented the 9/22/20 Board of Selectmen draft minutes. There was a motion for approval by Selectman Carty, Seconded by Selectman Frum and approved unanimously (those in attendance received copies of the draft minutes and offered no changes).

5. New Business:

- Planning Board request for special town meeting:

Ms. Chadbourne updated the group as to the special town meeting regarding the proposed solar projects being considered by the Planning Board. She discussed that proposed ordinance changes will be up for vote at the proposed 11/7/20 special town meeting. In addition, the Budget Committee requested an item be added to the special town meeting to address a previously discussed compensation matter for our Town Clerk. After discussion, Selectman Carty made a motion that the town conduct a special town meeting, as proposed, on 11/7/20. Selectman Frum seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

- Budget Committee Update:

Mr. Chadbourne gave an update on the recent Budget Committee meeting. Beyond the request above for the additional agenda item to be on the 11/7/20 special town meeting, Mr. Chadbourne made a recommendation the Board of Selectmen consider appointing Mr. James Popkin (and Selectman Carty) as managers of the Town website and to grant further, but managed access to the website by the Planning Board; the Board of Appeals; the Budget Committee and the Fire Station Building Committee. This access to the website would be under the direction of the various Boards and Committees mentioned, along with Selectman Carty. The motion was made by Selectman Frum to approve the recommendation made by Mr. Chadbourne. Selectman Carty seconded the motion. Selectman Carty also provided update how this proposal was well in line with management constraints for the website that he has created with the website management company. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Chadbourne also made the recommendation on behalf of the Budget Committee the Board of Selectmen approve a special warrant (to be considered at the November 7, 2020 Special Town Meeting) to take \$1,800 from surplus for compensation to the Town Clerk for the additional number of elections held in 2020 and for the significant increase in absentee ballot processing. The motion was made by Selectman Carty and seconded by Selectman Frum. The motion passed unanimously.

Finally, Mr. Chadbourne asked that Selectman Frum be appointed as the FOAA contact person in the interim until a more permanent solution is found. This requested was placed in the form of a motion by Selectman Carty and seconded by Selectman Frum. The motion passed unanimously.

One last matter was raised for discussion in regard to the previously discussed town workshop to make efforts for updating job descriptions and other materials given the many recent changes in staffing. Mr. Chadbourne will work with Selectman Frum to create the agenda, identify a date for the workshop (likely in November), and assure we post the meeting appropriately, Selectman Frum assured the community any results of the workshop will be shared in a BOS meeting subsequent to the workshop taking place.

- Update on November 3, 2020 Election:

Ms. Porter presented an informative update on the election preparation (and early voting) for those in attendance. Ms. Porter indicated there are 347 registered voters in Sweden, with 131 having already submitted absentee ballots or voted in person at that town office. The expectation is that the

Town will see approximately 300 total votes cast and will be staffed appropriately on November 3rd for the voting hours of 10 AM - 8 PM. Ms. Porter did request we update the town website and voicemail to assure we are providing the public with up to date information.

- *Outstanding Bills/Warrants:*

Ms. Porter presented outstanding bills for the Board of Selectmen to Approve. After review and discussion, the warrants were authorized and approved.

Old Business:

- *Nelson Property Update (Map U-8, Lot 6):*

Selectmen Frum indicated Code Officer Dunlap had just submitted his review of the site visit he conducted and that will be reviewed by town counsel in concert with the input provided by the DEP to assure any outstanding permitting or ordinance issues are addressed.

- *Volunteer Policy:*

It was decided the draft volunteer policy be a part of the agenda for the upcoming town workshop discussed above. This items will move from “old business” to the agenda of the workshop and be completed at that time.

- *Fire Chief Update:*

Fire Chief Cook indicated the potential for a “new” fire truck for the Town is about 3 months out. Further, Chief Cook indicated that annual pump tests will be conducted on 10/30/20. The Board and the Town expressed their thanks to Chief Cook for his efforts and his dedication to the job.

6. Announcements:

- The next Board of Selectmen Meeting is 10/27/20 at 6 PM..
- Selectman Carty indicated he will see to repairs of the town flag pole and some other items within the next couple of weeks.

7. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

R. David Frum, Chair