

HOPKINTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – December 7, 2020
BUSINESS AGENDA

Town Hall, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833

**NOTICE
MEETING BEING HELD REMOTELY**

Understanding the people have a vested interest in the operation of their government, the Hopkinton Town Council intends to include the public on December 7, 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 virus, the Council wants to be sure that everyone will do so safely from their own homes. Therefore this meeting will be held remotely using Zoom.

To get the most out of the remote meeting technology, participants are urged to join by computer when possible. Joining by computer allows you to see the Town Council members on-screen and makes it easier to use the functions for indicating you wish to speak and muting/un-muting yourself.

To attend the meeting, please connect in by 7:00 PM. **Note:** Participants will not be able to connect before the host begins the session, and anyone trying to connect who are unable to do so should try again after 7:00 PM.

To Join meeting by computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83022943969?pwd=SGtkUVNSWXgzTXZ4YU52bmJmdENyUT09>

Meeting ID: 830 2294 3969 - Passcode: 939803

To Join meeting by telephone:

Dial 877 853 5247 or 888 788 0099 Meeting ID: 830 2294 3969# - Passcode (if asked): 939803

****Citizens wishing to speak during public forum:**

Any participants wishing to speak during the public forum should indicate so as early as possible. The Zoom meeting has a 'Raise your hand' indicator that you enable to let the host know you wish to speak.

To 'Raise your hand' in Zoom:

By Computer:

Click "raise hand" from the Zoom menu bar and wait for the meeting host to ask you to unmute. Once asked to unmute, press "unmute" to unmute and speak.

By Phone:

Dial *9 to "raise your hand" and wait for the meeting host to ask you to unmute. Once asked to unmute, dial *6 to unmute and speak.

Please note: Because of ever-changing regulations due to the COVID-19 virus, this meeting may be cancelled. Please check the Town of Hopkinton website www.hopkintonri.org for updates on these meetings and other important Town or COVID-19 information.

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin
Council Clerk/Town Clerk

6:00 P.M. Convene Open Session and Recess to Executive Session under:

1. RIGL sec. 42-46-5(a)(2), status and legal advice from Town Solicitor regarding pending and potential litigation involving the Town, an overview of the Open Meetings Act and the Access to Public Records Act, the Town's liability insurance and procedural interactions with its insurer (the Trust), general collective bargaining process, general public bidding process, and miscellaneous statutory and contractual obligations and liabilities.

Reconvene in Open Session.

Statement by the Council President that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Consider and vote on Motion to Seal the minutes of the Executive Session.

7:00 P.M. Call to Order – Moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

HEARINGS

MOTION TO SIT AS A LICENSING BOARD

- 1. Open a hearing on renewal of the following Liquor Licenses continued from November 16, 2020:

Class BV:

Brick Oven Restaurant – Keith Knott, President, Brick Oven Restaurant of Ashaway, Inc., - 209 Main Street, Ashaway, RI 02804.

Applicant or representative present.

Class B-LIMITED:

Main Street Pizza, Christopher Hoinsky, President, CHS, LLC, 229 Main Street, Ashaway, RI 02804.

Applicant or representative present.

Discuss, consider and vote to grant renewal to each license subject to all state and town regulations being met and all town taxes current prior to issue.

Holiday Sales License

Open a hearing for a new application for Holiday Sales License:

Village Wine & Spirits, 26 Alton Bradford Road filed by Venkat Doddapeneni, M2 Wines, LLC.

Discuss and consider motion to grant approval to the license in question subject to all state and town regulations being met and all town taxes current prior to issue.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AS LICENSING BOARD AND RECONVENE AS COUNCIL

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve November 16, 2020 6:30 PM Town Council Remote Meeting Minutes; November 16, 2020 7:00 PM Town Council Remote Meeting Minutes; November 16, 2020 7:30 PM Town Council Remote Meeting Minutes; Set January 4, 2021 as a hearing date for renewal of Campground Licenses; Set January 19, 2021 as the second Town Council Meeting in January due to Martin Luther King Day Holiday; Set January 19, 2021 as a hearing date for renewal of Commercial Haulers Licenses; Approve abatements due to condition adjustments and duplicate billings submitted by the Tax Assessor; Approve refund due to an overpayment by a taxpayer on 2020 real property tax submitted by the Tax Collector.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

- Message of condolence to Chief Palmer & Family

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Covid-19 staggered work schedule during Governor Raimondo’s Two-Week Pause
- Appointment of Public Works Director

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Appointment of Prosecutions Lawyer
Appointment of Probate Judge

OLD BUSINESS

Council discussion to fill the remaining Town Council representative appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss, consider and possibly vote to adopt a Resolution of the Hopkinton Town Council relating to State Assistance during the COVID 19 Emergency – see attached.

Discussion on senior citizen issues and concerns including discussion on reactivating the Committee on Aging – Councilor Hirst.

Discuss, consider and possibly vote to approve request of Hopkinton Land Trust Board of Trustee Chairwoman Marilyn Grant for a waiver of the \$1,020.00 building permit fee for building permit #11154 for property located at 9 Mechanic Street identified as AP 27 Lot 182B, for the construction of the Depot Square/Brushy Brook Trail.

Consider and vote to provide approbation for the Town Clerk's appointment of Marita Murray as Deputy Town Clerk to November, 2022.

Discuss and consider scheduling a workshop regarding the petition to amend the Zoning District Use Table to amend permitted uses for solar energy systems and to update the review and approval procedures for solar energy systems submitted by Peter Skwirz, Esq. on behalf of clients Tom & Cynthia Sculco.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Discuss, consider and possibly vote to appoint Daniel Baruti as full-term member of the Zoning Board of Review as requested by the Zoning Board of Review.

PUBLIC FORUM

ADJOURN

If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation by any person, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 377-7777 (V) or 377-7773 (TDD) at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting.

Posting Details: Town Hall, Police Station, Hopkinton Website, Secretary of State Website. Posting date: December 3, 2020

Town of Hopkinton, RI

Resolution of the Town Council Relating to State Assistance During the COVID 19 Emergency

WHEREAS, the Governor and municipal leaders across the state have declared a state of emergency as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, municipal leaders have worked cooperatively and productively with the state administration to respond to and contain the virus; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hopkinton has incurred expenses associated with its efforts to respond to and contain the virus; and

WHEREAS, cities and towns have been given guidance that there will be delays in receiving reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for qualifying COVID-19-related expenses; and

WHEREAS, the state has received \$1.25 billion dollars under the CARES Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund to cover state and municipal costs associated with the emergency; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Treasury has stated that the Coronavirus Relief Fund may be used for COVID-19 expenses not otherwise reimbursable by FEMA, including public safety expenditures, personnel costs associated with COVID-19 response and the mandatory local match for expenses submitted to FEMA; and

WHEREAS, according to the National League of Cities, Rhode Island is one of only three states that have not distributed a portion of their Coronavirus Relief Fund to local governments; and

WHEREAS, cities and towns across Rhode Island face potential revenue risks resulting from the economic impacts of COVID-19, including a possible reduction in state aid programs, lower collection rates of property taxes, and other business activity revenue losses, all of which could exceed \$100 million; and

WHEREAS, the state has withheld scheduled state aid payments in the current fiscal year by over \$50 million dollars through the beginning of August; and

WHEREAS, the state has not yet completed a budget for Fiscal Year 2021, creating even greater uncertainty about expected aid to local governments and schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Council calls on the Governor to execute a plan for distributing CRF funds to cities and towns taking into account expenses incurred and revenues lost by each city and town as a result of the emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council urges the General Assembly to fully fund the state education funding formula at the FY 2021 projected levels and to support total state aid to local governments at the same aggregate levels as in FY 2020.

Adopted: _____

ATTEST: _____
Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin
Town Clerk