

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the fourth day of January 2021 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Stephen Moffitt, Jr. at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Stephen Moffitt, Jr., Scott Bill Hirst and Michael Geary were present in the Meeting Room; Sharon Davis, Robert Marvel; Solicitor Steven Sypole; Acting Town Manager Brian Rosso and Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin participated remotely.

The Meeting was called to order with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag. Instructions for participating in the remote meeting were included on the agenda.

#### **HEARINGS**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO SIT AS A LICENSING BOARD.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

#### **CAMPGROUND LICENSE RENEWALS**

The Council opened a hearing on the renewal of the following campground licenses:

Frontier Camper Park, LLC– Dorothy Watson, 180A Maxson Hill Road, Ashaway, RI licensed for 225 Campsites & Safari Sites. Mrs. Watson called in remotely. Filing fees were paid and notices posted including mailed notice to abutters. No one spoke in favor of, or in opposition to renewal.

Greenwood Hill Campground Association, Inc. – Jeffrey P. Aldrich, 13 Newberry Lane, Hope Valley, RI licensed for 80 Campsites & Safari Sites. Mr. Aldrich called in remotely. Filing fees were paid and notices posted including mailed notice to abutters. No one spoke in favor of, or in opposition to renewal.

Holly Tree Campground, Inc. – Marie Patrizzo, 109 Ashaway Road, Ashaway, RI licensed for 158 Campsites & Safari Sites. Jennifer Johnson called in remotely. Filing fees were paid and notices posted including mailed notice to abutters. No one spoke in favor of, or in opposition to renewal.

Whispering Pines Campground – Cameron May/WP Management Group, LLC, 41 Saw Mill Road, Hope Valley, RI licensed for 213 Campsites & Safari Sites. Cameron May called in remotely. The Town Clerk reported Ms. May had mailed the application and the filing fees were anticipated. Notices had been posted including mailed notice to abutters. No one spoke in favor of, or in opposition to renewal.

Ashaway Pines RV Resort, LLC, 225 Ashaway Road, Bradford, RI licensed for 260 Campsites. There are no Safari Sites. Briana Johnson called in remotely. Filing fees were paid and notices posted including mailed notice to abutters. Andrea Panciera had emailed a letter to be placed on record and also called in remotely.

Discussion:

Councilor Hirst noted that Andrea Panciera had contacted him concerning the Ashaway Pines RV Resort and an ongoing water issue. He felt that they should delay this renewal until there was some discussion with DEM concerning the water issues. Council President Moffitt felt they should move forward with granting the license. Councilor Marvel asked if there had been any official concerns or issues raised regarding this campground or was this just word of mouth? Council President Moffitt noted that he had received an email from Ms. Panciera.

Ms. Panciera advised that these same issues have been raised by her family to several Boards over the past several years and were concerns about trespass and water use at the campground and whether the campground was actually pumping and storing water as had been directed by the Planning Board and Zoning Board when the campground was first approved. She wished the campground to put up boundary signs in order to keep campers on campground property, which she

believed they were doing. The water issue was much more involved and her primary goal was to confirm that the water system was put in as required and is currently being operated as required in order to have minimum impact to abutters. Councilor Hirst wished this matter referred to the Town Manager to look into and to report back to the Town Council. He asked Ms. Panciera if she thought they should approve the renewal of this license. Ms. Panciera advised that she had no issue with the current management of the campground and she felt that the Council should grant renewal subject to assuring that the campground was doing all that was required of it.

Briana Johnson on behalf of the Ashaway Pines RV Resort noted that they have placed No Trespass signs at the back of their property which abuts the Panciera lot and they have installed a trail camera to monitor the children that are back there. She also noted that she would contact Northeast Water Solutions to see if there was any way to run a pressure test or something to that effect in order to figure out if they were affecting the Panciera's water supply.

Ms. Panciera thanked Ms. Johnson and noted that they had also put up some cameras and additional lighting and they plan to do more. She felt a pressure test would be appropriate and she felt that they should double check as to when pumping is occurring and how much water is being stored and whether timing and storage needed to be adjusted so that it will have less of an impact on their farm. Council President Moffitt asked the Acting Town Manager Mr. Rosso to look into any type of stipulations that are in place concerning the campground and whether they are required to follow certain steps in the use of the groundwater.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO GRANT RENEWAL TO EACH LICENSE SUBJECT TO ALL STATE AND TOWN REGULATIONS BEING MET AND ALL TOWN TAXES CURRENT PRIOR TO ISSUE.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO ADJOURN AS LICENSING BOARD AND RECONVENE AS COUNCIL.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:

Approve Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 21, 2020; Town Council Workshop Notes of December 14, 2020; Set February 16, 2021 as the second Town Council Meeting in February due to Presidents Day Holiday; Set July 6, 2021 as the first Town Council Meeting in July due to Independence Day Holiday; Set September 7, 2021 as the first Town Council Meeting in September due to Labor Day Holiday; Ratify and approve the Twelfth Local Declaration of Emergency from January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT**

Council President Moffitt reported on the Proposed Chariho Budget Workshop Schedule: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 and Thursday January 7, 2021 both at 6:00 PM; Tuesday, January 12, 2021 School Committee Meeting at 7:00 PM; Wednesday January 13, 2021 Omnibus Meeting on the Budget at 7:00 PM; Budget Workshop Tuesday, January 19, 2021 and Thursday, January 21, 2021 both at 6:00 PM. Preregistration is required to attend these meetings and if you go to the School District website you can sign up for the meetings. He encouraged all residents to attend these important meetings.

Councilor Hirst wished for an outside management study and wanted for the School Committee to add this into their budget.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**PROPOSED TOWN-WIDE FY 2021-22 ANNUAL GOALS AND FY'S 2023-25 MULTI-YEAR GOALS**

Acting Town Manager and Finance Director Mr. Rosso noted that this document, which was for informational purposes only, was to assist the Town Council in the budget process and to make them aware of the future initiatives of the town.

Councilor Hirst questioned the request to increase the fee for a zoning certificate from \$5.00 to \$25.00. Mr. Rosso noted that the Deputy Zoning Clerk and Zoning Official had researched other towns and noted that \$25.00 was very reasonable and similar to what other towns were charging.

Councilor Geary noted that in the multi-year goals, #11 concerned replacing some DPW equipment and he noted that there may be programs available which could be of assistance. Mr. Rosso noted that this was a long term goal and they have been working toward this goal for the last several years.

Council President Moffitt thanked Mr. Rosso for providing them with this list and he noted that he would be looking for opportunities to help implement some of these goals.

Councilor Davis spoke about Multi-Year Goal #9 which was to conduct a study to determine the cost of changing from fluorescent lighting to LED, she suggested that Mr. Rosso contact National Grid who may have a program to assist nonprofits in doing this. She also questioned Mr. Rosso on what he considered a warrant item to be. Mr. Rosso did not believe any items on the lists would be warrant items, noting that these are items which may come out of the capital improvement plan; however, some of these items may be something that could be fit within the current operating budget. Councilor Davis asked him to explain the definition of a warrant item for the benefit of the new council members. Mr. Rosso asked Town Clerk Cook-Martin if she could define a warrant item and she explained that if a budget line item is not used in full, the Council may wish to set aside that money in a restricted account, which would need to be placed on a ballot and voted on or to use funds for a specific purpose like funding tree removal or borrowing for street repair. Mr. Rosso noted that everything that is spent by the town has to go through the budget process and any change to the budget and allocation to another source has to be approved by the voters.

Councilor Marvel asked Mr. Rosso if they could request potential items to be added to the goals list noting that he wished a review and some changes to the town's website to make it easier for people to use and he wished all of the town's current ordinances and regulations to be available on the website so that everybody can access the most current documents. Mr. Rosso indicated that this could be discussed during the budget workshops.

Councilor Hirst felt the Council should prepare their own goals of what they hoped to achieve in the next two years.

Councilor Marvel agreed with Councilor Hirst but indicated that he was only pointing out some operational tasks that should be done.

Councilor Davis agreed with Councilor Marvel and noted that residents had asked her to have a crosswalk placed at the intersection in front of Spring Street and the Hope Valley/Wyoming fire station. She asked Mr. Rosso when these matters should be discussed. Mr. Rosso believed that when these types of items came up, they should be brought to the Town Manager's attention so that he/she can follow through with the operations. He felt that as far as directing department heads it should go through the Town Manager so that the Town Manager isn't left in the dark and is not being circumvented.

Councilor Geary noted that Route 3 is a state road and they may have to go through the Department of Transportation's liaison.

Council President Moffitt encouraged the Councilors to create their own list of goals which could be discussed at any time.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED TOWN-WIDE FY 2021-22 ANNUAL GOALS AND FY'S 2023-25 MULTI-YEAR GOALS.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**CONSIDER BUDGET TIMETABLE - SCHEDULE BUDGET WORKSHOPS**

The budget timetable had been prepared and was before the Town Council. The Town Council scheduled the following dates for budget workshops: February 8,

February 11, February 22, February 25 and March 8, 2021. The workshops will begin at 6:00 PM and will be held virtually.

**BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

**Planning Board Alternate**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR GEARY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO APPOINT JOHN PENNYPACKER AS PLANNING BOARD ALTERNATE.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Joe Moreau of Old Depot Road congratulated John Pennypacker in his appointment. He thereafter noted that the solar sprawl in town has increased the workload of many of the town’s employees, Town Council, Planning Board and other Boards and Commissions which has been occurring since June of 2017. He wished to propose an employee appreciation day in May which he felt was long overdue.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF WALTER K. BABCOCK, DOROTHY LUNDBOHM AND DAWN WELLS.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk

Marita D. Murray

Deputy Town Clerk