

Disclaimer. Please note, these Minutes have yet to be approved. Check with the department or Town Clerk for updated versions.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
March 18, 2020**

Present: Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman

Others in Attendance: Kelly Sterner, Finance Director

Stacia Libby called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

First Selectman Needleman welcomed everyone to the first Board of Selectmen remote public access meeting. Mr. Needleman reported the Governor has suspended the In Person Open Meeting Requirements. In order to protect those interested in attending such public meetings, the Town of Essex is using an online audio meeting service, a new technology which allows the public to listen and participate in a meeting in real time. This service is new to us and we thank you for your patience as we learn the system.

This meeting was made available to the public via Zoom Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/789618230?pwd=YkE3b2Ryd1RjZlucEhHS3lidVNFUT09>
Meeting ID: 789 618 230 Password: 191521 Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

The Board of Selectmen and attendees went around the room and announced themselves.

First Selectman Needleman announced that audio attendees will be muted during the meeting except during public comment. Attendees were asked to please identify themselves for the record prior to making any comments.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve the Agenda. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the March 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve the March 4, 2020 Budget Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence None

Public Announcements / Comment: None

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OLD BUSINESS:

Amend 2020-2021 Budget Request

Mr. Needleman reported that he would like to adjust the salary ranges for two current positions. The 2020-2021 pay schedule would be amended whereby the minimum/Step I of the salary range would be adjusted only by the general wage increase and maximum/top step would be increased in an amount greater than the general wage increase. The effect would be to broaden the overall salary range. Bruce Glowac reported that he did not have a problem with these recommendations. Mr. Needleman reported that once the budget is approved that both employees in the affected positions, who are currently at top step, would remain at the top step.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance an amended Board of Selectmen's Budget request for Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 in the amount of \$8,632,452 which represents an increase of 2.81% over the current fiscal year. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to enter Traffic Authority. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

River Road Speed Limit

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to table the River Road Speed Limit discussion until the next meeting. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

EDC – Essex Village Downtown Quick Build

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to table the EDC – Essex Village Downtown Quick Build discussion until the next meeting. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to exit Traffic Authority. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions None

Schedule Public Hearing None

Set Town Meeting None

Public Comment / Announcements: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

There was discussion on the coronavirus (COVID-19). The Town is taking the necessary steps to protect not only the public, but employees who are in the building by closing the building temporarily to the public and having employees self-quarantine if they have traveled recently. The best message

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is for everyone to stay home, wash your hands frequently, practice social distancing, and to take these precautions seriously.

Mr. Glowac reported this is only the beginning and the psychological aspect is already becoming an issue and this will most likely get worse before it is over. People are home watching social media and are scared. Businesses are closed, people are home and not working, and many are faced with financial difficulty during this time. Hopefully banks and landlords will be understanding.

The Selectmen announced that the Essex Community Cleanup Day scheduled for Saturday, April 18 from 9 am to 11 am is cancelled.

The Selectmen discussed the possibility of holding a referendum for the budget this year.

The Board of Selectmen are recommending that all Boards and Commissions cancel future meetings until further notice unless there is a critical time sensitive issue or application.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Lucarelli