

**Approved: September 29, 2020**

**Board of Selectmen Meeting: August 31, 2020**

**Present: Freiman, Ulfelder, Olney, Sullivan Woods**

**Also Present: Jop, Frigulietti**

**Warrants approved: none**

**Meeting Documents:**

1. Agenda
2. Finance Preliminary FY2020 results draft presentation
3. Memo re: Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CARES Act)
4. Draft Special Town Meeting checklist
5. Draft STM Warrant Article List
6. BETA report: Curve Street, Harvard Street, Sunset Road
7. Draft BOS minutes: 8/18/20
8. Draft BOS minutes: 8/25/20
9. Animal Control Report
10. Financial Presentation to Advisory
11. Email re: AGZA Green Zone Proposal
12. DESE Fall Reopening Guidance

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Freiman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm online.

Ms. Freiman announced the meeting was being streamed live on Comcast channel 8 and Verizon channel 40 and by Wellesley Media and recorded for subsequent viewing on the cable channels or at [wellesleymedia.org](http://wellesleymedia.org).

**2. Citizen Speak**

None

**3. Budget Discussion**

Ms. Strother, Town Finance Director joined the Board. She reviewed the Town's financial position prior to and immediately following the COVID-19 shutdown. She noted that although the COVID response required significant spending, other projects and activities were on hold which contributed to some savings. Ms. Strother stated that local revenues and departmental turnback resulted in reserve levels rising to approximately 15% of revenue. She continued to review the departmental operating results. She added that the final revenue estimates for FY21 had been reduced significantly from the early projections. She noted that cash capital plans had been slowed to provide the Town time to evaluate the impact of the pandemic. Ms. Strother stated that the increased FY20 reserves would allow for potential FY22 revenue shortfalls or deferred capital needs.

Ms. Strother stated that the deadline to file for FEMA reimbursements was approaching. She estimated the Town could potentially qualify for \$241,000 from FY20 as well as potentially some expenditures from FY21. She noted that the \$1.1 million of CARES Act funding received for the School Department had been mostly earmarked for reopening plans and remote learning costs. She stated that some of the Town's \$2.6 million had been distributed for various resources including food programs, PPE, sanitizing supplies, cleaning, and additional programming, but noted that the Town had \$1.8 million in CARES Act

funding that remained uncommitted. She added that there would continue to be uncertainty for the revenue levels particularly with state funds. The Board briefly discussed the number of students that recently moved out of the public school system and the potential impacts to the FY22 budget. The Board discussed the FY20 financial results, the distribution of CARES Act funds, and additional costs associated with the pandemic.

Ms. Jop reviewed the draft budget calendar. She noted that the beginning of the process would begin later than in the past particularly for the School Department. Ms. Freiman noted that the state information would be late and that the Schools would likely require additional time to prepare their budget. Ms. Jop stated that the calendar may be pushed out to require a later start of Town Meeting. The Board reviewed the budget timeline and extension of the budget process.

#### **4. Discuss and Vote Interest Rate for Granite Street Acceptance Betterment**

Ms. Jop reviewed the background of the Granite Street street acceptance. She noted that its designation as a Tier 2 street resulted in the requirement of a financial contribution from the abutters of 25% of the cost of the project. She reviewed the options for payment for the abutters, either a lump-sum payment or an added amount on the third installment of their annual tax bill for up to ten years. Ms. Jop stated that the remaining cost would be part of the Town's borrowing in March. She noted the Treasurer advised the Town would most likely receive an interest rate between 0.5–1%. Ms. Jop reviewed the recommendation for the betterment interest rate from the Treasurer of between 0-3%. She stated that the cost of the project was approximately \$400,000. The Board agreed that the Town did not want to benefit financially from the project but rather recover interest charged to the Town for the project. The Board discussed a proposed 0.75% interest rate for the betterment.

**Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder the Board was polled and voted (4-0) to approve an interest rate of .075% for the Granite Street Betterment payment for a term not to exceed 10 years.**

**Sullivan Woods – Aye**

**Olney –Aye**

**Ulfelder – Aye**

**Freiman – Aye**

#### **5. Traffic Regulation Amendment Public Hearing**

Chief Pilecki, Lieutenant Showstead, and Mr. Ho and Mr. De Ruiter of Beta Engineering, joined the meeting.

Ms. Freiman opened the public hearing.

Lieutenant Showstead stated that the College Heights Neighborhood had been consulted in the presented proposal for the Stop signs. He noted that volume, speed, and the configuration of the intersections at Sunset, Harvard, and Curve made navigating the area a safety issue. Mr. De Ruiter reviewed the intersection and the proposed placement of the Stop signs and Stop lines as well as a curve warning sign for Curve Street. He reviewed the travel patterns during peak morning and evening hours for abutters and cut through traffic. He added that sight lines were impacted by vegetation and recommended pruning in the spring and summer months. The Board discussed the proposed Stop signs as well as the street name sign locations.

Ms. Morris and Ms. Theermann joined the meeting.

Chief Pilecki briefly reviewed the anti-idling policy. He noted the policy would mirror the state regulation regarding idling cars but with a lesser penalty. He added that the revision to the traffic regulations would provide officers with another tool to encourage drivers not to idle without excessively ticketing. He stated that Ms. Theermann would revitalize the publicity campaign “It’s Vital not to Idle” to increase awareness throughout Town.

**Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder the Board was polled and voted (4-0) to approve the following amendments to the Town of Wellesley Traffic Regulations:  
 ADDING TO SCHEDULE IV, STOP SIGNS, the following:**

Location	At	So as to Face
Sunset Road	Harvard Street	Southbound Traffic
Sunset Road	Harvard Street	Northbound Traffic

**Sullivan Woods – Aye  
 Olney –Aye  
 Ulfelder – Aye  
 Freiman – Aye**

**Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder the Board was polled and voted (4-0) to approve the following amendments to the Town of Wellesley Traffic Regulations:**

**ADDING TO ARTICLE V. a new section Anti-Idling Section (r.) to read as follows:**

**(r) No person shall cause, suffer, allow or permit the unnecessary operation of the engine of a motor vehicle while said vehicle is stopped for a foreseeable period of time in excess of five minutes, upon any way. This section shall not apply to (a) vehicles being serviced, provided that operation of the engine is essential to the proper repair thereof, or (b) vehicles engaged in the delivery or acceptance of goods, wares, or merchandise for which engine assisted power is necessary and substitute alternate means cannot be made available, or (c) vehicles engaged in an operation for which the engine power is necessary for an associate power need other than movement and substitute alternate power means cannot be made available provided that such operation does not cause or contribute to a condition of air pollution.**

**ADDING to ARTICLE X a new Idling penalty after “Obstructing snow removal \$15.00” to read as follows:  
 Idling greater than 5 minutes \$15.00**

**Sullivan Woods – Aye  
 Olney –Aye  
 Ulfelder – Aye  
 Freiman – Aye**

Ms. Freiman closed the public hearing.

**6. Discuss and Vote to Call Two Special Town Meetings to begin on October 26, 2020.**

Ms. Jop reviewed the need to call a second Special Town Meeting in October. She stated one meeting would be specifically for the building systems capital project in order for Town Meeting to vote in time to meet the debt exclusion deadline of December 1st. She reviewed the proposed calendar of presentations and meetings leading up to STM. Ms. Jop stated that as in June, the STM would be held virtually via Zoom and taped presentations would be available for viewing to eliminate presentation time during the

meetings. She added that practice sessions for Town Meeting Members would be held as well as time provided for them to ask questions on the motions prior to STM. Ms. Jop stated that due to the size of the warrant Town Meeting Members were being asked to hold October 26, 27, and 28. She added that should additional nights be necessary the next dates to continue would be November 9, 10, and 12. The Board discussed the posting requirements necessary for the Warrant as well as the October and November dates reserved for the Fall STM.

**Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder the Board was polled and voted (4-0) to call a Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 7:00 pm via a remote zoom meeting and to set the following dates:**

- **Open the Warrant – Monday, August 31, 2020**
- **Close the Warrant – Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 4:30 pm**
- **Motions due to the Selectmen’s Office – Friday, October 9, 2020 at 4:30 pm**

**Sullivan Woods – Aye**

**Olney –Aye**

**Ulfelder – Aye**

**Freiman – Aye**

**Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder the Board was polled and voted (4-0) to call a Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 7:30 pm via a remote zoom meeting and to set the following dates:**

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**Sullivan Woods – Aye**

**Olney –Aye**

**Ulfelder – Aye**

**Freiman – Aye**

## **7. Executive Director’s Report**

Ms. Jop congratulated Ms. Martello and the Sustainable Energy staff for obtaining a Green Communities Grant of \$137,000 to assist in the purchase of two hybrid vehicles and continued installation of LED lights throughout Town. She noted that revised minutes were sent to the Board earlier.

**Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder the Board was polled and voted (4-0) to approve the minutes as amended from August 18, 2020 and August 25, 2020.**

**Sullivan Woods – Aye**

**Olney –Aye**

**Ulfelder – Aye**

**Freiman – Aye**

## **8. Liaison Updates**

Mr. Ulfelder stated that the SBC would be meeting at 5:30 on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> to continue discussions and evaluations of the matrix. He noted that the meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> would also review off-site considerations including the impact of construction during various phases, impacts to abutters during construction, redistricting, and traffic impacts.

## **9. New Business and Correspondence**

The Board reminded residents of the elections for the empty Board seat and primary election on September 1<sup>st</sup> and encouraged those who had not submitted mail in ballots to vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2020 at 5:00pm online.