

TOWN OF BOZRAH
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
ZOOM-VIDEO CONFERENCE
December 15, 2020

Item 1: First Selectman Carl Zorn called a Regular Meeting of the Bozrah Board of Selectmen (BOS) to order via Zoom on December 15, 2020 at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: First Selectman Carl Zorn, Second Selectman Bill Ballinger and Selectman Glenn Pianka.

Others Present: 7 members of the public

Item 2: Public Comments

No public comments.

Item 3: Approval of the minutes from the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held November 17, 2020 and the Special Board of Selectmen meeting held December 9, 2020

MOTION 1: B. Ballinger made a motion to approve the minutes for November 17, 2020 as written. G. Pianka seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION 2: G. Pianka made a motion to approve the minutes for December 9, 2020 as written. B. Ballinger seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 4: Endorsement of Inland Wetlands partnership with Avalonia land trust

C. Zorn noted Avalonia is a land trust that places large pieces of land into trusts so they are not developed. C. Zorn noted the Inland Wetlands Committee is looking to expand open space in Bozrah. C. Zorn noted he is looking for the Board of Selectmen to endorse Avalonia to partner with the Inland Wetlands Committee.

G. Pianka noted his agreement to endorse Avalonia to create a partnership with the Inland Wetlands Committee. G. Pianka explained it should not be an exclusive partnership between the Inland Wetlands and one organization. B. Ballinger noted his agreement. C. Zorn noted it would not be an exclusive partnership.

MOTION 3: C. Zorn made a motion for the Board of Selectmen to endorse the partnership between the Inland Wetlands Committee and Avalonia on a non-exclusive basis. G. Pianka seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 5: Review of Bozrah Cemetery Ordinance and Lawyers Comments

Attachment 1

G. Pianka noted he concurs with the highlighted areas and recommends this version of the Bozrah Cemetery Commission Ordinance be adopted. He noted the date should be updated on the corrected version of the Ordinance. G. Pianka noted the ordinance should be cleaned up and put on the town website for the public to view and comment on.

B. Ballinger agreed the ordinance should be cleaned up before put on the town website. He noted the Board could vote on the marked up version.

MOTION 4: G. Pianka made a motion to accept the amendments to the Bozrah Cemetery Ordinance as presented by the town attorney and date it December 15, 2020. B. Ballinger seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 6: Review AirBnb Short Term Rental Ordinance

Attachment 2

C. Zorn noted the Planning and Zoning Committee had Sam Alexander draft this Ordinance copied from a similar one in the Town of Ledyard. C. Zorn noted an AirBnb on Gager Road has caused issues and is known as the “party house”.

G. Pianka noted some regional groups or the state could address the AirBnb guidelines as this will be a common issue throughout the state.

B. Ballinger noted they should bring this to the Town Attorney and explain that there are some AirBnb’ already in existence in the town and how they should handle that.

C. Zorn noted the board should table this discussion and ask the town attorney about the existing AirBnb’s in town.

MOTION 5: B. Ballinger made a motion to table this discussion until they hear from the Town Attorney. G. Pianka seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 7: COVID Increases

C. Zorn noted COVID cases continue to increase in town.

G. Pianka questioned if there are precautions taken at the Transfer Station like there are at the Town Hall. C. Zorn noted there is plexiglass at the Transfer Station and no one is allowed in the building.

Item 8: Transfer Station Repairs

C. Zorn noted in order to do work at the Transfer Station they need to obtain a state permit. C. Zorn noted he wants to hire Matt Brown from Anchor Engineering to apply for the permit.

B. Ballinger and G.Pianka noted their agreement.

Item 9: Transfer Station Permit Fee Increase of \$10

C. Zorn noted he increased the permit fee at the Transfer Station by \$10 starting this sticker year.

Item 10: First Selectmen Update

- a) Route 82 grass and slope stabilization not completed
- b) Truck Wash and Garage Expansion (looking to add to long term projects)

C. Zorn noted Matt Brown is collecting bids for the new fabric building and working on site details. He noted it is expected to cost about \$100,000.

- c) Wawecus Hill catch basin repairs

C. Zorn noted the catch basins had fallen in and have been worked on for the past few months.

Item 11: Monthly Reports

- a) Troop K Updates September-Attachment 3
- b) Fire Marshal-Attachment 4
- c) Senior Center-Attachment 5

C. Zorn noted they will be putting emergency alarms in the senior center bathroom. G. Pianka noted they should get inspected by the building inspector. G. Pianka also noted the building inspector should have made sure there are grab bars in the bathrooms as well.

- d) Bozrah Food Bank-Attachment 6

C. Zorn noted Tom Ververis is doing a great job at the food bank.

Item 12: Such other business the Board votes to add

C. Zorn noted they installed a television screen upstairs at the town hall for presentations at future in person meetings.

C. Zorn noted the Board of Selectmen are running a town meeting via zoom on Wednesday December 16, 2020 for comments on a street sweeper. C. Zorn noted this is a great deal and he firmly believes the Board should purchase the sweeper.

B. Ballinger noted his concern for cash flow to the town. B. Ballinger noted the state might not meet their reimbursement commitment to the town.

G. Pianka noted that in relation to other items that need to be done in town, purchasing this street sweeper would be irresponsible. G. Pianka noted the money budgeted last night for the fire truck repairs would qualify as a public safety emergency as well.

Item 13: Public Comments

Diana Santo commented one bathroom at the Senior Center does have a grab bar.

Pat commented on her opposition to the \$10 increase at the transfer station.

Item 14: Adjourn

MOTION 6: G. Pianka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. B. Ballinger seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted to the Board,

Heather Barber
Recording Secretary