

Board of Selectmen Meeting

**Remote Participation only**

July 28, 2020

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

**Interviews**

Candidate for Local Inspector, Peter Loftus.

Mr. Loftus gave a brief summary of his background and work experience. He has mostly residential experience, deals well with people, interested in advancing, does not want to do manual labor all his life. Expects to live “off Island”

Candidate for Local Inspector, Matthew Rossi

Mr. Rossi has done mostly residential work, wants a career not a job, is an Island resident and has a college degree. He feels communication and customer service is extremely important. He has experience with plans and is looking for a more meaningful job.

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

**Department Head Updates**

Amy Billings, Parks Department thanked the Highway Department for the beach stairs and the planters.

Police Chief Blake reported on the Covid19 Ambassadors who have been on the job three weeks reminding people to wear masks. Things are going well. Also, there is someone posing as a member of Board of Health and rudely demanding people put on masks.

Interim Fire Chief Greene reported on a house fire on Fitchburg Avenue. No one was home. Deputy Chief handled the fire very well.

**Old/New Business**

Appointment of a new Special Police Officer Mark Nickowal

Mr. Nickowal is an “Islander” with a Criminal Justice degree from West Bridgewater College. He will be a year round Special Officer.

***Selectman Coogan motioned to appoint Mark Nickowal as a year round Special Officer, seconded by Selectman Ruley. Vote was:***

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

Project Introduction to Mayflower Wind, offshore wind energy project.

Christopher Hardy, External Outreach Manager.

The project is fifty miles from the mainland, twenty three miles south of Nantucket.

ACE-MV will offer classes in technical education for people interested in employment.

They can be reached at [www. Mayflowerwind.com](http://www.Mayflowerwind.com)

Election Schedule and Poling Place Update. Town Clerk, Colleen Morris

September 1, 2020 - State Primary

August 22, 2020 – Last day to Register

November 3, 2020 – State Election

Request for a new business, Knowhere Art, LLC. Valerie Francis

**Selectman Packish recused himself**

This is the second gallery owned by Ms. Francis.

***Selectman Coogan motioned to approve the new Art Gallery, Knowhere Art, LLC, seconded by Selectman Ruley. Vote was:***

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

Fire Department Structure – continued discussion and possible vote.

Interim Fire Chief Greene said that there are three options, two Chiefs (separate the departments), one Chief over both departments, or a Director and separate the departments. Chief Greene would support a full time Chief.

The Selectmen discussed the situation noting that the department is looking for leadership and are anxious to have the problem resolved. The suggestion was made to consider creating an administrative position for a period of six months.

***Selectman Ruley motioned to have the Town Administrator and Chief Blake explore the option without time certain of potentially doing the day to day operations in house when Interim Chief Greene leaves, seconded by Selectman Packish. Vote was:***

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

## **Appointments**

Request for appointment to the Cable Advisory Board. Skip Finley

Postponed to August 11, 2020

Affordable Housing Committee

Karen Tewhey  
Postponed

Katie Donahue  
Postponed

ZBA  
Peter W. Yoars  
Postponed

### **Selectmen's Update**

Selectman Packish commented on the "closure of Circuit Avenue on Sundays" it is going well. He also thanked the Fire Department for their work on extinguishing the house fire on Fitchburg Avenue. Streetscape is expanding their committee to do "outreach" and hold Public Hearings.

Selectman Barmakian thanked everyone for their work on covid19 especially the Board of Health and Agent Meegan Lancaster, the Police and Fire Departments.

Selectman Ruley commented on the professionalism of the Fire Department fighting the house fire on Fitchburg Avenue and also thanked the other Island towns for their mutual aid. Also thanks to IT Director Travis Larsen.

Selectman Coogan also thanked the Fire Department

### **Adjourn**

**The Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Ryan Butler  
Executive Assistant