

Board of Selectmen Meeting

Remote Participation Only

June 23, 2020

Present: Chairman Jason Balboni, Selectmen Gail Barmakian, Gregory Coogan, Brian Packish, Ryan Ruley. Also present: Town Administrator Robert Whritenour, Executive Assistant Alice Ryan Butler.

Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Selectman Ruley thanked all who voted for him. He also thanked Michael Santoro for his years of service and hoped he would continue to serve the Town.

Department Head Updates

Fire Chief Greene asked to recognize Manuel Rose who was named Deputy Chief. He said the promotion was well deserved.

Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Packish thanked everyone who voted.

Selectman Coogan motioned to nominate Selectman Jason Balboni as Chairman, seconded by Selectman Barmakian. Vote was:

*Selectman Barmakian Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Packish Aye
Selectman Ruley Aye
Selectman Balboni Aye*

Chairman Balboni motioned to nominate Selectman Coogan as Vice Chairman, seconded by Selectman Barmakian. Vote was:

*Chairman Balboni Aye
Selectman Barmakian Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Packish Aye
Selectman Ruley Aye*

Minutes

April 28, 2020

Selectman Coogan motioned to accept the Minutes of April 28, 2020, seconded by Chairman Balboni. Vote was:

Chairman Balboni Aye
Selectman Barmakian Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Packish Aye
Selectman Ruley Abstain

Old/New Business

Public Hearing: Pursuant to MGL Chapter 138, Section 12 the Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. regarding an application for a new Seasonal All Alcohol license for the Pawnee House dba The Pawnee House located at 20 Kennebec Avenue, Ste. H, Oak Bluffs, MA. This application is on file in the Selectmen's office for review Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Selectman Packish recused himself.

Mr. Cohen reviewed his plans for the new Pawnee House, his family owns the building. They have done extensive repairs to the restaurant including changing the location of the entrance. He hopes to open by the Holiday weekend.

The Selectmen wished him well.

Selectman Coogan motioned to close the Hearing, seconded by Selectman Ruley. Vote was:

Chairman Balboni Aye
Selectman Barmakian Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Ruley Aye

Selectman Ruley motioned to approve a Seasonal All Alcohol license for The Pawnee House subject to the necessary sign offs (Wastewater, Board of Health, Fire and Building), seconded by Selectman Coogan. Vote was:

Chairman Balboni Aye
Selectman Barmakian Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Ruley Aye

Discussion and possible vote on End of Year Transfers. Town Accountant Deborah Potter Ms. Potter explained that she made an effort to have as few transfers as possible but there were nine transfers. These have been approved by the Finance Committee.

Chairman Balboni motioned to accept the nine transfers, seconded by Selectman Barmakian
Vote was:

Chairman Balboni Aye
Selectman Barmakian Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Packish Aye
Selectman Ruley Aye

Public Hearing: Pursuant to MGL Chapter 138, Section 12 the Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. regarding an application for a new seasonal All Alcohol License for the Brown Group of Martha's Vineyard dba Sarah Brown's located at 53 Circuit Avenue, Oak Bluffs, MA. This application is on file in the Selectmen's Office for review Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Brown reviewed the plans for the new restaurant which will feature Southern Comfort food. The Selectmen welcomed them to Oak Bluffs.

Selectman Balboni motioned to close the Hearing, seconded by Selectman Coogan. Vote was:

Chairman Balboni Aye
Selectman Barmakian Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Packish Aye
Selectman Ruley Aye

Review of Agreement with Paul Hartel regarding working on Circuit Avenue during the summer.
 Mr. Hartel updated his progress to date: He is on schedule and expects to be finished by June 30. Wastewater says he has adequate flow. He no longer needs the large trucks on Circuit Avenue. The neighbors have been cooperative.

Request to open a new restaurant Stella Salumeria, LLC, 6 Circuit Avenue. Henry Wallace.
 The restaurant will serve prepared meals and sandwiches.

Selectman Barmakian motioned to approve the request for a new restaurant license pending approval of all of the relevant departments, seconded by Chairman Balboni. Vote was:

Chairman Balboni Aye
Selectman Barmakian Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Packish Aye
Selectman Ruley Aye

Recruitment of a new Fire Chief. Interim Chief Martin Greene

Interim Chief Greene reported that so far his time in Oak Bluffs has been great.

His suggestions for recruiting a new Fire Chief are

1. Find a Chief from within the Department.
2. Unfortunately, there is not a lot of interest in the Department.
3. Reach out to other Towns.
4. Contact Assessment centers to determine a Chief.

Selectman Coogan suggested the Chief meet with one or two Selectmen at a time to discuss the situation.

Town Administrator Whritenour explained that the Assessment Center would provide scenarios for the applicant to react to giving more data. Professionals write the scenarios and then help to evaluate them.

Chairman Balboni will be the Selectmen's representative to the Fire Department.

Discussion and presentation of plans for replacing the Windemere Nursing Home & Rehabilitation Center at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Renee Lohman, President & CEO of Navigator Eldercare of New England.

Ms. Lohman presented slides of the proposed project that will be built in Edgartown. It features several smaller buildings and attractive grounds for people needing assisted living.

Request for a discussion of parking along Waban-Alley Park and enhanced lighting on Circuit Avenue. Oak Bluffs Association, Christine Todd.

The discussion was requested in an effort to ease the parking in the downtown area. Angled parking was discussed, also parallel parking on the right side of Nantucket Avenue. The neighbors were opposed to any additional parking. A survey was suggested to see if parking around the edges of the Park was feasible. Another suggestion was to request that Roads and Byways research it.

Selectman Ruley motioned to ask the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator and Roads and Byways Committee research the issue and do a survey, seconded by Selectman Coogan.

Vote was:

Chairman Balboni Aye
Selectman Barmakian No
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Packish Aye
Selectman Ruley Aye

Review of Sunday closure of Circuit and Kennebec Avenues.

The first Sunday was successful. Board of Health reported that most attendees but not all wore masks and observed social distancing. Police Department did a great job no cars had to be towed. It will be evaluated again in a couple of weeks. It was decided that 10:00 a.m. was a more reasonable time to open the Street on Sunday.

Lighting in Circuit Avenue was also discussed. There are twelve trees on Circuit Avenue that the Oak Bluffs Business Association would like to have decorated with small LED lights. It would help draw people up the street and provide a more cheerful ambiance. They asked if the \$5M Grant from the State could be used. The Selectmen were not enthusiastic. The Streetscape plans may eliminate the trees, as they have almost outgrown their site. The Town cannot afford the expense and is reluctant to involve the Highway Department.

Selectman Coogan motioned to close Circuit Avenue at 10:00 a.m. and open it at 10:00 p.m. on Sunday only, seconded by Chairman Balboni. Vote was:

***Chairman Balboni Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Packish Aye
Selectman Ruley Aye***

Discussion and possible approval of outdoor dining applications.

- Coop De Ville

Additional seating outside within sight of the restaurant was requested. Board of Health approved.

Chairman Balboni motioned to approve additional outside seating for Coop de Ville, seconded by Selectan Coogan. Vote was:

***Chairman Balboni Aye
Selectman Barmakian Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Packish Aye
Selectman Ruley Aye***

Town Administrator's Report

- Financial Update
- Town Meeting Wrap Up
- MVP Application – Army Corp funding
- Town Hall – next steps
- Habitat RFP
(attached)

Selectmen's Update

Selectman Coogan thanked Michael Santoro for his years of service. He helped turn around the fiscal issues.

Chairman Balboni also thanked Michael for his service.

Selectman Ruley thanked Michael for his service and the voters who elected him. He said he looks forward to working with the Board.

Public Comment

Park Commissioner Amy Billings Commented on the new stairs to Pay Beach, and welcomed the new Selectman Ryan Ruley.

Adjourn

Selectman Coogan motioned to adjourn at 8:12 p.m., seconded by Chairman Balboni.

***Chairman Balboni Aye
Selectman Barmakian Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Packish Aye
Selectman Ruley Aye***

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Ryan Butler
Executive Assistant