

## General Government Minutes for 3/3/2021

**1. Roll Call: Voting:** Clrs Gus Steeves, Mike Marketti; Cit Mem Denise Clemence, Martena Shea. Clr Jackie Ryan excused. **Others:** TM Michael McCall, Assr Wil Cournoyer, Trsr/Cletr Melissa Zawadzki, Arpt Cmsnr Rick Clemence, Arpt Dir Ron Plouffe, Clrs Jack Jovan, Dave Adams, John Daniel.

**2. Minutes for 2/17/21:** Ms Clemence asked for rephrasing of comments related to airport, saying she wanted to make sure the funds weren't coming from taxpayers, and had asked Karen Harnois if it were possible for the town to loan funds to the Airport Commission and be repaid. Clr Marketti asked about older minutes (8/4, 8/17, 11/9/20), noting they weren't on the website. Motion to accept as amended: 1<sup>st</sup>: Clemence, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Marketti. Approved 4-0.

**3. Cybersecurity grant:** Mr McCall said he got notice of grant's availability about 3 weeks ago; received award notice last week. Said he has done similar training in Chelmsford and considers this issue "very important" since malware and ransomware are becoming a problem in several places. Thinks the insurers will soon require such training of municipal staff.

Mr Cournoyer said he'd been planning to start such a program paid by our budget, but this is state-funded. He sent employees a link to training video, but doesn't know how many saw it; this will document such training and send staff fake phishing emails as tests. Since Covid began, towns have seen 300% hike in cyberattacks, 95% of intrusions due to human error (clicking/forwarding a scam email link, for example).

Clr Steeves asked if councilors/board members with outside emails can participate. Mr Cournoyer said no, it's only for those with southbridgemass.org accounts by state grant rules.

Ms Clemence noted all staff should be involved for it to work best. Ms Shea added that should include schools since that's where most users are. Mr Cournoyer agreed, but said it won't this time; there's "no time" to include them effectively. Mr McCall said he shared the opportunity with the schools and will talk to the receiver about it. Motion to accept grant: 1<sup>st</sup>: Marketti, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Shea. Approved 4-0.

**4. MIIA Insurance renewal:** Ms Zawadzki said renewal rates "came out pretty good," ranging from 0.6-6.8% increases, ours was 2.46%. MIIA's offering new dental & vision coverage that's 100% employee-paid & optional, so no cost to town. "Our experience of high-cost claims is coming down. We have a healthy workforce," she said. Rates are still split 60/40, all plans have \$300 (single)/\$900 (family) deductibles except wellness/preventive checks, and town reimburses staff for out of pocket costs above 50% of total. MIIA also offers a month-long "premium holiday" with savings shared with staff; she picked July this year. Motion to recommend accepting renewal: 1<sup>st</sup> Marketti, 2<sup>nd</sup> Clemence. Approved 4-0.

**5. New Business:** Mr Clemence brought up the opportunity to accept a \$13K Covid grant that can cover debt payment, operations and cleaning. Since this wasn't on GG's agenda, Clr Jovan asked the committee's assent to send it straight to Council. Ms Clemence moved to do so (2<sup>nd</sup>: Marketti); approved 4-0.

Clr Steeves brought up a recent MDAR ban on certain pesticides and asked if town used them. Clr Marketti asked about status of wetlands bylaw and Charter Review Cmte. Ms Clemence summarized latter, noting meetings are on YouTube & cable.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Gus Steeves*

*GG chair*