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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
June 3, 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 5:00 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.

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 May 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence

LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning) Pride Month

The month of June is Pride Month around the country and in the State of Connecticut. The Town of Essex is an inclusive community and will recognize Pride Month by flying the rainbow flag at the Essex Town Hall.

Tri-Town Senior Valley Regional High School Graduation Vehicle Parade

There will be a graduation vehicle parade on Sunday, June 21st starting at 3 pm. The parade route starts at 212 Saybrook Road in Chester and ends in Essex at Saybrook Road and Plains Road.

Outdoor Theater

There was discussion of the possibility of doing or creating an outdoor theater and holding a concert version of the High School Musical Matilda since the play was cancelled due to COVID.

Essex Elementary School

Congratulations to all Essex Elementary 6th Graders who are graduating.

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Essex Town Hall

The Essex Town Hall is preparing and planning on reopening on Monday, June 22nd. A Town employee will be stationed at the rear entrance to the Town Hall to ensure that everyone is wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, and sanitizing upon entry to the building.

Dog Licenses

The Town is strongly suggesting that all dog license renewals be done by mail.

Tax Bills

This year's tax bills will include a self-addressed stamped envelope to mail back tax payments to Town Hall. This will minimize people having to wait in a line outside the Town Hall door.

Finance Director

The Town received thirty applications for the Finance Director position. Tracey Celentano was hired on June 1 as Kelly Sterner's replacement in order to allow several weeks of overlap and training. We wish Kelly success in her endeavors in her new position as the Finance Director for Region 4 schools.

Public Announcements / Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

The First Selectman appointed Augie Pampel as the Essex Tree Warden for a one-year term to become effective July 16, 2020 through July 16, 2021.

The Board of Selectmen appointed Jaqueline Hubbard as the Central Regional Tourism District for a two-year term to become effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022.

Essex Encumbrance Policy

Finance Director Kelly Sterner presented to the Selectmen the Town of Essex Encumbrance Policy which describes the policies and procedures by which General Fund encumbrances may be authorized and carried forward as a charge against a prior year appropriation.

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

Schedule Public Hearing None

Set Town Meeting None

Public Comment / Announcements: None

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SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Re-opening the Essex Town Hall

The Selectmen discussed that hopefully in July, Board and Commissions could possibly go back to meeting in Town Hall conference rooms.

Combining Planning and Zoning Commissions

There was discussion of combining the Planning and Zoning Commissions in order to create one board. The Town has a professional planner who already does much of the leg work for both commissions and it makes sense to combine them. This item will be on the July 15th Agenda.

Sensitivity Training

The Selectmen discussed having Sensitivity Training for all Town Hall Employees which would include bias training and de-escalation techniques. Mr. Needleman stated that we need to do everything we can to create an equal and just society.

Mr. Glowac said we are thankful for the local police force that we have who do excellent policing and are sensitive and caring. We are lucky to have the police force that we have.

There being no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was moved and seconded and unanimously adopted, and the meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Lucarelli