



**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September 1, 2021**

At 6:30 PM Chair John Jeffries called the meeting to order with members Robyn Hunter and Robert Springett present. Also in attendance were Christopher Dwelley, Town Administrator; Katelyn O' Brien, Assistant Town Administrator, and Mona DiSciullo, Administrative Assistant.

ATTENDEES: Community Center Building Committee Chair Ford Spalding; Dr. Kay Petersen, Dr. Steve Kruskall, Gerry Clarke, Board of Health; Carol Lisbon, Planning Board and Recycling Committee; Kate Cannie, Board of Fire Engineers; Janet Claypoole, Council on Aging Director; Superintendent of Buildings Karl Warnick

PRESS: None present.

Citizens' Comments

There are no citizens' comments.

I.1 Discussion on the Contract Extension with Fennick McCredie Architecture and Potential Vote

At the August 26, 2021 Board meeting, the Selectmen discussed a fee proposal for designer services for the Community Center Building submitted by Fennick McCredie Architecture (FMA). FMA previously contracted with the Town to provide feasibility and schematic design services for the Building. The Board had some concerns with the proposal, and Phil Palumbo of Colliers Project Leaders, the Owner's Project Manager, and Deborah Fennick of FMA spoke to their concerns and provided a summary of the fee proposal. It was pointed out that the Building Committee had not yet had the opportunity to review the fee proposal. The Selectmen requested the input and recommendations of the Building Committee and decided to defer their vote on the fee proposal until the September 9, 2021 Board meeting. Building Committee Chair Ford Spalding reported that the Committee did meet on August 30, 2021 and had no comments or questions and voted, five to two, in favor of the fee proposal. The two members who abstained did so because they had not yet reviewed the proposal. In response to additional questions from the Board, Mr. Spalding provided brief remarks about the project costs and the timeline.

Mr. Jeffries moved to authorize the Town Administrator to execute all documents related to Fennick McCredie Architecture's Fee Proposal for Designer Services, seconded by Ms. Hunter; it was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

I.2 Mask Mandate Discussion and Potential Vote

The Board of Health (BOH) presented its plan to issue a mask-wearing mandate for Dover due to the rising rates of Covid-19 cases in Massachusetts as well as in Dover. Dr. Petersen provided facts about the Delta variant, its transmission rates and the risk to vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. The Board of Health prepared a detailed slideshow which included figures from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health showing the number of confirmed cases, hospitalizations, deaths, and vaccinations rates in Massachusetts as well as figures showing the number of cases specific to Dover. Dr. Petersen spoke about the effectiveness of masks and their role in reducing hospitalization and death rates and relayed facts about the rates and situations of states that have masked mandates and those which do not. The Board of Health believes that masking is crucial to reducing the transmission rate of Covid-19 and is vital in promoting the health of the community. She emphasized that the Board of Health's goal is to promote policy that protects the public. The BOH is in the process of drafting a public health order that mandates masks in municipal buildings and in buildings that are open to the public and, once instituted, the order will be reviewed regularly to determine its status. Further conversation centered on a mask mandate versus a mask recommendation and communities that have instituted and/or rescinded the mandate and the resulting numbers. Also discussed was the enforceability of a mandate and finding the right balance of reasonable intervention for the public good.

Before any decision is made regarding a mandate, Mr. Jeffries and Mr. Springett are in favor of perhaps reconvening the Covid-19 Taskforce or convening a group that reflects a broader consensus view to specifically discuss the mask issue and other Covid concerns. Ms. Hunter has no issues with a mask mandate or wearing a mask in a public setting.

The Selectmen thanked the Board of Health and acknowledged the countless hours it has worked to combat the effects of the pandemic.

Adjournment

At 7:54 PM Mr. Jeffries moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Hunter; it was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

DOVER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Robyn Hunter, Clerk