**Meeting of the Board of Selectmen January 19, 2021**

**Phone: 669-224-3318**

**Access Code: 220-595-605**

**6:15 p.m. Executive Session**

Chairman Patricia Riley called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. in the Donald McKinnon Meeting Room at Veterans Memorial Town Hall located at 558 South Main Street. In addition to Chairman Riley, Selectmen Joseph Pacheco and Richard Schiavo were in attendance, along with Town Administrator Graham Waters and Town Counsel Ted Pietnik. Selectman Pacheco made a motion, seconded by Selectman Schiavo, to enter into Executive Session in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. On a roll call vote, Mr. Pacheco, Mr. Schiavo, and Ms. Riley each voted to go into Executive Session.

**7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting – with Remote Public Access**

Chairman Riley called the open meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Donald McKinnon Meeting Room at Town Hall. In addition to Chairman Riley, Selectmen Joseph Pacheco and Richard Schiavo were in attendance. Ms. Riley announced, “Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.C.30A, §18, and the Governor’s 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people who may gather in one place, this meeting of the Raynham Board of Selectmen is being conducted with the Public Body members in person at Veterans Memorial Town Hall and with the general public following the proceedings remotely. Every effort has been made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. For real time access, residents can join the live broadcast on the Raynham Channel, use the “gotomeeting” online feature, and/or call in using their phone. The Town will post a record of this meeting on the Town’s website as soon as we are able. Also in accordance with the Executive Order, other town officials and staff participating in the meeting and in attendance include: Town Administrator Graham Waters and Recording Secretary Janet Murphy.” Ms. Riley added, “This meeting is being recorded and, for the record, we are returning from Executive Session with nothing to report at this time.”

**Pledge of Allegiance -** Ms. Riley led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Acceptance of the Minutes**

Ms. Riley asked for a motion to accept, as printed, the minutes of the Board of Selectmen’s meeting held on January 12, 2021. Mr. Schiavo made a motion to approve, Mr. Pacheco seconded, and Ms. Riley made it unanimous.

**Department Heads & Committees – attendees online**

1. **Matt Tanis – Health Agent - Monthly Report**

Mr. Tanis said that there have been over 1,038 cases recorded since last March: 128 are from long-term care facilities; and 510 are from the general population. The total number of deaths is 70, with 61 from long-term care facilities and 9 from the general Raynham population, and 758 cases have recovered. Mr. Tanis said there has been a lot of household transmission. The new variant is here and the vaccine does offer some protection. There has been good compliance from businesses. The vaccination process is well underway for first responders. Mr. Tanis noted that vaccinations can only be given to those on the designated priority group. He will keep the Town’s website updated on the progress and on the eligibility for receiving the vaccination. Mr. Tanis said he sent a letter to Shady Acres regarding outstanding violations. He met recently with the park owner and he informed Mr. Tanis about his plans for addressing the issues. Mr. Tanis said this will be a work in progress and he will continue to monitor this right through compliance. Mr. Tanis said he has received some complaints from residents regarding odors coming from Earth Source, and he is following up and keeping track of the complaints through DEP. The DEP had issued a notice of noncompliance some time ago and Earth Source has been working to remove the stockpile of the material which is the source of the issue. He said that when that gets removed, it should improve. The new Senior Clerk started Monday and is working out well. Mr. Pacheco asked about the availability of the Gillette Stadium vaccination site for people from Raynham and if that would be a possibility. Mr. Tanis replied, “The first responders are eligible to go to Gillette to be vaccinated and the site will be set up through the remainder of the entire vaccination process. We were able to obtain the vaccine and administered it in-house.” Mr. Schiavo asked, “Who is in Phase Two?” Mr. Tanis said, “Everything is outlined by priority groups on the website. Phase Two would be people 65 and up with underlying health conditions and also teachers. Phase Three would be open to the general population.” Mr. Tanis added that prisoners are currently being vaccinated in Phase One as they are considered congregate care. Mr. Schaivo also asked when Phase Three will start. Mr. Tanis said that the State will decide when each phase starts and that will be dependent upon the amount of vaccine available. Mr. Schiavo asked Mr. Tanis if it could be outlined more definitively in his next report to the Board for the benefit of the residents. Mr. Tanis said that as soon as he has specific dates, he will make that information public. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Tanis for all of his efforts.

**Public Hearings (attendees online)**

1. **Christina’s Path - Street Acceptance**

Ms. Riley opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to make a presentation or speak on the matter. With no input, she explained that the Planning Board had held a hearing on the request for town road acceptance. Reading from the minutes of the Planning Board hearing, she stated, “Mr. Iafrate informed that most of the work requested by Nitsch Engineering has been completed although there are still a couple of minor issues, which he spoke to Mr. Buckley about. If the road is not ready for acceptance at the upcoming Town Meeting, it can be withdrawn from consideration at that time. A motion was made by Mr. Fountain and seconded by Mr. Driscoll to recommend placing on the Town Meeting warrant the acceptance of Chistina’s Path as a Town road with the exception for minor issues to be addressed. The vote was unanimous.” Ms. Riley then closed the public hearing and Mr. Pacheco made a motion to place the requested Town approval on the warrant. Mr. Schiavo seconded the motion and Ms. Riley made it unanimous.

**Completion of Old/Continuing Business**

1. **Discussion and action: Raynham Public Safety Building**

Ms. Riley explained that the presentation at last week’s meeting by Pomroy Associates provided the Board with lots of information, but the Board wanted the opportunity to hear more from the Building Committee members. She added, “I believe the Public Safety Building Committee members would like to discuss the proposal with the Board too.” She asked for a motion to table until that can be scheduled. Mr. Pacheco made the motion to table, Mr. Schiavo seconded and Ms. Riley made it unanimous.

1. **Discussion and action: Service Contract with MX Consulting Services, Inc.**

Mr. Waters said, “At this time, I am still working with Town Counsel on the refinement of the details of the agreement and I am requesting the Board table this until such time as I can bring it forward for consideration by the Board.” Mr Pacheco made a motion to table, Mr. Schiavo seconded, and Ms. Riley made it unanimous.

1. **Discussion and action: Human Resources Job Description**

Mr. Waters informed the Board that the copy of the job description and the copy of the advertisement were included in their packets. He noted that the HR Consultant made minor changes which were included, in addition to Mr. Pacheco’s comments regarding the degree and certifications. Mr. Pacheco asked if Mr. Waters had any updates on the budget. Mr. Waters replied, “Yes. the interim Town Accountant, Chris Laviolette, and the Treasurer/Collector, Michael King, will address the Board at next week’s meeting. As of November 30th, the real estate taxes were coming in at 97% and personal property tax revenue was coming in at 94%, which is higher than last year. He added, “We are hurting on the hotel and meals taxes.” Mr. Pacheco said, “I’m personally not comfortable creating a new position right now, even though Town Meeting voted to fund it, until I have a budget, but I appreciate the Board incorporating the changes I suggested last week to the job description.” Mr. Schiavo made a motion to approve the job description, and Mr. Pacheco said he would second it for courtesy. Ms. Riley asked for a roll call vote: Mr. Schiavo said, “I”. Mr. Pacheco said, “No”. Ms. Riley said, “It passes on a two-to-one vote.” Mr. Waters said, “Once this position is filled, we will need office space for this person and my thinking is the IT office on the first floor, although it shares a wall with the Health Agent, and it needs sound-proofing.” Mr. Pacheco said, “They make sound machines that cut out the noise. We use them at my office and they are very effective.” Mr. Schiavo said, “Now that we are going forward with this position, have we done anything about a search committee?” Mr. Waters said he will discuss that with Town Moderator John Donahue.

**New Business**

1. **Discussion and action MassDOT – Route 138 – Right of Way Takings**

Mr. Waters explained, “This has been pending for a while and there has been some legal research done for the easements: one is a cemetery, and one is Gilmore Hall.” Mr. Roma from MassDOT called in to join the meeting and he explained that MassDOT is reaching out to abutters that are impacted by the Route 138 improvement project and there are a few town-owned parcels that will be impacted. Two parcels believed to be owned by the Town do not have a clear deed: one is Gilmore Hall and the other is the Cemetery. He explained there are easements and fee takings that are proposed. The fee takings are easements for drainage, utilities, and guard rail replacements. Mr. Pacheco made a motion to approve, Mr. Schiavo seconded, and Ms. Riley made it unanimous.

**Town Administrator’s Report**

In his report, Mr. Waters explained, “The Search Committee has selected three applicants to interview for the Town Accountant’s position. This will take place over the next two weeks and the committee hopes to have a recommendation to the Board for the first or second meeting in February.” Mr. Waters thanked Mr. William Lewis for all his efforts as chairman of the Search Committee.

Mr. Waters also reported that the next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen’s meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Don McKinnon Meeting Room in Town Hall, 558 South Main Street, Raynham, Massachusetts. The public will be able to participate via the GoToMeeting platform or by watching the RayCAM channel on Verizon, Comcast, or a recording posted later on YouTube.

**Correspondence**

A request was received for a slate of Tag Days for many non-profit organizations. Mr. Pacheco made a motion to approve the slate, Mr. Schiavo seconded, and Ms. Riley made it unanimous.

**Performance of Administrative Duties**

Mr. Pacheco motioned to approve the Town of Raynham Payroll and Invoice Warrants dated January 19, 2021, as submitted, Mr. Schiavo seconded, and Ms. Riley made it unanimous.

Mr. Schiavo then made a motion to approve the Police Department Payroll and Invoice Warrants dated January 19, 2021, as submitted, Ms. Riley seconded the motion and Mr. Pacheco abstained. Miss Riley asked for a roll call vote: Mr. Schiavo said, “I”, Mr. Pacheco abstained, and Ms. Riley said, “I”. It was so voted.

**Adjournment**

At 7:40 p.m.,the Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Murphy, Recording Secretary