DATE: March 10, 2020

PRESENT: Board of Selectmen: Chairman J.R. Colby, Selectmen; Damon Jespersen, Geoffrey Walker, Michael Doyle and Selectwoman, Alicia Greco

Town Administrator, Tracy Blais

Call to Order: At 7:00 p.m., Chairman Colby called the meeting to order with the salute to the flag.

Board and Committee Reports

Report of Chairman Colby:

Chairman Colby reported about the COVID-19 outbreak, preparations Newbury has undertaken to address COVID-19, and best practices for residents to take to avoid the virus. Daily updates are received by the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Chairman Colby reported he had signed PR 20-18 for Board of Selectmen and E. Jameson

Grants, Gifts & Donations

(Chapter 44: Section 53A Grants and gifts; acceptance and expenditure)

Public Hearings - None

New Business:

Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Motion: A motion was made by Selectman Jespersen, seconded by Selectman Walker and voted unanimously to appoint Mario Carnovale as Alternate Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals from 3/10/2020 to 6/30/2021.

Review, approve, and sign - 2020 Business License Renewals as follows:

J.R. Colby & Elizabeth Knight (Common Pastures LLC) dba Colby Farm, 50 Scotland Rd., Retail Foods/Common Victualer

Chairman Colby recused himself from the discussion and vote.
Motion: A motion was made by Selectman Doyle, seconded by Selectman Jespersen and voted unanimously to approve the business license for J.R. Colby & Elizabeth Knight (Common Pastures LLC) dba Colby Farm.

Vote to sell parcel of land off Orchard St. containing 7.4 acres, Assessors Map R39 Lot 5, abutting the Martin Burns Wildlife Management Area, (Approved at STM of 11/12/19), to the Dept. of Fish & Game, Land Agent for the N.E. District of MA Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Motion: A motion was made by Selectman Jespersen, seconded by Selectman Walker and voted unanimously to sell the parcel of land off Orchard St. containing 7.4 acres, Assessors Map R39 Lot 5, abutting the Martin Burns Wildlife Management Area.

Don Jarvis, Veterans’ Graves Officer, reported he is moving to Bradford and must resign from his position. He reviewed his duties as Veterans’ Graves Officer. The Board thanked him for his years of commitment, interest, and great passion in serving the Town.

Motion: A motion was made by Selectwoman Greco, seconded by Selectman Doyle and voted unanimously to write a letter of thanks to Don Jarvis.

Old Business:

Notice of Intent to Sell Chapter 61B Property – 6 Marsh Meadow Ln, Byfield, MA, Assessors Map R22, Lot 10F, owner: Elena Jespersen

Selectman Jespersen recused himself from the discussion and vote.

Motion: A motion was made by Selectman Doyle, seconded by Selectman Walker and voted unanimously to waive the right of first refusal option to purchase 6 Marsh Meadow Lane, Byfield, MA, Assessors Map R22, Lot 10F, owner: Elena Jespersen.

New Business continued:

Draft Warrant Review

Town Administrator, Tracy Blais, reviewed, explained, and discussed with the Board, articles contained in the draft warrant for the 4/28/20 Annual Town Meeting.

Town Administrators Report:

Town Administrator, Tracy Blais reported that the Town had entered into the 2020 seasonal contract with Mass Audubon’s Coastal Water bird Program for shorebird monitoring. Mass Audubon provided the Town with details of the 2019 season which were reviewed.

State Representative Mira met with Tracy Blais and Conservation Agent, Doug Packer to discuss the possibility of dredging and placing the material on the beach. He is reaching out to Newburyport and Salisbury to see if a regional approach could be taken to permit the project. Doug Packer has been asked
to provide information on the steps that would need to be undertaken to allow for the project to happen.

Congratulations were given to Firefighter Ashley Noyes who recently graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, receiving her Firefighter I and Firefighter II certifications. Fire service certification is provided to stimulate professional development in the Massachusetts fire service which allows firefighters to demonstrate their ability to meet professional qualification standards through an objective measure of their professional knowledge, skills, and abilities.

The annual audit of the Town of Newbury is complete and available on the Town’s website.

On March 16th Peter Binette will be joining the Town of Newbury as Building Commissioner. Peter plans to extend the Inspectional Service/Building Inspector office hours to include Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The search for a new Conservation Agent is currently underway. The job has been posted and resumes are in the review process. Ideally it would be beneficial to have someone on board by the end of April to work in conjunction with Doug Packer before his retirement.

T. Blais reported that progress was being made in ironing out the details and cost for Newbury to participate in using Newburyport’s yard waste facility. Unexpectedly, notification was received from Newburyport Mayor Donna Holaday explaining that the Newburyport City Council would not support the initiative of Newbury using the facility. In response, Selectman Doyle confirmed he had talked with a Newburyport City Council Member about the initiative prior to notification being received from Mayor Holaday. He explained the City Council President had history of an issue with him and with Newbury and therefore, would not consider the initiative.

In conjunction with the Board of Selectmen establishing FY2021 budget priorities and possible funding, Senator Tarr has asked to be kept informed of the priorities. Town Administrator Blais will report to Senator Tarr as the priorities are developed.

The Application for The Village at Cricket Lane – 55R Pearson Drive, Byfield, is available for Selectmen’s review at the Office of the Board of Selectmen and on the Town’s website.

Citizen’s Concerns

Correspondence:

Correspondence was reviewed as follows:

- Letter of 2/19/20 from Town of Newbury Senior Center Expansion Committee
- Letter from Triton Regional School District
- e-mail of 03/03/2020 From Marshall Jespersen, Chair Finance Committee
- Notification from Keolis Commuter Services Yearly Operational Plan
- PIE-Rivers Partnership – February e-News
- E-mail and documents of 2/20/20 from Kathryn O’Brien re: 105 High Rd.
Meeting Updates:
Selectman Jespersen reported about the District Communications Meeting held 2/27/20. He also reported that the continuation of the public hearing for Newbury Golf Center on 3/4/20 would be continued to 4/14/20 at 7:15 p.m.

Review of Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2020
February 25, 2020

Motion: A motion was made by Selectman Jespersen, seconded by Selectman Walker and voted unanimously to accept the minutes of January 14, 2020 and February 25, 2020 as written and presented.

Warrants:

Motion: A motion was made by Selectman Walker, seconded by Selectman Jespersen and voted unanimously to sign the warrants as presented

Executive Session - None

Adjourn:

Motion: At 8:35 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Selectman Jespersen, seconded by Selectman Walker and voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Jameson
Executive Administrator