

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020  
Murdock Middle High School Gymnasium  
3 Memorial Drive, Winchendon, Mass.**

Present:

Michael Barbaro, Chairman  
Rick Ward, Vice-Chairman  
Barbara Anderson  
Audrey LaBrie  
Amy Salter

Keith R. Hickey, Town Manager  
Linda Daigle, Executive Assistant

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List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Special and Annual Town Meeting Motions

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Chairman Barbaro called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**1. SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:**

There were no Selectmen Comments this evening.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

There were no Public Comments or Announcements this evening.

**3. NEW BUSINESS:**

3.1 Discussion on Continuing or Ceasing Remote Zoom Meetings – Chairman Barbaro spoke about resuming their Board meetings at Town Hall versus Zoom Meetings. He noted he was looking into holding them at the school for safe social distancing if it was anticipated to be a number of the public attending. It was being looked into if the meeting could be broadcast live from the school. Members were agreeable but did not want to disrupt early voting taking place in the auditorium mid to late October and would have their second meeting in October either through Zoom or elsewhere. The Board also agreed if the coronavirus pandemic were to flare up again in Winchendon, they would revisit this issue.

**Ward moved to move back to regular meeting format; LaBrie seconded. With a vote of all aye, the motion carried unanimously.**

3.2 Discussion on Re-Opening Town Hall – Barbaro said he would like to have another discussion on opening Town Hall. Currently only one person would be allowed to enter the first floor of Town Hall at a time. Town Hall has been operating efficiently, assisting people through emails, phone and meeting them outdoors. He heard on Channel 5 that only 36 towns have opened their town hall across the state and some may not even open up again. There has been no problems that the Town Manager is aware of since the Town Hall has been closed to the public. LaBrie noted that only sixteen people are allowed on the first floor. With fifteen employees only one person would be allowed to enter. There would become a burden on Town Hall staff having someone man the door. Anderson said the problem is perception. The perception is why is Town Hall closed but everything else has to be open; the schools will be opening and we are having Town Meeting tonight. She stated she has heard a lot of complaints. LaBrie noted maybe people aren't aware of the limit. After further discussion and noting that if people needed to come into Town Hall, prior arrangements could be made to accommodate them, the following motion was made:

**Ward moved to keep Town Hall closed; Salter seconded. With a vote of LaBrie aye, Salter aye, Ward aye, Barbaro aye and Anderson no, the motion carried by majority vote.**

3.3 Motions for Special and Annual Town Meeting - LaBrie asked if there were any questions on the presented motions for Attorney Riley who was present for Town Meeting this evening. There were no questions asked.

**4. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no Old Business this evening.

**5. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Anderson moved to adjourn; seconded by LaBrie. By a vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.** Special and Annual Town Meeting was to follow at 7:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Daigle  
Executive Assistant