

**Hull Board of Selectmen  
Final Minutes  
February, 6, 2020**

The meeting of the Hull Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 6, 2020, at Hull Town Hall, 253 Atlantic Avenue, Hull, Massachusetts.

Present: Jennifer Constable, Vice-Chair; Greg Grey, Clerk; Kevin Richardson, Member; John Reilly, Member. Also present were Town Counsel James Lampke and Town Manager Phillip Lemnios. Absent: Domenico Sestito, Chair

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**APPOINTMENT**

**Eo Martin dba California Underground, 257 Nantasket Ave. – re: Request for Change of Hours of Operation**

Eo Martin, representing California Underground, was sworn in. He said that he would like to change his hours of operation and would like to open at 8:00 am on Saturday mornings and 9:00 am on Sunday mornings.

<b>Motion</b>	Richardson	To approve the change of hours for California Underground to 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday
<b>Second</b>	Reilly	
<b>Vote</b>	Unanimous	

Martin said that the opening of California Underground with these hours had been delayed by a week but that they were hoping to be open for business in two weeks.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**James Lampke, Town Counsel, re: Authorize a Board Member to sign confirmatory tax title sale deed**

Lampke explained that in 2015 the Town held a sale of tax title properties and as part of the process deeds were issued. For some reason one deed was not recorded at the Registry of Deeds and the property owner had just realized this recently. Lampke has prepared a confirmatory deed as there was a deed signed by the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen in 2015. He now needs the Board to authorize the Chair, the Vice-Chair or one of the members to sign the confirmatory deed.

<b>Motion</b>	Reilly	To authorize the Vice-Chair to sign the deed as presented this evening
<b>Second</b>	Richardson	
<b>Vote</b>	Unanimous	

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**APPROVALS**

**Request to add Board of Assessors 1 year vacant term to the Annual Town Election ballot on May 18, 2020**

Reilly asked whether the Board could wait on filling the vacancy by appointment. Since the election is close it might be better to just place this on the ballot and let the election happen. Lemnios pointed out that there are abatements coming in February and that this position may need to be filled before the election.

<b>Motion</b>	Reilly	To place the seat vacated by the passing of Nunzie Devito on the May 18, 2020 Town ballot for a 1 year unexpired term
<b>Second Vote</b>	Richardson Unanimous	

#### **Approval of Policy re: Electioneering during Early and Absentee Voting**

Lemnios said that in the last several years the State has instituted a policy of early voting in Town Halls and polling places and that there is a state law that regulates how close supporters of a candidate can come to a polling place. This law is designed to allow voters to freely access the polling place without being bothered. The Town has created a policy that would establish two zones at Town Hall (approximately 65' on one side and 80' on the other) where people who wanted to support candidates would be located, thereby creating a buffer zone for the voters. Reilly said he wasn't clear on the policy with respect to whether candidates can leave signs in the area. Lemnios said that Town bylaws prohibit permanent signs in these areas, they are only to be used as a place for supporters to gather.

<b>Motion</b>	Reilly	As presented this evening the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager adopt the following policy for the period designated for in-person and absentee voting and the State's early voting period: No posters, cards, handbills, placards, pictures, circulars or pasters (commonly referred to as stickers) intended to influence the actions of the voters for the ongoing election other than those listed as expressly authorized at polling places by G.L. c. 54. , section 65 shall be posted, exhibited, circulated or distributed in the Town Clerk's office, in the building where the Town Clerk's office is located, on the walls thereof or outside or any closer than the two zones established for those persons wishing to display or distribute campaign messages to prospective voters approaching. The two zones displayed in the attached diagrams are both well under 100 feet from the front entrance to Town Hall, building entrance door to said Town offices. The use of electronic means such as tape recording equipment or radio broadcasting equipment for the recording or broadcasting of the names of voters requesting such ballots shall be prohibited.
		Nothing contained herein shall be construed to affect or limit the authority of the Town Clerk and/or Presiding Officer or other election officials concerning polling places.
		This policy shall remain in effect until further notice. I further move to authorize the Vice-Chair to sign on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.
<b>Second Vote</b>	Grey Unanimous	

Reilly said that he would like to have this policy posted in the local newspaper.

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#### **Hull Lifesaving Museum, 1117 Nantasket Ave. re: One Day Liquor License on February 14, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for the Sea and Sky Art Show Opening**

<b>Motion</b>	Reilly	To approve a One Day Liquor License for the Hull Lifesaving Museum, 1117 Nantasket Avenue, on February 14, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for the Sea and Sky Art Show Opening
<b>Second Vote</b>	Richardson Unanimous	

**Hull Knights of Columbus, 440 Nantasket Ave. re: One Day Liquor License on February 15, 2020 for a rescheduled Birthday Party (originally dated February 8, 2020) from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

<b>Motion</b>	Reilly	To approve a One Day Liquor License for the Hull Knights of Columbus, 440 Nantasket Avenue, on February 15, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
<b>Second</b>	Richardson	
<b>Vote</b>	Unanimous	

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**FY21 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

The following members of the Hull Advisory Board were present for the presentation: Dave Clinton, Chair; John Polito, Vice-Chair; Robert Carney; Jason Frady; Steve Kiley; Peter Larson; Matt Mitchell; Chad Wolfe

Clinton called the meeting of the Advisory Board to order at 7:45 pm.

Constable turned the meeting over to Lemnios for a presentation of the FY21 Budget.

Lemnios stated that the projected Town revenues for FY21 are as follows:

Property taxes – 70%  
State aid – 16%  
Local receipts – 14%

He said that over the past few years state aid has shrunk as a share of total revenues. This is due primarily to a declining enrollment in the Town's schools, leading to a loss in state funding.

Lemnios explained that state aid is funded at the Governor's level. The Governor has submitted his budget to the legislature and they will meet to give a response. A Conference Committee between the House and Senate will formulate a final version of the budget which will then go back to the Governor for his acceptance, veto, or alteration. This process will likely not be complete before the Town Meeting in May, but the Town should have a fairly decent sense of the level of state aid by early April. Traditionally (in the past 5 years) there has not been any variance so he feels confident that they have captured the right level of state funding at this point.

Lemnios stated that local receipts are increasing consistent to FY19 and FY20 trends.

Net state aid for FY21 is actually a bit lower than FY20 driven by the fact that Chapter 70 numbers are fairly static and the Charter School assessment for the Town has actually increased. Hull has been in an upswing period of assessment for charter schools for the last 4-5 years, not due to enrollment but to the manner in which the state is calculating applications for charter schools.

Lemnios said that Estimated Receipt History has been on a good strong upward trend, driven partly by an increase in excise tax revenues. During the period from 2009 – 2013 when the economy was weak, people were keeping their cars longer. With the improving economy, however, more people are buying newer and more expensive cars, which increases excise tax revenues. He also pointed to an increase in building and renovations, which helps to increase property taxes. Overall there has been a 4.61% increase in total revenue for the Town.

Lemnios said that there are six main expenditure components:

- 1. Operational Budgets** – these are the day to day budgets of the various Town Departments (e.g. Fire, Police, School, etc.)
- 2. Insurance/Premiums**

3. **Debt** – there are two forms of debt, those within the 2.5% limit and debt exclusion projects
4. **Capital** – the Town annually carries a small amount of recurring capital items (e.g. replacing police cruisers), larger capital expenditures come under the debt schedule
5. **Intergovernmental charges** – these consist of assessments that the Town gets from the State (e.g. for MBTA service), and other entities, such as Plymouth County Mosquito Control
6. **Overlay Account** – this is an amount set aside each year for abatements. Town residents have a right to challenge their property tax assessments and the Town needs to have funds available to account for any lowering of tax revenues due to abatements. The Town also carries a deficit for snow activity.

The General Government budget for FY21 is \$11.18 million (41%) and the School Department budget is \$16.2 million (59%). This represents an increase of 2.5% from FY20.

Lemnios stated that in this economic environment, the overall total operation change of 2.5% is slightly under inflation, which is consistent with where the Town has been the last few years and it is consistent with what the revenue side will support. The main driver of this is the fact that state aid numbers are fairly anemic.

A key expenditure for the Town is health insurance, which is increasing by 2.5%. The Town is part of a consortium of cities and towns (formerly called the Mayflower Group) that band together to purchase health insurance. The group is very well managed and has about a \$26 million reserve. They use a combination of the reserve and management deals with all of the insurance companies to make sure they get good quotes. The Town offers a series of plans and pays 75% of premiums for active employees and 50% for retired employees. The health insurance numbers for the Town have been good for the past several years. Mayflower is required to report their rates to the State every year and this report has shown that their rates are at least equivalent to or better than the rates offered by the State Group Insurance Commission (GIC). Lemnios feels that staying in the Mayflower group has been a good option for the Town.

Lemnios stated that veteran's benefits have been declining over the years and have become more normal than they were 15 years ago. The bulk of these expenditures are reimbursed to the Town. Hull is fortunate to have a wonderful Veteran's Agent and they usually get 100% of any reimbursements that are due.

The Town is obligated to provide a Retirement program for its employees and the operation of this program is governed by State law. Every year a calculation is done by the State and every 3 years a study is done to make sure the Town is on track to get to full funding by 2034. The Town is getting close to full funding status, which will mean that those dollars would drop dramatically. At that point the plan would be not to let the funds be absorbed into the operational budget but to shift them to a Public Post-Employment Benefit, which is required of entities that provide benefits beyond basic retirement (e.g. health insurance). The Town needs to have money to cover these benefits and there is a funding schedule associated with this liability.

Reilly asked if the current performance of the stock market has helped the Town get to 100% funding status. Lemnios said that it has helped but that the amount of funding each year depends on a number of factors including investment returns, how long people are living and drawing on the system, etc.

Lemnios then touched on the status of Hingham's acquisition of Aquarion. They are hoping to complete the acquisition in April and then will turn to getting the operation going. They are planning to establish a Citizens Advocacy Committee with two members from the Town of Hull. They have said that they will leave the rate structure alone for FY21.

Lemnios stated that the Total Expenditure Budget for the Town is \$42.6 million, which matches the revenue side. This means that the budget is in balance. He then showed a list of the services the Town provides (e.g. fire calls, death/birth certificates, plowing, etc.) to give a taste of the types of things that the Town does.

Constable then asked if there were any questions from the Advisory Board. One member asked about the Overlay amounts for abatements. Lemnios explained that if there were unused amounts for a given fiscal year, the Assessors

would have to vote to release any excess amounts based on what possible amounts might be needed for appeals on denials of abatements. Once the Assessors are sure that all abatements for a fiscal year are satisfied they will vote to release the excess money to the general fund.

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Lemnios then gave a brief report on road projects in the Town. He stated that as we are coming into Spring the paving schedule for roads will be listed on the Town website.

He also mentioned that there will be an Op-Ed piece in The Hull Times on February 7, 2020 describing the Town's process and policy regarding personnel actions.

Constable spoke briefly about the January 30, 2020 presentation on the Unified Work Plan, which the Board felt had been successful. In summary, the Plan creates a Nantasket Beach Improvement Committee, a kind of steering committee to oversee approximately 6 ad hoc committees which would address issues around zoning, parking, marketing and promotion, land use and recreation, and open space. The Plan has pulled together all existing plans and documents and has provided action items. The next step is to start moving forward. Lemnios stated that there are a lot of projects in the works and that this is an exciting period for the Town. Constable also said that the Plan gives them the ability to have some local control over what happens in the Nantasket Beach area.

On a motion by Constable, seconded by Grey, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

The Advisory Board voted unanimously to adjourn their meeting.

Recorded by Kathleen Fanning

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Documents**

The following documents were included in the members' packets or were presented during the meeting and are available in the Select Board's office upon request:

- Agenda for February 6, 2020