

Board of Selectmen Meeting

**Remote Participation Only**

January 12, 2021

Present: Chairman Jason Balboni, Selectmen Gail Barmakian, Gregory Coogan, Brian Packish, Ryan Ruley. Also present: Town Administrator Robert Whritenour, Assistant Town Administrator Wendy Brough, Executive Assistant Alice Ryan Butler.

**Budget Workshop**

Town Administrator Whritenour gave an overview of the budget.

- Covid19 impacted everything.
- Prior to that, there were a lot of good years in a row.
- Charter schools should not be financed by the School budget
- Thanked Accountant Deb Potter and HR Director Wendy Brough for using “Best Practices”
- Restructuring of Fire Department/EMT will be a separate Article, not in the budget.

***Selectman Coogan motioned to refer the Budget to the Finance Committee, seconded by Selectman Ruley. Vote was:***

***Chairman Balboni Aye  
Selectman Barmakian No  
Selectman Coogan Aye  
Selectman Packish Aye  
Selectman Ruley Aye***

Meeting called to order at 4:57p.m.

**Minutes**

December 8, 2020

December 22, 2020

***Selectman Coogan motioned to accept the Minutes of December 8 and December 22, 2020, seconded by Selectman Ruley. Vote was:***

***Chairman Balboni Aye  
Selectman Barmakian Aye  
Selectman Coogan Aye  
Selectman Packish Aye  
Selectman Ruley Aye***

**Old/New Business**

Update and possible vote on Fire Department recommendations. Public Safety Director Blake, Civilian Technical Advisor for the Fire Department John Schilling.

Public Safety Director Blake thanked the Fire Department and EMTs for all they their hard work and sense of commitment. They are moving the Department forward in anticipation of a new permanent Chief. Chief Schilling said that it had been a pleasure to work with the Oak Bluffs Fire Department and EMS, it is a real strong Department. The Administrative staff and senior officers are really involved. This is the third transition for the Department in the last 18 months, and it is not common to place a Police Chief in charge, but it has worked well. But now it is time to move on. Comments were made regarding the recruitment of a permanent Chief. The process is moving along and it is hoped a new Chief will be in place by April 1, 2021, some were opposed to using an Assessment Center. There were also questions regarding a “strong Chief”

***Selectman Coogan motioned to approve both documents from Chief Schilling and begin the recruitment process immediately (with a tweak from the HR Director), seconded by Selectman Ruley. Vote was:***

***Chairman Balboni Aye  
Selectman Barmakian Aye  
Selectman Coogan Aye  
Selectman Packish Aye  
Selectman Ruley Aye***

Confirmation of the Annual Town Meeting on April 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School and the Election on April 15, 2021 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Oak Bluffs Library. Town Clerk, Colleen Morris.

***Selectman Packish motioned to hold the Annual Town Meeting on April 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School and the Election on April 15, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Oak Bluffs Library. Request that the Town Administrator Robert Whritenour work with the relevant people to secure dates in May.***

***Chairman Balboni Aye  
Selectman Barmakian Aye  
Selectman Coogan Aye  
Selectman Packish Aye  
Selectman Ruley Aye***

Annual Presentation on FY 20 Energy Production for Oak Bluffs. Cape and Island Electric Cooperative. Liz Argo and Marie Marasco.

They presented a power point regarding Renewable Energy Installation and Sales. Round six involves collecting projects for the PV/Storage Initiative. With the consensus of the Board of Selectmen, CVEC will move forward.

Discussion and possible vote on the recommendation to appoint Mark Leonard to the Housing Authority.

***Selectman Packish motioned to appoint Mark Leonard as Oak Bluffs representative to the Dukes County Housing Authority, seconded by Selectman Coogan. Vote was:***

***Chairman Balboni Aye  
Selectman Coogan Aye  
Selectman Packish Aye  
Selectman Ruley Aye***

**Selectmen's Update**

Selectman Coogan commented on the large puddle near the Hospital.

Selectman Ruley thanked the Town Administrator for the excellent Budget presentation.

Selectman Packish reported that Oak Bluffs needs a candidate for the County Advisory Board, there are six to eight meetings per year

Selectman Ruley announced that the Harbor Advisory Committee will discuss kiteboarding in Lagoon Pond and speed in Sengekontacket Pond at their next meeting.

**Adjourn**

***Selectman Coogan motioned to adjourn at 6:36 p.m., seconded by Selectman Ruley. Vote was:***

***Chairman Balboni Aye  
Selectman Coogan Aye  
Selectman Packish Aye  
Selectman Ruley Aye***

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Ryan Butler  
Executive Assistant