

Chairman Stewart opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance were: Selectmen A. Battistini (remote), L. Dalpe (remote), A. Frawley (remote), N. Rosenthal and D. Stewart (remote). Also present was Town Manager, R. Nunes (remote), Attorney Lauren Goldberg, KP Law (remote), Robert Desrosiers – Town Moderator (remote), Allison Ferreira, Town Clerk (remote) and Executive Assistant, Colleen Lieb.

“Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, and the recommendations from the CDC that no more than 10 people gather at one time, meetings in the Town of Middleborough are being conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.”

This meeting was recorded by MCCAM for broadcast on Comcast and Verizon. Board Members and Town Employee attendees were heard from through Zoom.

**DISCUSS/VOTE REDUCTION IN QUORUM FOR THE UPCOMING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

*Attorney Lauren Goldberg – KP Law (remote), Robert Desrosiers – Town Moderator (remote), Allison Ferreira, Town Clerk (remote) were present for the discussion.* Attorney Goldberg explains that the Governor signed a bill that allows communities to change certain Town Meeting, Election and Budget Processes in response to the ongoing health emergency. Attorney Goldberg explains that the various provisions in the law are temporary for the duration of the coronavirus-state-of-emergency and she reiterates that this is not a permanent change to the State Law.

Attorney Goldberg further explains that the final version of the bill approved by the legislator includes authority for remote participation for representative town meetings and allows quorum reductions for town meetings in all towns. It is explained that Select boards in all towns, in consultation with their town moderator, are allowed to lower quorum requirements for open town meetings to not less than 10% of the existing quorum level. The quorum provisions (Section 7) includes a seven day notification requirement before any Select board vote.

The Board Members reiterate several times that this vote to reduce the quorum for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting is so that the Town may do their business once the agreed upon quorum number arrive. The Town will still be encouraging voting residents to attend Town Meeting and participate if they feel comfortable. It is further noted that the vote is only to lower our quorum requirement and not to prevent any who wish to attend meeting from attending.

The Board briefly discusses the layout of the Nichols Middle School and how the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen will be seated. Social distancing protocols will be in place

and attendees will be required to wear a mask. The gym will be used as the overflow space if the auditorium is filled. It is noted that communication radios will be needed so that the Moderator can communicate with the gym, designated overflow space, to check counts on votes. Mr. Desrosiers spoke about working together with the School and the Town to make sure that everything is in place and is safe for the upcoming Town Meeting.

Chairman Stewart opened the discussion up for public comment. There is no comment.

Upon motion made by Selectmen Frawley and seconded by Selectmen Dalpe, the Board voted to reduce the Town's Required Quorum to 30 participants and require that 30 participants must be maintained to keep the meeting going. Polled vote: Selectmen A. Battistini - Aye, L. Dalpe - Aye, A. Frawley - Aye, N. Rosenthal - Aye and D. Stewart - Aye

Rob Desrosiers, Moderator, agreed with the Board's decision and vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion made by Selectmen Dalpe and seconded by Selectmen Frawley, the Board voted to adjourn at 6:20 PM. Polled vote: Selectmen A. Battistini - Aye, L. Dalpe - Aye, A. Frawley - Aye, N. Rosenthal - Aye and D. Stewart - Aye.

Respectfully submitted by,



Colleen M. Lieb, Executive Assistant

MIDDLEBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN