

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF WESTBROOK, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 9, 2020
Via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Bishop called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectman Bishop, Selectman Hall, and Selectman Fuchs, Donna Castracane, Director of Finance, Trooper Borelli, Trooper Buck, Joe Carpio, Tony Cozza, BOF member, Ken Butterworth, IT, Liz Barzelatto, Marie Palma, Don Izzo, Emergency Management Director, Duncan Forsyth, Town Attorney, Mary Jane Monahan, Vince Gentile, Bill Fish, Rich Annino, Park & Rec. Director, Colin Bennett, Registrar, Bill Cusson, Fire Dept., and Pat Marcarelli, COB President.

STATUS OF 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS AND RELATED MATTERS

Attorney Forsyth, Town Attorney, provided the following information:

“We have, at your request, researched the legality of possession and use of fireworks in the State of Connecticut. Section 29-357(a) makes it illegal to sell, use or explode any fireworks with the exception of sparklers or fountains of not more than 100 grams of pyrotechnic mixture per item which are non-explosive and non-aerial, provided such sparklers or fountains do not contain magnesium and other limitations set for in the statute.

Subsection (d) of the same statute states that any person who possesses or uses illegal fireworks is guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

Based on the above, we believe it is appropriate for the town to give notice that individuals who possess or use illegal fireworks will be subject to arrest as noted above.

For your convenience, we have attached a copy of Section 29-357 with the applicable provisions highlighted.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us”.

Attorney Forsyth was available to address questions/comments relative to the use of fireworks; i.e. liability in the event of injury, insurance concerns and the appropriate uses of town property etc.

Troopers Buck and Borelli were available to address enforcement and traffic strategies relative to the 4th of July holiday weekend.

- The Constables will be encouraged to choose to work shifts over the 4th of July weekend. Trooper Borelli and Buck will be on duty.
- Only Westbrook residents will be permitted to park at the West Beach parking lot. When the lot is full, it will be closed.
- Constables will be posted at appropriate intersections; i.e. Post and Bellstone, and possibly other areas, to monitor traffic.
- Parking at the Mulvey Municipal Center will be open to only Westbrook residents on July 3, 4th and 5th. The lot will be monitored by Park & Rec staff and a Constable (at this time, non-residents are permitted to park at the Mulvey Center except over the 4th of July weekend).
- Constables/Troopers will respond to all “fireworks” calls, including those on private beaches/property.
- Individuals will be encouraged to follow the law. Violation of the law may result in confiscation of fireworks and/or arrest.

Additional items of discussion included:

- Individuals accessing the beach via the Elks’ Club are permitted on all areas of the public beach (Elks Club to the stone jetty).
- A representative from the Elks’ Club reported that they have been following CDC protocol; i.e. social distancing, table placement, facemasks, etc. with their members and staff.

- When the West Beach parking lot is full, it will be closed. Illegal parking along Seaside Ave. and surrounding streets will be enforced to allow emergency vehicle access if necessary.

The consensus of the Board of Selectman was that the Constables/Troopers will be instructed to enforce all laws relative to the use of fireworks. Signage and appropriate communication to the public will be provided relative to the 4th of July holiday.

Mr. Bishop thanked individuals for their participation in this afternoon’s meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSOR

Mr. Hall made a motion to re-post the Assessor position as a part-time, less than 25 hours per week, position. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

EXTEND TROOPER BORELLI ASSIGNMENT IN WESTBROOK

Mr. Bishop made a motion to extend Trooper Borelli’s assignment in Westbrook through July 31, 2020. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Castracane reported that the additional costs associated with extending Trooper Borelli’s assignment in Westbrook will be reimbursed via FEMA and the State of Connecticut (due to Covid-19).

STATUS OF BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS: ELECTION PROTOCOL PER EXECUITVE ORDER

Executive Order 700 sets forth procedures and timelines for local appointments and elections requiring in-person votes. The Board of Fire Commissioners has two open seats and notice has been sent to the newspaper soliciting nominations to fill said seats. The nominations are due to the Registrar’s office by June 16, 2020 and a “drive-by” election will be conducted on 6/29/20. The Registrars will provide additional information regarding the voting procedure prior to the 6/29 election.

REQUEST FOR DOG PARK

Colin Bennett requested that the BOS consider placing a dog park on the Mulvey Municipal Center property.

Mr. Bennett provided a brief proposal and the BOS requested that he develop additional data; i.e. costs, fund-raising efforts, information on dog parks on surrounding towns, liability etc. for consideration at a future BOS meeting.

Appointments/Re-appointments/Resignations

Mr. Bishop made a motion to appoint Shirley Mickens to the WPCA. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Transfers/Appropriations – None.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve the minutes from the 5/28/20 meeting. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

The BOS discussed the appropriateness of residents/individuals leaving personal property; i.e. canoes, kayaks, canopies and other items overnight on public beaches. After extensive discussion, the consensus of the BOS was that no personal property will be permitted to be left on the beach overnight. Any items left after 8:30 p.m. will be confiscated by the Town. Accordingly, appropriate signage will be installed alerting residents of same.

The First Selectman will request that the Dead Whale Tattoo Parlor remove advertisements placed in various locations throughout Westbrook.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bishop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest,

Suzanne Helchowski
Executive Assistant

Noel Bishop
First Selectman