



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2020

**PRESENT:** Mr. John A. Nason; Chairman, Mr. Marc Richard; Vice-Chairman and Mr. David Dufresne, Clerk

**ATTENDEES:** Dan Bigda, David Pierce, Jason Morgan and Donna Pina

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### Opened the Meeting at 7:00 PM

Mr. Nason opened the meeting and dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

West Brookfield Board of Selectmen requested a meeting this evening to discuss some concerns that their residents have expressed to them regarding the current economic climate and schools/transportation.

Mr. Bigda reiterated that since March 13, 2020, school busses have not been in service as per the Executive Order by the Governor. He questioned what payment terms would be considered if there is only 4 days of bussing due to the hybrid option of learning.

Mr. Richard feels that thus far, all municipal employees have been paid in full regardless of their actual worked hours as well as the teachers, so why not the bus companies. Mr. Nason feels that this is the responsibility of the school committee to hash out. Mr. Morgan who was in attendance this evening on behalf of the school committee fully understands everyone's concerns. They have been meeting several times per week in order to try to come to some agreement on this year's school schedule. Mr. Dufresne reminded all that we have contractual agreements with the bus companies and any reduction in pay would most likely be less than what a legal battle would cost.

Mr. Bigda feels that should the school go full remote, it is within the scope of authority for the school committee and unions to renegotiate to show what should be a reduction in costs. Mr. Morgan said that what we saw in the spring won't be the same going forward. Again, Mr. Nason stated that we need to trust the folks that are involved in making sound decisions for the town. Mr. Morgan also mentioned that their options are limited with considering the current parameters of the regional agreement. This is something that should be investigated in the very near future for updating. Mr. Bigda would like the health insurance investigated also.

It was suggested that all parties meet again in order to try to improve communication and thus allow for proactive measures to be taken on critical items. (transportation, health insurance, regional agreement).

Tentative date for next meeting will be 9/10/20 at 6:30 PM at Quaboag.

### APPOINTMENT – ELECTION OFFICER

Motion to appoint Donna L. Pina as an Election Officer until December 31, 2020 as requested by the Town Clerk made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

### **BORREGO SOLAR – GIFT ACCOUNT**

Motion to create a gift account for Borrego Solar in order to allow the acceptance and expenditure of funds (10K) associated with the PILOT Agreement made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

After a discussion, due to work/travel schedules, all Board members agreed to move the regular BOS meetings to Thursday evenings. We will meet on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> as planned, however will make an announcement at that time of the change.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Acerra

Administrative Secretary



David P. Dufresne, Sr., Clerk