MEMORANDUM

TO: Taylor D. White, Town Clerk
FROM: George H. Dunham, Town Manager
DATE: April 10, 2020

SUBJECT: Town Meeting and Town Election Issues

This is to confirm that the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted three separate motions related to upcoming Town Meetings and the Annual Town Elections at its April 2, 2020 meeting. These actions were all taken based on the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency and response that our community, region, state, and country is dealing with and the protocols and restrictions established by the Governor’s Office and the Town. In addition, some state laws were recently amended to provide cities and towns with more flexibility when dealing with Town Meetings and elections during the public health emergency.

Specifically, these votes were as follows:

1. The March 23, 2020 Special Town Meeting which had previous been continued to April 13, 2020 by Town Moderator Garry Blank has officially been cancelled. Any articles that need to be acted upon can be included on the upcoming Annual Town Meeting warrant.

2. The May 4, 2020 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) has been moved to June 15, 2020. It is hoped that the public health emergency will have subsided by then, but if it has not, the Selectmen will entertain moving the ATM until July or later.

3. The Annual Town Election scheduled for May 7, 2020 has been moved to May 19, 2020, thereby matching the same date as the special state election for Sen. Vinny deMacedo’s vacated seat. Again, if the state decides to move the special state election, it is likely the Selectmen will move the local election to the same date. This action will help the public remain safer during unique times and require one, combined election rather than two separate ones.

Thank you again for all your assistance with these actions and the oversight of these two elections. If you need anything further, please let me know.

cc: Board of Selectmen
    Town Moderator
    Town Counsel John W. Giorgio