BOARD OF SELECTMEN Steven P. Rose, Chairman Eric S. Beckerman, Clerk Jason L. Suzor, Associate

Gregory S. Enos
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Abon Massachusetts



Town Offices
Buckley Center 02322
(508) 588-0414
FAX (508) 559-0209
TOWN OF AVOIT
2020 AUG IU A 9: 47
TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORKSHOP MEETING JULY 28, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

Members present:

Steven P. Rose, Chairman

Eric S. Beckerman, Clerk Jason L. Suzor, Associate

Others present:

Gregory S. Enos, Town Administrator

Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant

Patricia Bessette, Town Clerk Kathleen Waldron, Health Agent

Fire Chief Robert Spurr

Chairman Rose announced that 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 March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Board of Selectmen is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, but every effort was made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. Chairman Rose reminded the viewing audience that persons who would like to view this meeting while in progress may do so by joining the Zoom link for the videoconference in session.

Chairman Rose called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. with all members present. Each Board member acknowledged their presence at the meeting by responding in the affirmative during the roll call. In addition, all anticipated speakers acknowledge their presence by responding in the affirmative when Chairman Rose called their names.

Plan for Reopening Town Offices to the Public

Chairman Rose began the discussion regarding reopening Town Offices to the public. Mr. Enos informed the Board that prior to opening the Town Offices, he would need to purchase some additional social distancing signage for floor spacing as well as visual signs at the eye level for visitors. Ms. Waldron stated that as part of the opening plan visitors would be required to sign-in for contact tracing. Ms. Bessette informed the Board that Early Voting for the State Primary will begin on August 22, 2020. She stated that the current plan is to hold Early Voting in the Mary McDermott room for additional spacing between participants and employees. Mr. Enos stated that he has received several inquiries for Boards and Committees regarding resuming public meetings in person as opposed to remotely. Mr. Enos stated that the only logistical meeting space is the Mary McDermott room. Mr. Enos stated that if the Board approves of this request for public meetings, he proposed the meeting room have only one meeting per day and it would have to be sanitized thoroughly after each use. Mr. Enos will get the maximum

number of people allowed in the Mary McDermott room based on the state guidelines limiting seating capacity prior to the Board's assent of this request.

Chairman Rose voiced his concern about reopening Town Offices too quickly during the pandemic and emphasized his concern about exposing staff and visitors to the dangerous virus. Chairman Rose asked Mr. Enos if he has received any complaints from patrons that town business was not being conducted during the pandemic to which Mr. Enos replied no. Mr. Beckerman stated that he while he would like to return to some sense of normalcy, he suggested that the Board wait until the schools make a final decision regarding their fall reopening plan. Mr. Suzor suggested that Town Offices remain on limited hours and closed to the public by appointment only for now and that the Board revisit this issue in two weeks' time. The Board agreed unanimously to Mr. Suzor's recommendation. The Board decided their next Workshop Session regarding reopening Town Offices be held on August 12, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. remotely.

Adjournment

At 1:10 p.m., Mr. Beckerman made a motion to adjourn the Workshop Session. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna M. Faro

Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator