

Approved May 7, 2024

Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
April 23, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.  
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA

Present: Select Board: Diana Szynal, Chair and Members Edmund Jaworski and Greg Gagnon

Also in attendance: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator; Phil Genovese, DPW Director; Darryl Williams, Chair and Members Kim Baker; Diane Brzozowski; Sean Barry and John Wilkes, Jr., Finance Committee; Peter Langlois; Christie Boudreau, Chair, School Committee; Conor Driscoll, Principal; Robert Flaherty, Fire Chief; Kyle Scott, Building Commissioner; Kerry Flaherty, Lt., Fire Department, Tammy Wendolowski, Assistant Treasurer/Collector; Jennifer Polverari, Assistant Assessor; Alaina Wilcox, Town Clerk; Luke Longstreeth; Ray Romero

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Chair Szynal sadly recognized the passing of Maryann Burke. Chair Szynal stated Maryann was the first woman ever elected to the Hatfield Select Board. We all knew Maryann, she was a very lovely person. Our condolences to the family. Chair Szynal also stated John Wilkes, Sr. is resigning from Community Preservation and the Housing Authority. He has over 51 years of service. Chair Szynal thanked him for all his years of service.

**PUBLIC FORUM** No one.

**CONSENT AGENDA** Selectman Gagnon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 9, 2024 meeting minutes; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Several changes were requested to be made to the April 10, 2024 meeting minutes, the minutes will be presented at the next meeting.

Chair Szynal made a motion to accept the April 9, 2024 executive session meeting minutes; Selectman Gagnon seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

**POSTED BUSINESS**

**TOPIC 1** Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity request for One Day Liquor License for fundraiser event at RK Miles on May 22, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 8:00pm: Peter Langlois appeared before the Select Board requesting a one-day liquor license for the fundraiser event at RK Miles. Mr. Langlois informed the Board this is the same fundraiser held every year. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to accept the one-day liquor license as presented; Selectman Gagnon seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

**TOPIC 2** Ch. 61A Property, 106 Depot Road – Owner's Notification to Sell: Ms. Michonski informed the Board the owners of the property at 106 Depot Road will be selling the property and the property is in Chapter 61A, the Town has the right of first refusal to purchase. There was a question as to why this is before the Select Board without a buyer. Ms. Michonski stated she believes the property owners wanted to let the Town know what they were doing. The Board did not take any action on this matter.

### TOPIC 3      **APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**

Resignation of Lynn Lovell from Local Cultural Council: After reviewing the letter from Lynn Lovell, Selectman Gagnon made a motion to approve the resignation of Lynn Lovell from Local Cultural Council; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Appointment of John Chiavaroli to Recreation Commission: After reviewing the letter from John Chiavaroli, Selectman Gagnon made a motion to approve the appointment of John Chiavaroli to Recreation Department for the term of two years until 2026; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

### TOPIC 4      **DPW REPORT**

Water and Sewer Abatement, 9 Primrose Path: Phil Genovese informed the Board the meter was not working properly and he is requesting the abatement be approved. Selectman Gagnon made a motion to approve the abatement of water charges in the amount of \$212.54 and abatement of sewer charges in the amount of \$402.48 for 9 Primrose Path; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

### TOPIC 5      **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

SA Park Pavilion Project Update: Ms. Michonski updated the Board the contractor ran into issues with existing piers under the concrete. Keiter Corporation is waiting to meet with a structural engineer, however; the work should be completed by the end of May.

Authorization of Personnel Form – to fill Administrative Assistant vacancy: Ms. Michonski informed the Board she has hired Lori Picard to fill the Administrative Assistant vacancy. She is requesting the Board approve the personnel form. Selectman Gagnon made a motion that we accept the Rate Adjustment for the administrative assistant as presented; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Future discussion regarding status of town financial officers: Ms. Michonski informed the Board she would like to schedule a meeting with the Select Board and Finance Committee to discuss the status of financial officers for the Town. Ms. Michonski informed the Select Board they need to have the conversation and take a hard look at the accountant and treasurer/collector positions.

The Board took topics out of order.

### **CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS**

TOPIC 8      Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture bike tour fundraiser Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00-12:00 pm at Hatfield Pavilion: Ms. Michonski updated the Board that she spoke with the organizer for this event. Ms. Michonski was told the cyclists would be starting off in two different groups of twenty.

## UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS

Phil Genovese, DPW Director informed the Select Board there were some big problems with rainwater last Friday. The pump stations on King and Ferry were constantly running and that should not be happening. Residents have connected their sump pumps to the sewer lines. The bylaws state residents cannot connect sump pumps into the sewer lines. Mr. Genovese informed the Select Board we will be doing an ionized smoke test on North Hatfield Road. Chair Szynal reminded residents you cannot connect sump pumps to the sewer lines. Anyone doing this would be smart to disconnect the sump pump as you will be fined \$50.00 per day.

TOPIC 6      6:30 pm FY2025 Recommended Budget Presentation: Chair Szynal stated tonight we are here to finalize the budget and Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Williams stated we voted on the budget at the last meeting but there are significant changes to the school's vocational education line. There was also a \$3,000.00 expense requested coming from ambulance receipts. Sean Barry made a motion that we approve the additional \$3,000.00 in ambulance receipts; Member Baker seconded; all in favor – aye; opposed – none; motion passes.

Christie Boudreau, Chair, School Committee and Conor Driscoll, Principal presented the school's FY25 budget. Despite beginning at -0-, rebuilding the budget and making cuts, the school is looking for an additional \$137,281.00. Ms. Boudreau stated that tuition at Smith Vocational increased by \$4,400.00 per student next year. There was discussions between those present and Ms. Boudreau and Mr. Driscoll regarding the funds the school is looking for. Ms. Boudreau informed the Select Board and Finance Committee the vocational transportation budget is in deficit of \$11,180.00.

Ms. Michonski informed the Select Board that she is willing to move \$4,700.00 from the Town Administrator's wages and add it to the Planning Board salary line to be able to pay an assistant planner for 10 hours per week.

Going back to the school's deficit, Mr. Williams and Mr. Barry suggested that all other Town departments cut their budgets by 2% to make up for the monies needed by the school. Mr. Longstreeth spoke up asking Mr. Williams and Mr. Barry, you are asking all other departments to make cuts, how much does the school have to cut their budget? Mr. Longstreeth stated maybe a conversation needs to begin about what to do with the school. Each year the school needs more and more money. Chair Szynal asked Ms. Boudreau about the solar savings. Mr. Driscoll replied there still are significant increases for utilities. Chair Szynal asked the Finance Committee if the school must take the 2% hit? Mr. Barry replied, no, it would be some. Chair Szynal stated she was willing to take the \$137,281.00 from free cash but she was not comfortable asking all other departments to cut their budgets by 2% and she suggested taking the money from free cash. I do not want to take it from other departments.

Mr. Williams stated he would entertain a motion to increase the vocational school and transportation budget by \$137,281.00 and using free cash which is currently \$151,000; Member Baker made the motion; Member Brzozowski seconded; all in favor – aye; all opposed – none; motion passes.

TOPIC 7      2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles – Review and Approval of Warrant:

Chair Szynal went through all the Town Warrant Articles. Chair Szynal made a motion to accept the Warrant as presented; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Chair Williams of the Finance Committee stated the Finance Committee would meet during the next week and make their recommendations.

**ADJOURN**

Chair Szynal made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Selectman Gagnon seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully,

Karen Brodeur  
Executive Assistant