

HAMILTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING

Teleconference

June 29, 2020

Selectmen Present: Shawn Farrell, William Olson, Darcy Dale, Rosemary Kennedy, and Jamie Knudsen.

Other Town Staff Present: Michellelee Carroll, Assistant to the Town Manager

** This meeting was conducted via Zoom teleconference with all the above participants remaining in their homes.*

Call to Order

At 6:02 p.m., Vice Chair Rosemary Kennedy called the Board of Selectmen (BOS) online meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Town Manager Joe Domelowicz was not present.

Board and Committee Openings

Ms. Kennedy welcomed new Selectman Jamie Knudsen.

The Council on Aging, Hamilton Affordable Housing Trust, Hamilton Board of Appeals, and Conservation Commission each have one opening. The Hamilton Historic District Commission has two openings, and the Community Preservation Committee has three openings.

Public Comment

Hamilton Wenham Regional School District School Committee member Michelle Horgan asked the BOS to consider the possibility of resurrecting talks about potentially merging the two towns to make them more feasible fiscally and open up opportunities.

Selectmen/Town Manager Reports

Shawn Farrell said the Department of Housing and Community Development had approved the Hamilton's Housing Production Plan (HPP).

William Olson reported on Town Meeting: 150 people were expected and 550 attended; there weren't enough "clickers" [automated vote counters]. He thanked the police and fire departments and everyone who worked hard to make the event successful, including Town Moderator Bill Bowler. Mr. Olson also reported on the Town Election held Thursday, July 25. He encouraged people who did not win their election seats to please volunteer to serve on Town boards and committees.

Darcy Dale reiterated what Mr. Olson had said and complimented Mr. Bowler for being nimble. She said it was a hot day with people wearing masks and thanked everyone who attended.

Mr. Knudsen said he was humbled to be participating on the BOS and looked forward to serving. He has lived in Town for 25 years and his kids have gone through the school system.

Ms. Kennedy offered congratulations to those winning seats in the election, especially Town Clerk Carin Kale, who will tie Town Hall to the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no meeting minutes to approve and the Consent Agenda had been removed from the amended agenda.

AGENDA

Vote to Appoint BOS New Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

Chair—Decision

Ms. Dale nominated Mr. Farrell for Chair. Mr. Olson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with "ayes" from Mr. Farrell, Mr. Knudsen, Mr. Olson, Ms. Dale, and Ms. Kennedy, (5-0) unanimous.

* Ms. Kennedy said the roll call for the vote will also serve as the attendance roll call.

BOS Vice Chair—Decision:

Ms. Dale nominated Ms. Kennedy as Vice Chair. She said she was enjoying the role and policy side, and accepted the nomination, seconding the motion.

Further Discussion:

Mr. Olson said while Ms. Kennedy did a good job, it was his third year on the BOS and he had not held a position and would like to go for the position as Vice Chair.

Vice Chair Decision (Continued):

A roll call vote was taken with “ayes” from Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Dale, and “nays” from Mr. Olson, Mr. Farrell, and Mr. Knudson, (2-3). The motion did not carry.

Decision 2:

Mr. Knudsen nominated Mr. Olson as Vice Chair. Ms. Dale seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with “ayes” from Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Olson, Ms. Dale, Mr. Knudsen, and Mr. Farrell, (5-0) unanimous.

BOS Secretary—Decision

Mr. Farrell noted that traditionally the role of Secretary (Clerk) went to the rookie. He nominated Mr. Knudsen. Mr. Olson seconded the motion. Mr. Knudsen accepted the nomination.

Further Discussion:

It was discussed that Ms. Dale had done a good job and would overlap in the beginning with Mr. Knudsen to give him advice. Ms. Kennedy said Ms. Dale had done an outstanding job and is diligent and said she would like to see her continue in the role of secretary.

Secretary Decision (Continued):

A roll call vote was taken with a “nay” from Ms. Kennedy and “ayes” from Mr. Olson, Mr. Farrell, Mr. Knudsen, and Ms. Dale. Ms. Kennedy then changed her vote to “aye,” (5-0) unanimous.

Mr. Farrell said at a future meeting they will discuss the way meeting minutes are done and trying to save the cost.

Approve Myopia Hunt Club Outdoor Seating Request

Mr. Farrell noted the BOS had received this request via email prior to the meeting.

Decision:

Mr. Olson made a motion to approve Myopia Hunt Club’s outdoor seating request. Ms. Kennedy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with “ayes” from Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Olson, Mr. Knudsen, Ms. Dale, and Mr. Farrell, (5-0) unanimous.

Approve Proposed BOS Meeting Dates—July thru December

The list of BOS meeting dates was in the BOS packet. Ms. Kennedy said Town Hall is typically closed on Columbus Day so they might have to move that meeting. Mr. Farrell said he thought the BOS could vote to approve holding it on Columbus Day if desired. Mr. Olson said he preferred they not hold a meeting on Yom Kippur, Sept. 28. The BOS agreed to move that meeting to Tuesday, Sept. 29.

Mr. Olson suggested a return to a 7 p.m. meeting time. Ms. Kennedy wanted to make it 6:30 p.m. Mr. Olson said 6:30 was OK, but was curious what the others thought about continuing

Zoom meetings vs. meeting in person and asked when they should make that decision. Mr. Farrell said for now, the Governor's order is for groups of only 10 people or less. Ms. Dale suggested keeping Zoom meetings for now, with start time of 6:30 p.m., until they know what is going to happen in light of COVID-19.

Decision:

Mr. Olson made a motion that the BOS approve the meeting schedule from July through December with the caveat that the Sept. 28 meeting be moved to Sept. 29 and that they meet on Columbus Day, Oct. 12. Ms. Dale seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with "ayes" from Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Olson, Ms. Dale, Mr. Knudsen, and Mr. Farrell, (5-0) unanimous.

Water Abatement—Vote

Ms. Kennedy said the abatement was for 77 Gardner St.; last name: Wilton. Mr. Farrell explained there was a crack in the boiler in the basement. The owner of the home was deceased and the daughter had discovered the leak. Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Tin Olson had recommended the abatement.

Decision:

Ms. Kennedy made a motion to approve the water abatement application for Wilton, 77 Gardner St., in the amount of \$122.64. A roll call vote was taken with "ayes" from Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Olson, Ms. Dale, Mr. Knudsen, and Mr. Farrell, (5-0) unanimous.

Review Committee Appointments—Vote to Extend Terms to September

Mr. Olson made a motion the BOS extend all current committee appointments until September 2020. Ms. Kennedy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with "ayes" from Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Olson, Ms. Dale, Mr. Knudsen, and Mr. Farrell, (5-0) unanimous.

Mr. Farrell asked the Selectmen to reach out to the boards to whom they are liaisons and let them know the appointments will be extended, and if anyone wants to step down prior to September to let them know ASAP.

OTHER BUSINESS

Consideration of Topics for Discussion at Future BOS Meetings

- Invite new Superintendent of Schools to meet.
- BOS sign-up for liaison roles.
- Hamilton Town Meeting wrap-up.

Adjournment

Ms. Dale made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. Mr. Knudsen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with “ayes” from Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Olson, Ms. Dale, Mr. Knudsen, and Mr. Farrell.

The BOS thanked Michellelee Carroll for her help and wished her well in her new position as new regional HR director.

