



OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MAYNARD
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
195 MAIN STREET
MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS 01754
Tel: 978-897-1301 Fax: 978-897-8457

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 27, 2020

Held remotely.

(This public meeting was recorded.)

Present: via Emergency Remote Access

Armand Diarbekirian, Selectman
Chris DiSilva, Chairman/Selectman
David Gavin, Selectman
Melissa Levine-Piro, Clerk/Selectman

Justine St. John, Selectman
Gregory W. Johnson, Town Administrator
Megan Zammuto, Assistant Town Administrator
Becky Mosca, Administrative Assistant

1. Meeting Opening

Public Comments- none

2. Correspondence

A motion was made by Mr. DiSilva and seconded by Ms. St. John to accept and approve the one correspondence item A, as shown.

A. Sterling Golf – Maynard Golf Course report and request

Mr. Johnson reported that the first item is the monthly report for the golf course from Sterling Golf Management. Attached to the report is a letter from Sterling requesting a delay in the lease payment to the Town of Maynard. Mr. Johnson asked to have two members from the board join him and Mr. DeMarco, Director of Public Works, to meet with Sterling to review their request. Mr. DiSilva and Ms. Levine-Piro volunteered.

Voted by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Town Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. DiSilva and seconded by Mr. Diarbekirian to accept and approve revised draft control D, Town General Fund Budget fiscal Year 2021 as shown and move article to Finance Committee for review and comments.

Mr. Johnson commented that the remaining three controls are based on the Board's plan to fund the Green Meadow Elementary School roof replacement project. The Board agreed and commented regarding unknowns of the level of State Aid, the Town Budget, and the "what if's" including if the articles fail at Town Meeting or at the subsequent ballot question.

Voted by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. DiSilva and seconded by Mr. Diarbekirian to accept and approve revised draft control K Certified Free Cash Appropriations as shown and move article forward to Finance Committee for review and comments.

Voted by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. DiSilva and seconded by Mr. Diarbekirian to accept and approve revised draft control NN, Debt Exclusion Appropriation for Borrowing Authorization – Green Meadow Roof as shown and move article forward to Finance Committee for review and comments.

Voted by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Town Administrator Report

Mr. Johnson commented that Ms. Zammuto is doing a great job with the COVID-19 web information and her newsletter.

Mr. Johnson also let the Board know that restaurants are not authorized to sell mixed drinks at this time, per the direction of the Governor and the state's Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABCC). They are restricted to malt beverages and wine.

5. Chairman's Report

Mr. DiSilva had no comments.

6. Board Member Reports

Ms. Levine-Piro commented on the letter attached to the Town Administrator Report as a draft of the correspondence from the Board in response to the recent message received from the Maynard Business Alliance. The other board members agreed to release the letter and asked Ms. Mosca to finalize the letter and return to Ms. Zammuto to send out.

7. Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. DiSilva and seconded by Ms. Levine-Piro to enter Executive Session for the purpose to conduct strategy session on negotiations with collective bargaining and non-union personnel, have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the town – current staff levels.

Voted: Motion carried unanimously.

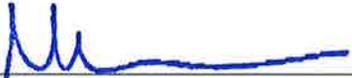
Mr. DiSilva announced that the Board would not reconvene into Open Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. DiSilva and seconded by Ms. St. John to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. Voted: Motion by roll call. Carried unanimously.

Approved: 7.06 pm

Date: 5/5/2020



Melissa Levine-Piro, Clerk/Selectman

Initials: bjm



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Chairman Christopher DiSilva
Selectman Armand Diarbekirian
Selectman David Gavin
Selectman Melissa Levine-Piro
Selectman Justine St. John

April 28, 2020

Rachael Bankey
President, Maynard Business Alliance
Maynard, MA

RE: Support for Maynard Businesses

Dear Ms. Bankey,

Thank you for your April 16th letter outlining concerns of the Maynard Business Alliance and proposing potential steps the town could take to assist the business community during this unprecedented pandemic. The letter generated an in-depth discussion at the April 21st Board of Selectmen meeting, as members discussed what the town can do to provide relief where possible while realistically acknowledging the limitations of resources at our disposal.

The Board understands local business is a crucial component of the community and wholly recognizes the immediate challenges posed by closures, restrictions and uncertainty. While we cannot offer relief in all the ways requested by your letter (further detailed below) the Board remains committed to expeditiously identifying ways to effectively support our businesses during this crisis.

Deferment on taxes and water/sewer bills without penalty;

The Board discussed this at length during the April 21st meeting. Unfortunately, recent financial projections for local receipts show that the Town's revenue will be impacted by COVID-19 pandemic and will likely be significantly lower than what was budgeted. These circumstances may require the Town to consider emergency borrowing to cover municipal operating expenses. The Board believes a deferment of taxes and water/sewer bills would need to apply to all commercial and residential properties and may result in a fiscal shortfall which could further erode the Town's fragile budget at a time when we are emerging from this crisis. The Board may consider waiving late penalties at a future meeting.

Reimbursement on licenses (liquor, dumpster, etc.) for the months that they are not able to be used;

The Board recognizes that permits and licenses cannot be fully utilized during the pandemic. A reimbursement for permits and fees authorized for businesses would also need to be considered for residents. In this time of significant budgetary uncertainty, we believe we cannot move forward with license fee reimbursements.

Expanding the use of BEEP grants:

Business Environment Enhancement Program (BEEP) grants are funded through the Community Enhancement fund which currently has a balance of \$10,689.17. The BEEP program, which is a matching grant for public and private improvements deemed to be of benefit to the town's overall business environment, is not appropriate to help individual businesses with current challenges posed by the pandemic. The Economic Development Committee is the steward of the BEEP program and based on approaches other similar-sized communities have taken, has recommended that the funds be used to help all Maynard businesses. This effort would be a partnership between the MBA, Assabet Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Economic Development Committee. We need your help in determining the best use of the funds. Current considerations may include: consultant led workshops tailored to the current circumstances, financial forums to assist with navigating potential resources such as loan applications (which is being done in Hudson) and the development of a marketing campaign to support Maynard businesses during the uncertain time once the pandemic is behind us.

Reaching out to our state representatives to lobby to temporarily suspend Anti-Aid Amendment;

The Community Enhancement fund is very limited and the Board feels it would be more beneficial to spend it on a program or service to support all businesses instead of offering direct grants to a finite number of businesses. We have confirmed with Town Counsel that this is an allowable use under the Anti-aid Amendment.

Continuing to promote local business through the Town's online resources via the website, Facebook and newsletter;

Improving communication is one of the fiscal year 2020 (FY20) goals of the Board of Selectmen. We will continue to use all our available tools to stress the importance of supporting Maynard businesses in this time of crisis. The Town now generates a regular newsletter that highlights the Maynard Business Alliance's list of current offerings, and is planning to launch a social media campaign using the hashtag #MaynardDelivers to encourage people to share their stories within their networks of positive Maynard business experiences. We are expanding our www.discovermaynard.com site to include virtual events, and are adding relevant, up to date content to provide as a resource. As we work to increase our social media presence and outreach efforts, we are open to all suggestions how to better connect with both the businesses community and residents. Please contact Megan Zammuto mzammuto@townofmaynard.net with ideas and suggestions.

Issue a letter from the Town of Maynard/BOS to the landlords requesting consideration for rental relief/deferment, or can the Town issue a temporary moratorium on commercial evictions.

On Monday, April 20th, Governor Baker signed H. 4624 An Act Providing For A Moratorium On Evictions and Foreclosures During the COVID19 Emergency. The bill prohibits non-emergency evictions of small businesses. A tenant who misses rent payments and provides documentation that they are experiencing a COVID-19-related hardship cannot be charged late fees. The rent will be due once emergency declaration is rescinded by the governor.

Additional Efforts

Signage: The Office of Municipal Services has developed relief to temporary signage restrictions to support businesses as they advertise new offerings or new procedures for access to products and services. During this state of emergency, the Building Commissioner will be allowing up to two A-frame signs with a maximum area of six square feet (each side). Please contact the Building Commissioner Rick Asmann rasmann@TownofMaynard.net with any specific questions.

Grant Application: Town staff is researching grants and is prepared to apply for any available relief grants to support the business community.

Relaunch Task Force: The Economic Development Committee is in the process of creating a small working group aimed at supporting the business community as we enter life after this emergency order. We understand there will likely be restrictions including social distancing measures and use of protective equipment as we reenter society, and we want to help all who come to Maynard feel safe while celebrating our unique community.

We continue to be inspired by Maynard's business community and impressed with the many ways businesses have adapted in their offerings of goods and services while abiding by the directives in the Governor's non-essential business order. We hope to continue this conversation and help support your work and valuable contributions to our community. Thank you for making Maynard the special place it is.

Sincerely,

Maynard Board of Selectmen



David S. Han

