



## Select Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 30, 2020

Time: 7:15 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Present: Mrs. Mahon, Chair, Mr. Dunn, Vice Chair, Mr. Curro, Mr. Hurd, Mr. DeCoursey

Also Present: Mr. Chapdelaine, Mr. Heim, Mrs. Costa

### 1. Executive Order on Remote Participation

Mrs. Mahon opened the meeting by explaining that due to the current State of Emergency, to lower the risk of the spread of COVID-19, the Town has been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such the Governor's orders suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a public and accessible location. Public bodies may meet entirely remotely as long as the public can access the meeting. The meeting reference materials and how to access the remote meeting are posted on the Town's website. The Chair asked participants that would like to speak, to use their full name rather than a nickname.

Mrs. Mahon wanted to go over some business ground rules for effective and clear conduct of the meeting and to ensure accurate meeting minutes:

The Chair will introduce each speaker on the agenda, after they conclude their remarks, Mrs. Mahon will ask each member of the Board for their remarks or a motion. Please wait until your name is called. Please remember to mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking and to speak clearly. For any response, please wait until the Chair yields to you and state your name before speaking. Anyone wishing to speak to someone must do so through the Chair.

### **TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS / OTHER BUSINESS**

#### 2. Update on Town of Arlington Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Adam W. Chapdelaine, Town Manager

Mr. Chapdelaine wanted to provide an update on Arlington's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The best source of information the Town can provide is the daily e-mail update that is going out daily at 5:00 p.m. as well as that same information being posted on the Town's website. Every Friday there is an Arlington Alert by phone trying to pro-

vide what the most critical information or updates for people to be aware of. The Town is also updating all social media channels. The Town is trying to provide the residents with as much information as possible via as many channels as possible. Mr. Chapdelaine wanted to thank all Town staff, specifically the staff at Health and Human Services for working 7 days a week, around the clock and their response to this crisis. Today the cases rose to 19 positive cases in Arlington and sadly the Town has had their first COVID-19 related death, a 68 year old male. On a daily basis, the Board of Health staff is working with the State DPH, working through a state database to identify people who are positive for COVID-19 in Arlington. From there they begin with a process called contact tracing, to determine who that person who has been found positive has been in contact with. DPH defines a contact as someone who has been within 6 feet of the person who has been found positive for more than a 15 minute period of time. They work to trace as many contacts as they can identify, reach out, communicate with those contacts, and then place them in quarantine. This is all in an effort to break the line of transmission of the virus. These are efforts that are ongoing, that will remain ongoing to try as best as possible to contain the virus spreading in Arlington. Beyond that, it is the Board of Health staff that is advising us on the measures we should be taking as a general public and as a population here in Arlington to try and break the line of transmission. The Town is now operating under the Governor's closure of all the State's schools to be closed until May 4. The Town is also following the Governor's order of all non-essential businesses to be closed until April 7th as well as the stay at home advisory. Mr. Chapdelaine mentioned that the Governor is expected to make an announcement extending the non-essential business closure as well as the stay at home advisory. Mr. Chapdelaine wanted to emphasize how important it is to follow the guidelines of Town and State Officials. Mr. Chapdelaine wanted to assure the Board and the public that the Town is working on this issue every day, including the communication channels the Town is already using to provide information and updates.

Mrs. Mahon thanked Mr. Chapdelaine and stated the best place to go for information is the Town website, [arlingtonma.gov](http://arlingtonma.gov). Mrs. Mahon also wanted to thank Mr. Chapdelaine along with his Department Heads for really getting ahead and staying on top of this current situation.

### 3. Discussion and Vote: Postponement of Annual Town Election

Diane M. Mahon, Chair

Douglas W. Heim, Town Counsel

Mr. Heim stated that on Friday, the Board of Registrars and Assistant Town Clerk, Janice Weber met to discuss the Select Board's decision to postpone the Town Election. They concurred with the proposed timeline and did not appear to have a preference between the two dates that were discussed, June 6th or June 13th. They voted to

support whichever date the Select Board decides to choose. As the Board adjusts the date of the election, the deadline to register to vote will also change as well. People will be able to register to vote up to ten days prior to the date of the election. Mr. Heim proceeded to discuss the Legislation filed regarding elections. New ballots can be printed but they must be identical to the ballots previously printed. Absentee voting has been greatly expanded in the sense that any person can vote by absentee if they assert that health concerns due to COVID-19 are the reason they would like to vote absentee. Anybody who already voted by absentee ballot, their votes count. If they wanted to change their vote by voting in person, they could do that but it would have to be before their absentee ballot is counted. The legislation also expands early voting by mail, allowing folks to engage in early voting but only by remote means. There will not be physical early voting but there could be early voting by mail.

Mrs. Weber, Assistant Town Clerk, wanted clarification on early voting by mail because there are no early voting ballots. Mr. Heim responded that essentially the absentee ballots for people concerned about health issues related to COVID-19 would serve as an early voting ballot by mail so they do not have to go to the physical polling location.

Mr. Curro stated it appeared to him that absentee ballots could be mailed out as the early voting ballots and that they didn't have to even fill out the application for an absentee ballot. Mr. Curro understood it that even a written correspondence like an email would suffice as a request for an absentee ballot. Mr. Curro expressed some confusion that people had about the election being strictly early voting but it is somewhat like a hybrid allowing people to early vote by mail or vote in person. Mr. Curro had received some suggestions about making sure people are aware of the change of the date of the election, such as billboards at major intersections. Another suggestion was to request the support of ACMI holding a series of virtual debates. Another suggestion would be to send a mailer to registered voters including the availability of the early voting process or absentee process. Another person asked about mailing statements for all candidates running for Town wide offices, but that may be an issue bordering on using public resources for campaigning. Mr. Curro thought maybe it would be a good idea to reach out to the League of Women Voters and see if they have sent out candidate profiles already. Mr. Curro also recognized the correspondence that was received from Ms. Kramer regarding the use of Town Hall and that it is booked for an event on June 13th, so June 6th would be the preferred date.

Mrs. Weber wanted to state her concern regarding early voting; she was not aware of any early voting for this upcoming election. Mrs. Mahon thinks there needs to be further discussion regarding this election and the means by which people will be able to vote.

Mr. Hurd wanted to concur with the date. The June 6th date gives a little time between the election and Town Meeting according to the timeline they are looking at. Mr. Hurd

wants the Town to be prepared for as many absentee or early voting ballots as they can have available so residents do not have to worry about going in to physically vote.

Mr. DeCoursey also agrees with the June 6th date. Logistics still need to be discussed but there will be enough time for people to decide how they want to vote.

Mr. Dunn also agrees with June 6th. The date is being set tonight but there certainly are some logistics to be worked out. Mr. Dunn encourages the Town Clerk's Office, the Select Board's Office and the Town Manager's Office to make it as easy as possible for people to vote. Mr. Dunn recognizes that taking this vote is extending his term. He does think it is the right thing to do and he will be serving a couple months longer than he planned to.

Mrs. Mahon has had conversations about early voting and the upcoming election. Everything is manageable and will be able to be done. Mrs. Mahon mentioned the different channels that you can find candidate's information and election information.

Mr. Curro moved to set the date of the Municipal Town Election to Saturday, June 6, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Heim.

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Mr. DeCoursey: | yes |
| Mr. Hurd:      | yes |
| Mr. Curro:     | yes |
| Mr. Dunn:      | yes |
| Mrs. Mahon:    | yes |

SO VOTED (5-0)

#### **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

4. Requesting Select Board to Accelerate Public Road Projects  
Joseph Weihs via Request Answer Center

5. Dangerous Intersection @ Wachusett Avenue & Appleton Street  
Mark Lepler, 7 Wachusett Avenue

Mr. DeCoursey agreed that this is a dangerous intersection.

Mr. Hurd thinks this could be a matter of just painting the stop sign, if the problem is making a stop sign more visible.

Mr. Chapdelaine suggested this be referred to the Senior Transportation Planner before moving forward to TAC. Mr. DeCoursey agreed that would be an acceptable course of action.

Mr. DeCoursey moved receipt of Correspondence Received.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Heim.

Mr. DeCoursey:     yes  
Mr. Hurd:            yes  
Mr. Curro:           yes  
Mr. Dunn:            yes  
Mrs. Mahon:          yes

SO VOTED (5-0)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Hurd wanted to thank the Department Heads and the Town Manager for keeping Arlington safe. Also he thanked any Arlington residents who work in the medical field.

Mr. Curro wanted to echo Mr. Hurd's comments and also thank the staff. He also wanted to thank a number of Arlington volunteers and residents who have been trying to help others in the community; there is a mutual aid Arlington organization, [mutualaidarlington.org](http://mutualaidarlington.org). Mr. Curro also mentioned he saw an announcement that came from the Planning Department facilitating the possibility for community activists to work together on an initiative to allow residents to come up with ideas and work within their areas as well as fighting social isolation.

Mr. Dunn thanked public safety, health and Town employees through these tough times and he appreciates what they're doing.

Mr. DeCoursey wanted to echo the statements of his colleagues. He also wanted to recognize that today is National Doctor's Day and on top of our Town workers, our first responders, he wants to thank all Doctors and health care professionals for all the work that they're doing. Mr. DeCoursey also wanted to emphasize that during these next few critical weeks it is really important for us to work together by staying apart.

At the end of the meeting several questions were raised by meeting participants. Mr. Heim spoke to clarify some of these questions.

Next Scheduled Meeting of Select Board April 13, 2020

Mr. DeCoursey moved to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Heim.

Mr. DeCoursey:     yes  
Mr. Hurd:            yes  
Mr. Curro:           yes

Mr. Dunn:               yes  
Mrs. Mahon:           yes

SO VOTED (5-0)

A true record attest

Lauren Costa  
Principal Clerk

3/30/2020

| Agenda Item | Documents Used   |
|-------------|--|
| 1           | Executive Order  |
| 2           |  |
| 3           | Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2020<br>2020 Municipal Early Ballot Application<br>2020 Special State Elections Early Ballot Application<br>Correspondence from P. Kraemer |
| 4           | J. Weihs Request Answer Center Request   |
| 5           | Correspondence from M. Lepler  |