



Select Board

21 State Line Road PO Box 525 West Stockbridge, Mass. 01266-0525

Tel. (413) 232-0300 x319

Fax. (413) 232-7195

E-mail: admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Select Board Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2020

Remote Access by [Free Conference Call.com](https://www.freeconferencecall.com)

6:00 PM: Open Meeting

Quorum present: Select Board Members: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Eric Shimelonis, Member, Town Administrator Marie Ryan, DPW Director Curt Wilton, Police Chief Marc Portieri and Tax Collector June Biggs.

Review and act on previous meeting minutes.

Agenda Items/Action/Discussion Items: Meeting Opened at 6:00 PM

Vote/Discussion of Tax Bill Due Date:

Bernie opened the meeting with a motion that was supported by the Town Administrator, Town Treasurer, Tax Collector, Town Accountant and the Town Assessor:

To address the challenges faced by Municipalities resulting from CORVID-19, pursuant to Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, the Municipal Relief Legislation signed by Governor on Friday, April 3, 2020:

I make a motion that the Town of West Stockbridge adopt Section 10 (A)(i-iii) Local Option to Extend the Due Dates of Property Tax Bills from May 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020 and Section 10 (B)(iv) Local Option to Extend the Due Date for Exemption and Deferral Applications from April 1, 2020 to a date no later than June 1, 2020.

Eric seconded the motion, there was no further discussion and all were in favor.

Marie then explained to the Board that this information would be sent out in a Reverse 911 call as well as an urgent message on the Town website.

Declaration of State of Emergency:

Bernie stated that the Board would be voting on a motion to declare a State of Emergency in the Town and asked Marie to explain what that means. She said that if the Town declares a State of emergency, then that would enable the Town to receive funding from the state for any unexpected expenses to the Town during the Pandemic.

Bernie made a motion to declare a State of emergency in the Town of West Stockbridge due to the COVID-19. Eric seconded and there was no further discussion and all were in favor.

Police Department Update:

Chief Portieri stated that the Food Pantry has been moved to the Community Room at Town Hall and that the Police are running. He also said that the Pet Food is still being run by Wayne Cooper at the Transfer Station.

Marc said that the Police have been very busy. They had three calls today alone. There was a domestic call, a call for a person who took a beer opened and sat outside of the store to drink it without paying, and an attempted breaking and entering. He said that crimes are increasing due to people being bored as well as low on money due to unemployment currently. He assured the Board that the Police are splitting shifts up and having more of a presence around Town now. They are working 7 days a week/ 24 hours a day currently in the Department, Eric and Marc expressed the importance of spreading the word around Town for people and businesses to be more aware and better at locking up their doors and vehicles. Marc also mentioned he would add information about the food Pantry and the safety issues in the reverse 911 call about the tax due date.

Long Term Sick Bank Discussion:

Curt Wilton, DPW Director asked the Board for permission during this State of Emergency for his employees to use time from the Long Term Sick Bank. He explained to the Board that every fulltime employee gets a 15 day long term sick bank for use due to an illness or injury and they need a doctor's note to be eligible to use these days. Curt said that he is trying to keep his employees safe and using social distancing, however, on days when it is raining and they can only do work in the garage, it is not safe health-wise. He would like for his employees to be able to utilize these sick days without a doctor's note during the current State of Emergency for inclement weather days when they cannot do outside work.

Eric thought this was a great idea, but in the longer term would like to research the possibility of restoring the sick time used under this motion using COVID-19 emergency funding. Bernie agreed. Bernie then made a motion to allow the employees to use their Long Term Sick Bank days during the State of Emergency. Eric seconded the motion, no further discussion, all were in favor.

Bernie made a motion to adjourn, Eric seconded, the Select Board adjourned at 6:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

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Town Administrator