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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
February 3, 2021**

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

Bruce Glowac called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

First Selectman Needleman welcomed everyone to the Board of Selectmen remote public access meeting. This meeting was made available to the public via Zoom Meeting.

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

Others in attendance: Kelly Sterner, Megan Crowley, Dennis Tulimieri, Jr., Maryam Elahi, Elizabeth Reinhart, and Tracey Celentano.

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 Norman Needleman to approve the Agenda. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve the January 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence

The Selectmen discussed the February 1st winter storm that dumped up to 2 feet of heavy snow and had gusts of wind topping 60 mph and white-out conditions in the area. The Selectmen reminded everyone to shovel their sidewalks if they can. There is no official policy on shoveling sidewalks, and the Town is trying to maintain the sidewalks with the new Bobcat. But there are 10 miles of sidewalks in Essex and the Bobcat moves at a very slow pace.

Public Announcements / Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance Providing For Fines For Violation Of Wetlands Regulations

A request was made by the Inland Wetlands Commission to amend the wetlands ordinance to include **Sec. 7-146. Clearing of waterways assessment of cost**, and fining violators up to \$1,000 for a violation without having to go to Superior Court, (**Sec. 22a-42g. Municipal fine for violation of wetlands regulations**). This CGS allows Towns to enact ordinances that allow a Town to perform emergency remedial measures to correct time sensitive violations and then bill the property owner.

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The Selectmen discussed whether this ordinance was still necessary now that a new Zoning Enforcement Officer has been hired. There was discussion on how enforcement or problems would be monitored. Mr. Needleman reported that a good way to measure is to see if complaints decrease. Bob Doane is now doing enforcement for both zoning and wetlands. The Town's new Land Use Official Carey Duques will be handling planning, zoning, and wetlands, and working closely with the Economic Development Commission.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to table this Proposed Ordinance Providing For Fines For Violation Of Wetlands Regulations until April or May. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried. (Copy of proposed Ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.)

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

The Selectmen discussed there are still two vacancies on the Park and Recreation Commission, one vacancy on the Economic Development Commission, one alternate member on Harbor Management Commission, and one vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to recommend the following Board of Selectmen appointment that will go to a Town Meeting. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Harbor Management Commission

Eugene C. Schellens (Regular Member)

Marches for Justice

Maryam Elahi and Dennis Tulimieri presented to the Selectmen a letter from the Marches for Justice which is a nonpartisan community organization. They are interested in looking at ways to explore opportunities for everyone to work together to advance an antiracist agenda in each of our towns and in our regions to create more resilient and equitable communities. Their goal is to bring about positive change in our communities and the country and to have Town's adopt a resolution.

Mr. Glowac thanked the group for their efforts and their goals. Essex strives to work towards these goals and is willing to listen and are receptive of being informed of things and ways we can improve. Stacia said the Town is proud of what they have accomplished and is also receptive to being educated in ways we can improve. Mr. Needleman requested Ms. Elahi send the Resolution to his Assistant.

Schedule Public Hearing None

Set Town Meeting

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to set a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6:50 pm. 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. All in favor.

Crosswalk Request – Prospect Street to North Main Street

There was discussion of installing a crosswalk to connect Prospect Street to North Main in the spring of 2021. There was discussion of a site line issue and making crossing the street safe for walkers. The Selectmen all agreed that a crosswalk is a good idea, but not a high priority project at this time.

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Motion was made by Norman Needleman to table this until the April Selectmen meeting. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to exit Traffic Authority. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor

Public Comment: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Vacation Time

Mr. Needleman reported the Town's Employee Handbook is very unclear in how exactly new hires earn vacation time. An amendment to the handbook is being worked on with the Town attorney and will be on the next Board of Selectmen's agenda for approval. Mr. Needleman also reported that he'd like to enhance the vacation policy for new hires because it is difficult fill a position when the vacation time is less than what is given by other employers.

2021-2022 Budget

Finance Director Tracey Celentano reported the proposed 2021-2022 budget that will be presented to the Board of Selectmen for their first review is close to being complete.

COVID-19 Drive Through Clinic

Mr. Needleman reported that the Essex Fire Department and the Essex Health Department worked with Nutmeg Pharmacy on a drive through Covid-19 vaccination clinic for 75 years or older on Saturday, January 30th from 8:30 to 12:30. The clinic was a huge success and thanks to the Fire Department and Health Department personnel for a successful vaccination drive through.

There was discussion that another vaccination clinic will be held at the Essex Town Hall on Friday, February 5th from 8:30 to 10:30 am by appointment only. For an appointment call 860-767-1389.

The next wave of vaccinations will be those over the age of 65 along with teachers and other critical infrastructure personnel. This is a much larger group. Mr. Needleman reported that Essex residents can also sign up through VAMS.

<https://vams.cdc.gov/vaccineportal/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fvaccineportal%2Fs%2F>

There was discussion that 85% of the population over 75 have been vaccinated in Essex. The Director of Health has done a great job with Essex and getting seniors vaccinated.

The Elementary School Budget came in at around a 1% increase and the Town is still waiting for the Region 4 Budget, but an increase is anticipated due to the Average Daily Membership (ADM).

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli