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Select Board Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2020

Present: The members of the Select Board all participated remotely via using GoToWebinar: Mr. Jess Aptowitz, Chair; Mr. Michael Trowbridge, Vice-Chair; Mr. Neil Rhein, Clerk; Mr. Frank DelVecchio and Mr. Steve Schoonveld. Mr. Kevin Dumas, Town Manager was also.

Mr. Schoonveld was on the webinar, but not able to be heard at the start of the meeting.

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TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
2020 AUG 17 P 4:01

1. Call To Order Select Board Meeting - Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Aptowitz called the meeting to order at 5:30PM. He then asked those present to state the Pledge of Allegiance. He reminded everyone that the meeting was being broadcast live and taped for future broadcast on Mansfield Cable. The public was not allowed to be present in Town Hall and he read a statement explaining how the meeting was being recorded and made available to the public to satisfy the open meeting law during Governor Baker's State of Emergency order.

The Chairman asked to wait a minute to see if Mr. Schoonveld could get his audio working. Mr. Rhein asked to take care of an unfinished business item from the last meeting. Mr. Rhein stated that he has reviewed the citizen's petitions that he had abstained voting on and would like for them to be reconsidered.

Motion: To reconsider Town Meeting Warrant Articles 34 and 35. (Trowbridge/DelVecchio) **Passes 4:0**

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Rhein – Yes	Mr. DelVecchio – Yes	Chairman Aptowitz - Yes
Mr. Trowbridge – Yes		

Mr. Schoonveld's audio began to work at this point in the meeting.

Motion: To support Town Meeting Warrant Articles 34 and 35. (Rhein/Trowbridge) **Passes 5:0**

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Rhein – Yes	Mr. DelVecchio – Yes	Chairman Aptowitz - Yes
Mr. Trowbridge – Yes	Mr. Schoonveld – Yes	

2. Public Hearing – Consideration of Quorum Reduction for Annual Town Meeting

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, notice is hereby given by the Town of Mansfield Select Board of the Board's intention to consider an adjustment of the Annual Town Meeting quorum requirement.

Mr. Dumas read the public notice for the record.

Motion: To open the public hearing. (DelVecchio/Trowbridge) **Passes 5:0**

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Rhein – Yes	Mr. DelVecchio – Yes	Chairman Aptowitz - Yes
Mr. Trowbridge – Yes	Mr. Schoonveld - Yes	

Chair Aptowitz read an email from Mr. Bob Saquet, Town Moderator for the record. The email stated that he was in favor of reducing the quorum to one hundred registered voters. Chair Aptowitz then opened the discussion up for questions and comments from the Select Board. Mr. Trowbridge commented that he wanted to hear from any residents that were participating before making any comments. Chairman Aptowitz provided the information for those that were on the webinar as an attendee via the internet or on the phone lines, to which there was no response. Mr. Trowbridge then commented that this was a unique situation and hopefully there are a lot of people in attendance, but if not the business of Town Meeting will be able to continue and therefore he was in favor of reducing the quorum to one hundred. Mr. Rhein noted that there is a cost to the Town to hold the meeting at Xfinity

Center and if the quorum is reduced it would help reduce the risk of having to incur the cost for a second time. Mr. Schoonveld commented that it was a full Town Meeting agenda with zoning articles and he would hate for those articles to be voted on by only one hundred voters. He then asked if the Moderator could decide to not have those articles voted on because of an insufficient quorum for zoning articles. Mr. Dumas answered that he was not aware of that and he would have to ask the moderator. Mr. Schoonveld then stated that one hundred people is the number of people on boards and committees and their spouses and therefore these "insiders" should not be the ones making those deciding votes at Town Meeting and for that reason he would not support a quorum reduction. Mr. Schoonveld lastly commented that he expected at least three hundred people to be present at Town Meeting. Chairman Aptowitz commented that he was concerned that if one hundred fifty people came, the Town Meeting would not be able to start. He understood where Mr. Schoonveld was coming from about having a small number of voters decide on the zoning articles. He stated that then meeting needs to happen to get the budget voted and having a second meeting would be a lot of work and individuals concerned with zoning need to come to the meeting. Mr. DelVecchio commented that he has heard that some people feel it is voter suppression to have Town Meeting during a State of Emergency. He added that he wanted to have a pragmatic approach and would not want one hundred and ninety two people show up and not be able to do the Town's business. Mr. Dumas stated that he considers this an insurance policy and would not want to not be able to conduct Town Meeting if the number was below two hundred. Mr. Dumas stated that they have done everything possible to provide the safest environment for Town Meeting. He was sure there would be one hundred people present, but was not confident of reaching two hundred.

Motion: To close the public hearing. (Trowbridge/DelVecchio) **Passes 5:0**

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Rhein – Yes	Mr. DelVecchio – Yes	Chairman Aptowitz - Yes
Mr. Trowbridge – Yes	Mr. Schoonveld - No	

Motion: To reduce the quorum from 200 registered voters to 100 registered voters for the Annual Town Meeting and any other town meeting during the time period when the Governors Declaration of Emergency is in effect and in consultation and with the approval of the Town Moderator. (Trowbridge/Rhein) **Passes 4:1**

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Rhein – Yes	Mr. DelVecchio – Yes	Chairman Aptowitz - Yes
Mr. Trowbridge – Yes	Mr. Schoonveld - No	

3. Consideration of FY2021 Economic Relief Memorandum of Understanding

Motion: To approve the FY21 Economic Relief Memorandum of Understanding. (Trowbridge/DelVecchio) **Passes 5:0**

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Rhein – Yes	Mr. DelVecchio – Yes	Chairman Aptowitz - Yes
Mr. Trowbridge – Yes	Mr. Schoonveld - Yes	

4. Any items not anticipated by the Chair 48 hours prior to this meeting

There were no items.

5. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the Select Board Meeting of June 22, 2020 at 5:59PM. (Schoonveld/Trowbridge) **Passes 5:0**

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Rhein – Yes	Mr. DelVecchio – Yes	Chairman Aptowitz - Yes
Mr. Trowbridge – Yes	Mr. Schoonveld - Yes	

Signature

8/10/2020

Date

Minutes prepared by Carrie Champagne