

**TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN – SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2020, 6:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING**

Chair Abramson convened the open meeting at 6:00 pm noting the following:

Select Board attending: Chair David Abramson, Vice Chair John Golden, Members Robert Anthony, Lise King and Louise Venden

Excused:

Other attendees: Interim Town Manager Charles Sumner, Finance Director Josee Young, Assistant Town Manager David Gardner and Select Board Secretary Elizabeth Paine

Recorder: Elizabeth Paine

The August 24, 2020, the Provincetown Select Board is about to be convened. My name is Charles Sumner, Interim Town Manager, and I will begin by taking a roll call for quorum.

Chair David Abramson: Present

Vice Chair John Golden: Present

Robert Anthony: Present

Lise King: Present

Louise Venden: Present

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020, Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, the Governor's March 23, 2020, Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, and Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, therefore this meeting of the Provincetown Select Board is being conducted via remote participation. Persons who would like to view this meeting while in progress may do so by watching on PTV GOV Channel 18, as well as the online livestream of PTV GOV.

Public comment participation is only available through telephone by dialing (833) 579-7589 and entering conference number 359 980 35#. Clearly state your name when asked to do so, wait to be called on before speaking and use * 6 to mute and unmute your phone. Please remember to keep your background noise to a minimum and keep your phone muted when not talking.

Packet materials are available for viewing on the Town website. We will post a record of this meeting on the Provincetown's website as soon as possible. If it appears the meeting cannot or should not proceed the meeting will be continued to a later date and time.

Consent Agenda – Approval without objection required for the following items:

A. Approve submission of September Deficit Spending

Without objection Chair Abramson waived the reading of the consent items and without further objection declared the consent agenda approved.

1. Public Statements – Three (3) minutes maximum. Select Board Members do not respond during public statements

- **Clifford Shore** – Asking the Select Board to consider changing the language of the memorandum of understand regarding the development of his property. There is now a misunderstanding of that property, would like to bring forward the questions of whether or not it is possible to amend a word in the agreement. ZBA has found there is grounds for a variance.
- **David Burbank** – Received noticed about the agenda item proposing to use the VSB to market to the part time homeowners. It is my opinion that this does not fall under the VSB marketing. Believes the Economic Development Committee to handle this.
- **Pat Miller** – President of the PTRTA, asking the Board to hold off voting on item 5B until after the survey is completed. Part timers are just looking for a place at the table to share our thoughts.

2. Select Board Member’s Opening Statements – Five (5) minutes maximum.

- **Louise Venden** – The community business survey has been sent out again, urge everyone to fill out that survey to give guidance to the Department of Health and other departments to help drive support. The Stellwagen Bank Visitor Center group was brought together last week. Funded by NOAA, the Town and other organization. It is a way to display something unique to this town.
- **John Golden** – Agrees the survey is an important instrument to assist the town. We have to keep going and head towards getting through this season amicably as possible.
- **Robert Anthony** – Agrees with Louise and John.
- **Lise King** – Early voting is available right now at Town Hall. ABCC was in town and there were no compliance violations found. Election Day is September 1st.
- **David Abramson** – Please take the time to fill out the survey. With the primary election coming up, you can drop your absentee ballot at town hall if you do not feel comfortable mailing them in.

3. Appointments – None

4. 7 PM Public Hearing – (Votes May be taken on the following items):

- A. Open the Public Hearing for the FY2021 Property Tax Rate Classification for the purpose of determining the percentages of the local tax levy to be borne in Fiscal Year 2021 by each class of real and personal property: residential, open space, commercial, and industrial and continue the public hearing to the October 13, 2020 Select Board meeting.**

Principal Assessor Scott Fahle presented the FY2021 Property Tax Rate Classification hearing. For this hearing, the Select Board are asked to consider several statutory exemptions. Each exemption reallocations the tax burden among and within the major classes of property. Member King asked if it was possible to classify residential properties that are used as short-term rentals for more than half the year as commercial. Mr. Fahle explained that change would have to happen at the state level.

Public Comment

Pat Miller – Asked the Select Board defer voting until after the results of the community survey has been reviewed.

Scott Van Hove – it is not clear what the documentation is required for RTE certification. There should be a periodic qualification. Rental units in other states you are not eligible for a residential tax exemption.

Move that the Select Board close the public comment section of the public hearing.

Motion David Abramson

Second John Golden

Roll Call Vote

Chair David Abramson: Aye
Vice Chair John Golden: Aye
Robert Anthony: Aye
Lise King: Aye
Louise Venden: Aye

Move that the Select Board adopts/does not adopt a residential factor of “1”.

Motion David Abramson
Second Louise Venden

Roll Call Vote

Chair David Abramson: Aye
Vice Chair John Golden: Aye
Robert Anthony: Aye
Lise King: Aye
Louise Venden: Aye

Move that the Select Board votes to not to split the rate.

Motion David Abramson
Second Lise King

Roll Call Vote

Chair David Abramson: Aye
Vice Chair John Golden: Aye
Robert Anthony: Aye
Lise King: Aye
Louise Venden: Aye

Move that the Select Board vote to continue the residential exemption rate of 25%.

Motion David Abramson
Second Louise Venden

LV – The residential exemption was to help people who live here to stay here.

Roll Call Vote

Chair David Abramson: Aye
Vice Chair John Golden: Aye
Robert Anthony: Aye
Lise King: Aye
Louise Venden: Aye

Move that the Select Board not adopt a small commercial exemption.

Motion David Abramson
Second John Golden

Roll Call Vote

Chair David Abramson: Aye
Vice Chair John Golden: Aye
Robert Anthony: Aye
Lise King: Aye
Louise Venden: Aye

Move that the Select Board continues the public hearing to the October 13, 2020 Select Board meeting.
Motion David Abramson
Second Lise King

Roll Call Vote

Chair David Abramson: Aye
Vice Chair John Golden: Aye
Robert Anthony: Aye
Lise King: Aye
Louise Venden: Aye

B. Joint Public Hearing with Finance Committee to hear comments from the public on the Town's proposed Fiscal Year 2021 operating budget.

Finance Committee Called to Order

Chair Mark Hatch
Dorrie Seavey
Mark Bjorstrom
Mark Del Franco
Scott Valentino
Kathleen Goodwin
Richard "Chip" Capelli
David Panagore
Bertram Perkel

Called to order at 7:53

Finance Director Josee Young presented the approved FY2021 Budget for the purpose of allowing the public comment pursuant to the Charter.

Public Comment

Scott Van Hove – thank you to Josee to her team for doing a good job. For part time residents the general fund, the largest funder of that is property tax, 85% is being paid by part timers. What is missing is the article on Harbor Hill. At the time of a pandemic, there is another layer being put on part-time residents.

Move that the Select Board close the public comment section of the public hearing.

Motion David Abramson
Second Lise King

Roll Call Vote

Chair David Abramson: Aye
Vice Chair John Golden: Aye
Robert Anthony: Aye
Lise King: Aye
Louise Venden: Aye

5. Joint Meeting/Presentations/Requests – (Votes may be taken on the following items)

A. Follow-up of FY19 Audit Report Management Letter recommendations:

- 1. Parking Procedures**
- 2. Information Technology**

Finance Director Josee Cardinal Young gave a brief summary on the included packet materials that included the recommendations and follow up. Board Members thanked Josee for the thorough details that are included in the packet. Members Golden and Venden expressed concerns with the parking.

**B. Discuss formation of Community Economic Stabilization and Sustainability Subcommittee –
Select Member King and Select Member Venden**

Select Board Member Lise King presented the idea behind the formation of the new committee. The purpose of which will be to assess and address impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the local economy and community, and to provide policy recommendations for both immediate economic stabilization and longer-term solutions for economic sustainability. First proposed this idea in June and now providing more information in the proposal. As a subcommittee to the Select Board would be to provide policy suggestions. Proposes having 7 members, one Selects Board member, town finance director or designate, one OPEB committee member, one PPRTA Member, one VSB member, one Finance committee member and one at large member.

Select Board Member Louise Venden spoke about her background in hospitality. Looking at this as a way to develop and prioritize actionable items. There are a number of programs already in place, and we need to get feedback about them first before we get too far. There needs to be priorities, and my concern is that in the next three months there will be a number of things that will shift. Staff are struggling and business owners are struggling because of that. I hope to be able to serve on this committee, and we need to broaden the scope of people who will serve on it. Select Board Member Robert Anthony – back in June when this proposal was first brought forward there was not enough information being provided. I appreciate Lise and Louise’s work. I don’t think the COVID pandemic is going anywhere. The only thing I didn’t hear is we still have a Town government we have to run. That is the operating budget and CIP budget. I just wish there would be a delegate from staff to look at the Town issues. I think it is a go-go. The Board discussed concerns about duplication what other committees and staff members are already working on and whether staff would have the ability to assist with this committee. Member King and Venden will be finalizing the mission and direction of the subcommittee and returning at the next meeting to discuss further with the Board.

Move that the Provincetown Select Board create an Economic Stabilization and Sustainability Committee to serve as a subcommittee of the Select Board

Motion: David Abramson

Second: John Golden

Roll Call Vote

Chair David Abramson: Aye

Vice Chair John Golden: Aye

Robert Anthony: Aye

Lise King: Aye

Louise Venden: Aye

C. Marketing Outreach to Second Homeowners to encourage them to make Provincetown their first home – Select Member Venden.

Select Board Member Louise Venden spoke to the Board about proposal to start a marketing outreach to encourage nonresidents to make the Town of Provincetown, prefer to table the idea at this time and would like to come back at a later meeting.

D. Secretary to the Select Board’s Annual Evaluation process

Move that the Select Board appoint Vice Chair John Golden and Louise Venden to review the performance evaluation with the Select Board Secretary.

Motion David Abramson

Second Lise King

Roll Call Vote

Chair David Abramson: Aye

Vice Chair John Golden: Aye

Robert Anthony: Aye

Lise King: Aye

Louise Venden: Aye

6. Town Manager Administrative Matters – Topics to include but not limited to: (Votes may be taken on the following items):

1. Health Department COVID -19 Update

Health Director Morgan Clark talked briefly about the Columbia University study being done on the wastewater system. As spoken about earlier, the ABCC came last weekend and found no violations of compliance. Reminded listeners to participate in the two community surveys. Spoke about eh a-systematic testing conducted last Thursday. Working with local groups on food security for the winter.

2. Town Manager’s Report

Interim Town Manager Charles Sumner gave a brief summary of his first week and discussed the upcoming Town Meeting Virtual Forum. Looking at purchases a secure drop box for ballots.

The Board welcomed Mr. Sumner aboard. Member Venden mentioned the YRRMRHT public meeting on September 14th at 4 pm

3. Town Meeting Timeline

6. Minutes – (Votes May Be Taken)

1. July 29, 2020 630 pm Special Meeting
2. August 7, 2020 10 am Special Meeting

July 29, 2020 630pm (Special) [] as printed [x] with changes so noted
August 7, 2020 10 am (Special) [] as printed [x] with changes so noted
Motion David Abramson

Roll Call Vote

Chair David Abramson: Aye
Vice Chair John Golden: Aye
Robert Anthony: Aye
Lise King: Aye
Louise Venden: Aye

7. Select Board Closing Matters - Topics to Include but not limited to: (Votes May be taken on the following items)

A. Pending Items List

- **Lise King** – Thank you and welcome Charlie
- **Louise Venden** – Welcome Charlie
- **John Golden** – Fill out the census
- **Robert Anthony** –
- **David Abramson** – Town Meeting with be September 21 at 5 pm at St. Peter’s church and the virtual town meeting forum on September 16th and the YRRHT on September 14th at 4 pm

Motion to adjourn without objection

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 pm

Minutes transcribed by: Elizabeth Paine