

Board of Selectmen Meeting
January 13, 2021
APPROVED MINUTES

The Westport Board of Selectmen, Traffic Authority and Water Pollution Control Authority held a public meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 9:00 AM. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order No. 7B, there was no physical location for this meeting. It was held electronically, live streamed on www.westportct.gov, and broadcast on Westport's Optimum Government Access Channel 79 and Frontier Channel 6020.

In attendance were Jim Marpe, Jennifer Tooker, Eileen Flug, Sara Harris, Gary Conrad, Peter Ratkiewich, Al D'Amura, Foti Koskinas, Sam Arciola, Bryan Thompson, presenters as noted in the minutes, and Eileen Francis, recording secretary.

<https://play.champds.com/westportct/event/19>

MINUTES

1. Jennifer Tooker presented Item #1. There was a minor revision noted and corrected in the motion and second on Item #5. Upon motion by Jim Marpe, seconded by Melissa Kane and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meeting of December 23, 2020 and the Minutes of the Water Pollution Control Authority's meeting of December 23, 2020 are hereby APPROVED.

REVIEW ACCOUNTING OF DONATIONS UNDER \$5,001 ACCEPTED BY FRST SELECTMAN DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2020

2. Selectman's Office Manager Eileen Francis presented Item #2. The original call was amended to reflect that there was no need to approve the accounting report, only to review it, per Section 2.A. of the Town of Westport Policy for Gifts to the Town. The Board reviewed the submitted report of the monetary donations under \$5,001 accepted by the First Selectman during the calendar year 2020, which totaled \$316,919.57.

Item #3 received after Westport News publication deadline

APPROVE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WESTPORT AND PROGRESSIVE DIAGNOSTICS, LLC

3. Operations Director Sara Harris presented Item #3. Representatives from Progressive Diagnostics joined the call. Ms. Harris described the process and the purpose for employee COVID testing as a proactive measure to reduce and mitigate the possible transmission of the virus among employees and their families. Finance Director Gary Conrad explained that the testing is covered by employee insurance as a risk avoidance, and any residual cost will be covered by the town's COVID account. Assistant Town Attorney Eileen Flug stated that the contract passes legal review pending minor revisions. Upon motion by Jim Marpe, seconded by Melissa Kane and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Agreement between the Town of Westport and Progressive Diagnostics, as it relates to COVID-19 surveillance testing for Westport municipal employees, is hereby APPROVED, subject to final approval from the Town Attorney's Office.

APPROVE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOOL ZONE ON US ROUTE 1 FROM LINCOLN STREET TO KINGS HIGHWAY NORTH

4. Director of Public Works Peter Ratkiewich presented Item #4. Mr. Ratkiewich provided a history of images of the area throughout the years which demonstrated that it was previously a school zone. However, when construction occurred on Route 1, the signs were taken down and not re-installed. The CT DOT did not have a record that it was an established school zone, so this action by the LTA is to officially record the establishment of the school zone. Members of the public, including representatives from the KHS PTA - Kim Ceman, Rosie Curtis, and Lindsay Shurman, and Christine Meiers Schatz sent emails demonstrating support for Items 4 and 5. Upon motion by Melissa Kane, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, acting in its capacity as the Local Traffic Authority, that the request to the Connecticut DOT, Traffic Engineering Division, for establishment of a "School Zone" on US Route 1 in Westport, adjacent to the Kings Highway Elementary School, from Lincoln Street to Kings Highway North, is hereby APPROVED.

APPROVE REQUEST TO INSTALL SIGNS FOR ESTABLISHED KHS SCHOOL ZONE

5. Director of Public Works Peter Ratkiewich presented Item #5. Mr. Ratkiewich stated that this was the next step in establishing the school zone and associated signage. Police Chief Foti Koskinas and Staff Corporal Al D'Amura supported the request, citing it was a common-sense approach to the safety and enforcement concerns. Mr. Ratkiewich noted that the request will go to OSTA, which will then establish where the signage would be installed. The purchase and installation of the signs will be absorbed by the Town. Mr. Ratkiewich stated the likely cost is \$9,800 for each sign plus \$6,000 to \$8,000 for installation. Upon motion by Melissa Kane, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, it was:

RESOLVED, acting in its capacity as the Local Traffic Authority, that the request to install two (2) combination "School Speed Limit XX MPH When Flashing" with "School Zone Ahead - Fines Doubled" signs on US Route 1 in Westport, within the Kings Highway Elementary School "School Zone," as established, from the Office of State Traffic Administration (OSTA), is hereby APPROVED.

Item #6 is noted in the WPCA Minutes of 01-13-2021

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Melissa Kane, seconded by Jim Marpe and passing by a vote of 3-0, the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 10:30 AM to discuss pending litigation matters.

At 11:10 PM, the Board ended its Executive Session discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Melissa Kane, seconded by Jennifer Tooker and passing by a vote of 2-0 (Mr. Marpe absent for the vote), the meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM.

Eileen Francis, Recording Secretary