

Tuesday, September 29, 2020
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Foxborough Town Hall
Andrew Gala, Jr. Meeting Room
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Elfman, Chair
Ed O’Leary, Vice Chair
Stephanie McGowan, Clerk
Leah Gibson
Chris Mitchell
Jack Francomano**

Also Present:
William Keegan Jr., Town Manager
Mike Johns, Assistant Town Manager*
Christina Metcalf, Community Info. Specialist
*Attended Remotely
**Selectmen for a Day

1. 7:00pm Selectmen for a Day Citation to Jack Francomano

Chairman Mark Elfman read and presented Citation for "Selectman for a Day" to Jack Francomano

2. 7:05pm - Citizen's Input – None

3. 7:10pm COVID-19 Informational update – Pleased to report that the Covid-19 numbers have gone down from last 2 weeks going from 13 to 6 cases. There are 164 active cases, 134 recovered, 2 people tested positive for antibodies and 22 people lost in the follow up. We’ve had 12,670 (including Gillette Stadium) people tested, no hospitalizations and only 1 death. There have been 1 million deaths worldwide and the U.S. and 3 other countries make up about 50% of those deaths. Governor Baker came out to say that we are moving forward into Step 2 of Phase 3 this will be effective Monday October 5th. Only low risk communities who have not been designated as “red” communities with the last 3 weeks will be able to move forward into Step 2 of Phase 3. Communities can decide to be more restrictive but may not open more aggressively than the guidance. The indoor guidance remains at 25 people, private gatherings at homes remain at 50 people. Outdoor events may go up to 100 people. Some hotels and business still remain challenged by the restrictive guidance but we are still working with them. The flu vaccine will be made available to the public once received.

4. 7:15pm Veteran Services - World War II Veteran Recognition Presentation of Certificates to WWII Veterans John Grace & Joseph Rull

VSO and Director Ally Rodriguez presented a certificate and token to the 3 World War II Veterans tonight. Each veteran spoke about their time and experience in the service.

5. 7:25pm Foxborough Cultural Council - New Appointments of Jessica LaBrecque, Ken Carberry, Patricia Selby and Keith Polis

Nicole Vachon Hanlon, new Chair of the Cultural Council. Requesting 4 new members come on board, Keith is involved in the theater, already pulling together community survey results, involved in basketball and Foxborough classical ballet.

Keith Polis – I’m looking to help others in town and since most of my time is spent doing these things and been here since 2013.

Ken Carberry - Moved from Milton a few years ago, has become an avid actor, helping us with Zoom and get us going virtually. Wanted to get involved in town and in the arts.

NVN – Jess is a nurse and been involved in North Attleboro and Attleboro Cultural Council and getting people involved and been a great addition for the grant process and enjoys doing collage. Trish Selby, used to be a lawyer to help artists become LLC and loves offering supports to artist. She just moved to Foxborough in January and loves old houses and bought the oldest house they could on Baker Street.

LG – Could you talk a little bit about the grant cycle?

NVH – We are a part of the Mass Cultural Council Grant Council and we are allocated a certain amount of money. We release the new grant cycle October 1st and it closes November and they go from \$50 to \$500. Really trying to help communities and families in town to help them have more culture and more opportunities.

Jess – I haven't done much in the town yet but have participated in others before and I'm looking forward to volunteering in whatever capacity I can.

SM - Thank you for you volunteering your time.

LG – Great that you are volunteering and

CM – I want to commend you for growing and it's a positive thing that you are growing.

Motion to appoint Jessica LaBrecque, Ken Carberry, Patricia Selby, and Keith Polis to the Foxborough Cultural Council for a 3 year term to end 9/15/23 by S. McGowan 2nd by C. Mitchell. Approved 5-0.

7:35pm Foxborough Commission on Disability - Appointment of David Foscaldo to the FCoD

Margaret Chaisson – We are welcoming Police officer David Foscaldo to our Board.

David Foscaldo – I am a lifelong Foxborough resident, 20 years on the force. I was hired by Ed O'Leary and now working for Chief Grace. Most of the ticketed events at the stadium we observe those who may try to take advantage of a space that would normally be for disabled people. Work along time a reserve officer

MC - He is our unofficial police liaison and volunteering as a resident. The funds we get from the fines we've bought equipment for schools, the accessible playground at the Booth and helped put in a new elevator at the Orpheum. We are able to purchase items that help groups, such as fire alert systems, see video. We put in the door openers at the Public safety building and put

Motion to appoint David Foscaldo to the Foxborough Commission on Disability for a term to end May 1, 2021 by S. McGowan 2nd by C. Mitchell. Approved 5-0.

7. 7:40pm Dept. Head Update - Police Department - Police Chief Michael Grace

MG – I have been the Police Chief for 1 year and this is a great time to do this. This is an overview of where the police department is at. I have a Deputy Chief, 2 Lieutenants, a Patrol Division and Administrative Division. When I came during the fall last year I did it with no command staff and it wasn't just me it was a team effort and by February we had a command staff up and running. Out of our staff, 77% currently employed staff were raised, went to school, or currently lived here and that shows investment in the community.

In October I broke down the budget line by line and explained where all the dollars go and make sure that it is spent properly. Now I have a template going forward and can improve and build upon that going forward. We hired 4 officers, with 3 passing the police academy and now we sent Patrick McCarthy to the state police training and our 2 hires are finishing up our FTO program. At the point we had all our ducks in a row, then COVID-19 hit. We were concerned that a potential exposure would wipe out the department. We purchased PPE at Home Depot and stocked up. We are stocked for Gillette stadium events with 200 officers. We did experience a Covid-19 exposure. We managed, traced, and quarantined in response. To my officers, thank you for stepping up, not taking sick time and came in to work when everyone else was staying home.

CM – Could you talk more about courts being closed and those challenges? Are there any courts?

MG – The Wrentham District Court had no plan so we modified some of our responses as we could and along with statutory mandate we did the court filings electronically and started holding hearings in our cell block for bail hearings that we are still doing. There are still no jury trials currently. The District Attorney's office is working as hard as they can to process as many cases as they can to have hearings and trials in front of judges remotely. Improvements in the last year within the department, we've met all our policy requirements for step 1 of the certification. We are on part 1 of Step 2. Our Covid-19 response plan is in place and evolving as needed. We provided active shooter vests for all our officers. We're bringing back dress uniforms. Our vehicle fleet has been updated. We have reached out for grants for body armor and traffic equipment. Department cell phones have been issued and are also used for subpoenas. We purchased the phones at a discounted rate and the service is being provided free for the next 10 years. Our training and professional development plans are in high gear. Online training is something that our officers aren't used to but it has been better and should be all hitting their

requirements. The SSPI is a training facility for 37 municipalities in town but couldn't handle in person classes. We partnered with a private company to build all the training for our officers and sign up all the officers while they are on shift for only \$3,000 and it is substantial training for our staff. We will have yearly training done before December. We had a few Desert Storm era rifles that have been retired. The security system and card access has been revamped and the property room now meets accreditation standards. Our public log is available on the website. License to carry applications and accident reports are now online.

Foxborough was one of 4 police departments to build a sexual assault and domestic violence policy. This will be the guideline for the rest of companies to use. This was not us creating a policy, we brought in sexual assault trainers, the District Attorney's office and Sex Crimes unit, and advocate groups to make sure we had a victim based investigation. All of these different state agencies will be getting this and will be the guideline for everyone in the state.

The Police reform that is happening in Massachusetts is in Committee. We don't know how it is going to look but it will be a challenge and a change. Many of the changes brought forward aren't new. Massachusetts Chiefs have been asking for certification for officers for 9 years but that is being denied and funding for police training was almost nonexistent. It was so low on the totem pole they go the funding from the surcharge from rental cars (which during covid there probably isn't a lot going out right now).

Foxborough already has the process for complaints. All polices going through Town Counsel, Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen before being implemented. This training has already been implemented during training and we are moving to have Critical Incident Training (CIT). This training is active role play. Currently over 25% of the department is trained, there is a CIT first responder first aid training class as well.

Gillette Stadium – We would need 2.6 officers for our population if you didn't have a stadium. With the stadium it averages over 3,000 hours of our staff time to meet the requirements for training, building and safety plans, continuous contacts with our state and federal partners, payroll, workman's comp issues, lawsuits, investigations as well as every threat, phone call and social media post. Deputy Chief Noonan as well as I are the liaisons for Gillette as incident commander. We've been building models for all contingencies with concerts or games and make sure we do

SM – Do you feel comfortable with Gillette opening back up to fans?

MG – I'm not the CDC and those numbers will dictate the decisions making. My job is that the security for the event, along with Fire Dept. and the NFL. We've done exercises and scenario and had our staff run through them and see how the safety measure and all the details would work out and we learned a lot from it.

Thank you to the Board and Mr. Keegan for having us present. Thank you to the residents and I hope that we continue as a community to look at the good.

LG - Thank you for you leadership and that police log.

MG – Our door is open to anyone.

BK – It has not been an easy year for a first year Chief and he has done an amazing job.

MG – The men and women who work under me are the ones that make me look good.

8. 7:55pm Assistant Town Manager's Update – New employee, Keri McKenzie in Veterans' Services and coming from Bridgewater State University.

- Working on a number of recruitments for vacated position a custodian for the Public Safety position. In the library, we posted for a Senior Youth Services Librarian. Also posted a 19 Hour part time position for a building custodian for the COA. We have 3 DPW positions, a mechanic, water systems technician and a highway laborer.
- We had a huge uptick in unemployment claims and potential fraudulent claims that were submitted.
- Police contract negotiations will have another meeting on October 6th and will brief the BOS once we are ready.
- Attended my first international ICMA virtual conference and focused on *see video
- On September 28th we participated in ClearGov budget training that is a modern method of budget that will be more transparent
- We will be getting HR software and are interviewing software companies.

9. 8:05pm Town Manager's Update

- ICMA conference was tremendous even though you miss out on the face to face contact with people. One of the sections on leadership, they mentioned in a national survey that congress had a % approval rate and at a state level

they had a % approval rating but at a local level it was over 70% approval rating. We are here to get the work done and stay out of the political fray.

- Water ban – still waiting on approval from the water plant and will turn on the new water plant early Thursday morning. Will talk to the DEP to relieve some of the water restrictions.
- Meeting with the seniors tomorrow at the COA.
- Renewal of licenses will be going out this week.
- K9 Drax passed away this week from his brain tumor.
- New budget software will be great not only for transparency but also to submit for a national budget award.
- Train crossing updates/construction will start October 30th and then November 9th
- Tony Calcia award was presented to Foxborough Child Sexual Awareness Abuse Committee.
- We submitted an application to the Mass Municipal Association for the innovation award for our Community Paramedic program
- Restaurant meeting went well and as we were working on a letter the Governor.
- No incidents of tailgating at Patriot Place and are hopeful that we may see some games in October.
- Schneider Electric has pulled a \$4 million renovation permit that should be complete by April/May of next year. Schneider will begin their electric project with their \$150k donation in mid-October.
- Donation of \$30.00 to Boyden

CM – Can you talk about the health insurance holiday?

BK – Because less medical procedures weren't done, it drove down the cost of health insurance. MIIA gave the Town and employees back some of what we paid into insurance costs and employees saw it in their paycheck next week.

10. 8:15pm - Selectmen's Update - No update

11. Action Items

11.01 BOS - Approve June 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the June 23rd, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes by S. McGowan, 2nd by C. Mitchell. Approved 5-0.

12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Jack Francomano, 2nd by C. Mitchell. Approved, 5-0.