

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JUNE 17, 2020
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: David Andrade, Nelson Almeida, David Viera, Justin Sullivan, Chris Zorra

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Town Moderator Peter Hoogerzeil was in attendance.

Chairman Andrade opened the meeting at 7:09 p.m. The meeting was held virtually.

He announced that, per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this Board of Selectmen meeting. Public access information for submitting a Google Form is provided on the Town's website at www.seekonk-ma.gov.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS UPDATE

Mr. Sullivan announced that volunteers are needed on the Capital Improvement Committee (1 Board of Selectmen appointment), Commission on Disability (5-13 BOS), Economic Development Committee (4 BOS) Energy Committee (1 BOS) Historical Commission (2 BOS).Recycling Committee (up to 3 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (2 Alternates).

PRIORITY MATTERS

Discussion with Town Moderator and Consider a Vote to Reduce the Quorum Required for Spring Town Meeting to a Number not less than 10 percent of the Number that would otherwise be Required

Mr. Cadime advised the Governor passed a bill to allow the quorum for town meeting to drop to 10% in order to maintain efficiency of the meeting and town business.

Chairman Andrade felt it should not drop 10% of the 75 people quorum.

Mr. Cadime clarified it doesn't have to go down to 10%.

Mr. Hoogerzeil was thinking it should be around 50%.due to the circumstances.

Mr. Viera said keep it the way it is. The Board is criticized for trying to sway things its way. The Board is trying to pass a budget that might not be affordable. .

Mr. Almeida also supports leaving it the way it is.

Mr. Sullivan said this is a unique situation. Over 100 people have pre-registered. If half of them show up, it is fine the way it is. He felt 50% is reasonable. If 40 to 50 people are not in the room, you go to a 1/12 budget.

Mr. Hoogerzeil wants to make sure the meeting happens.

Mr. Cadime recommended lowering the quorum. If it goes to the 1/12 budget, the Board would be criticized because it has to be approved by the Board of Selectmen and Department of Revenue.

Mr. Viera noted if people are concerned they will come out to vote.

Mr. Sullivan said this is a one-time occurrence.

Chairman Andrade suggested 60%.

Mr. Hoogerzeil said he will put out a strong pitch for people to attend Town Meeting.

There was no second to a motion by Mr. Sullivan to go to 50%. That would be 30 people.

A motion was made by Mr. Viera, seconded by Mr. Almeida, and it was

VOTED: 3 Ayes 2 Nays; To keep the quorum the same at 75 people.

Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Viera – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Sullivan – Nay, Chairman Andrade – Nay. He felt 38 is too little.

Chairman Andrade said there have been concerns about Town Meeting - congregating in one place. He noted that restrictions are starting to relax.

Mr. Cadime advised that guidelines will be posted on the Town's website and Facebook.

The Town Moderator, Town Clerk, Health Agent, Chris Testa, Carol Ann Days and Mr. Cadime met at the high school to go through the operations and logistics of Town Meeting.

We are prepared to have everybody in the auditorium and in the gym for overflow. It will be assigned seating with an open seat between. Rows will be staggered. People will have to wear masks. People will have to walk up to microphone to speak. Masks, hand sanitizers, and disinfectors will be provided. It should run smoothly if everyone follows guidelines. People are asked to arrive early to sign in.

Chairman Andrade asked what happens with people who refuse to wear masks.

Mr. Hoogerzeil said he will ask police to enforce it.

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Chairman Andrade had a question from Alison Fergerson regarding the racial climate and unrest and if there are any plans to support the local black community

He suggested forwarding the request to the Cultural Council. Nothing is happening in Seekonk.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Viera, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

The vote: Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Viera – Aye; Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Sullivan – Aye; Chairman Andrade – Aye

Respectfully submitted,

David Viera, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary