

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the third day of January 2022 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council Vice President Sharon Davis at 6:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Sharon Davis, Robert Marvel; Scott Bill Hirst, Michael Geary; Town Solicitor Stephen Sypole; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin. Absent: Stephen Moffitt, Jr.; Town Manager Brian Rosso.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER RIGL SEC. 42-46-5 (A)(2) LITIGATION.

POLL VOTE:

IN FAVOR: Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The Town Council reconvened in open session and Town Council Vice President Davis affirmed all votes taken in Executive Session relative to RIGL sec. 42-46-5(a)(2) Litigation, reading from §42-46-4(b) - All votes taken in closed sessions shall be disclosed once the session is reopened; provided, however, a vote taken in a closed session need not be disclosed for the period of time during which its disclosure would jeopardize any strategy, negotiation or investigation undertaken pursuant to discussions conducted under §42-46-5(a).

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO AFFIRM THE VOTE TAKEN DURING THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

IN FAVOR: Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

IN FAVOR: Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION.

IN FAVOR: Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

WORKSHOP

The Town Council conducted a workshop to review and discuss draft Town Council Bylaws which began at 6:19 PM.

Town Manager Brian Rosso arrived during the workshop.

Councilor Hirst stated that he was concerned with page 12, Section 117, paragraph (a) which limits public comment to three minutes and felt that five minutes would be more appropriate. Councilor Marvel noted that he supported having a time limit, whether it is three minutes or five minutes. Councilor Davis agreed with changing this to five minutes, as did Councilor Geary, with a caveat that this time could be extended. Councilor Marvel noted that the time limit pertained to the general public and he wished to know how it pertained to applicants coming before the Council. Solicitor Sypole noted that the Council can suspend the time limit as the circumstances would require. Councilor Marvel questioned if this time limit would apply to everyone speaking to the Council since he believed the worst offenders were developers, attorneys and expert witnesses. Solicitor Sypole confirmed that this concerned anyone addressing the Council. Thereafter it was decided to start reviewing the Bylaws from page 1 and to go through them section by section. Councilor Davis read each paragraph of the Bylaws and allowed for discussion. Regarding Section 102, paragraph (c) entitled, Extension of Meeting, Town Clerk Cook-Martin noted that there was no

time specified for the end of the meeting. It was suggested that this be 10:00 p.m. Councilor Hirst also suggested that an agreement to extend the meeting should be by majority vote of the Council and not just by the Chair. Councilor Marvel asked Solicitor Sypole if an emergency meeting would fall under the 48 hour requirement regarding the posting of an agenda and Solicitor Sypole advised no, that this was the only exception pursuant to State statute. Regarding Section 104, paragraph (a), Town Clerk Cook-Martin suggested adding budgetary meetings to the list. The Council ended their discussion on page 5, at Section 107.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO CONTINUE THE WORKSHOP ON JANUARY 18, 2022 PRIOR TO THE REGULAR MEETING.

IN FAVOR: Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The meeting was called to order with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

HEARINGS

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

IN FAVOR: Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

CAMPGROUND LICENSE RENEWALS

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

Frontier Camper Park, Inc.– Dorothy Watson, 180A Maxson Hill Road, Ashaway, RI licensed for 225 Campsites & Safari Sites. The applicant was present.

Greenwood Hill Campground Association, Inc. – Jeffrey P. Aldrich, 13 Newberry Lane, Hope Valley, RI licensed for 80 Campsites & Safari Sites. The applicant was present.

Holly Tree Campground, Inc. – Marie Patrizzo, 109 Ashaway Road, Ashaway, RI licensed for 158 Campsites & Safari Sites. The applicant was present.

Whispering Pines Campground – Cameron May/WP Management Group, LLC, 41 Saw Mill Road, Hope Valley, RI licensed for 213 Campsites & Safari Sites. The applicant was present.

Ashaway Pines RV Resort, LLC – Jennifer Smith, License Coordinator, 225 Ashaway Road licensed for 260 Campsites. There are no Safari Sites. The applicant was present.

The Town Clerk reported all filing fees were paid and notice had been posted including notice to abutters. No one spoke in favor of or in opposition to the Campground License Renewals.

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

IN FAVOR: Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

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

IN FAVOR: Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Geary stated he would be abstaining from voting on the December 20, 2021 Town Council Meeting Minutes as he had been absent.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS FOLLOWS: Set July 5, 2021 as the first Town Council Meeting in July due to the (July 4, 2021) Independence Day Holiday; approve refund resulting from real property double payment by escrow company and taxpayer submitted by the Tax Collector.

IN FAVOR: Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO APPROVE THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2021.

IN FAVOR: Davis, Hirst, Marvel

ABSTAIN: Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

OLD BUSINESS

This matter had been scheduled to discuss and consider selecting a date to receive an update on the Potter Hill Dam from the Potter Hill Dam Information Study Committee.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO SELECT JANUARY 18, 2022 AS THE DATE TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE POTTER HILL DAM FROM THE POTTER HILL DAM INFORMATION STUDY COMMITTEE WITH THE TOWN CLERK TO PROVIDE NOTICE TO THE RECEIVER AND EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE RECEIVER TO ATTEND AS WELL AS ANY OTHER ENTITY DETERMINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT, TOWN

MANAGER, TOWN CLERK AND TOWN SOLICITOR TO ATTEND.

Discussion on the motion:

Councilor Hirst noted that it is extremely hard to get volunteers and the members of the Potter Hill Dam Committee are very dedicated. He felt that one thing that turns off volunteers is if they feel they are not being listened to. He also wished to note that this project did not just involve the Potter Hill Mill, but everything from wells, property values and water levels. He believed the Dam Committee wished for some backing from the Council. Discussion ended and vote was taken.

IN FAVOR: Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

This matter was scheduled to consider appointing Polly Hopkins to the Historic District Commission. Ms. Hopkins had been interviewed by the Town Council.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR GEARY TO APPOINT POLLY HOPKINS TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION.

IN FAVOR: Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

PUBLIC FORUM

No one spoke during public forum.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER RIGL SEC. 42-46-5(A)(1) - RIGL SEC. 42-46-5(A)(1) INTERVIEWS:
BOARDS & COMMISSIONS: CHARTER COMMISSION; CONSERVATION COMMISSION; JUVENILE HEARING BOARD; WOOD PAWCATUCK WILD & SCENIC RIVERS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL.

POLL VOTE:

IN FAVOR: Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The Council reconvened in open session and Council Vice President Davis reported that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

IN FAVOR: Davis, Hirst, Marvel, Geary

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MARVEL TO ADJOURN.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk

Marita D. Murray

Deputy Town Clerk