

Board of Selectmen Meeting:  
Memorial Town Hall Conference Room

Chairman: Edmund E. Jaworski

January 9, 2019 @ 5:30pm  
Approved: April 3, 2019

Selectman Brian Moriarty, Selectman Cindy Doty, Selectman Edmund Jaworski, Marlene Michonski,  
Town Administrator

Selectman Jaworski opened the meeting at 5:30 pm.

#### Announcements

The Fire Department has a new Firefighter, Raymond Henry Higgins. Also announced is Maxwell Gagnon, Firefighter has become an EMT.

January 29<sup>th</sup> is Special Town Meeting at Hatfield Elementary School at 7:00pm. Selectman Moriarty reminded viewers to return census forms to the Town Clerk.

There was no one present for public forum.

#### Minutes

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the meeting minutes of 1-2-19. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the meeting minutes of 10-9-18. Selectman Jaworski seconded. One edit was requested. The motion was approved.

Capital Improvement Planning Committee - Fran Spellacy, Paul Fisher, David Keir

Selectman Moriarty asked Mr. Kier or Mr. Spellacy to make a presentation.

Mr. Spellacy said the Fire Chief put lots of time and work to get new ambulance but if he went to DPW they could work it out and not come to the CIPC; it should be part of the leasing program. He said also, that the library asked for \$28,000.00 for new carpet. However, it turns out they will be renovating, so the \$28,000.00 used for carpets would be ripped out in a few years.

Mr. Kier reported on several items summarizing that requests were reasonable and submitted on time. The information was sent to Ms. Michonski. The DPW director sent an email saying the 7-year lease program should be \$51,000.00, not \$48,000.00. Mr. Kier said the CIPC will be happy to put together a priority list as we get closer to Annual Town Meeting. The Jaws of Life has been put off for a few years and should be addressed, the ambulance is 13 years old and \$140,000.00 is requested for safety/school protection. Chapter 90 money and Memorial Town Hall renovation money will be known at the end of February. Mr. Kier will check for Ms. Michonski.

The DEP I&I study for \$50,000.00 is a compliance issue. Selectman Moriarty said we have gotten extensions on this, and have put it off a couple of times. Selectman Moriarty noted that this year the process ran very smoothly, though he felt it was not the CIPC's charge to decide which was most important. Nothing was received from the Police Department, or Ms. Szych. Ms. Michonski said computers are being built into the town budget. Selectman Jaworski thanked the committee.

#### Appointments

Selectman Jaworski voted to accept with regret, Peter Cocks resignation from the Open Space Committee. Selectman Moriarty seconded. Selectman Jaworski thanked Mr. Cocks for 15 years of service.

The motion was approved. He asked that a letter of thanks be drafted for the chair's signature. Richard Abbott requested an appointment of Steven Touloumtsis. Selectman Jaworski moved to appoint Steven Touloumtsis as the Open Space Committee rep to the Community Preservation Committee. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

#### Special Town Meeting Warrant

Warrant articles were discussed. Selectman Moriarty said article 1 is the \$390,000.00 appropriation for Memorial Town Hall code compliance renovation increases. Article 2 is a recordkeeping revote for an appropriation received from CPC in 2015. Article 3 is to fund add-ons that are not part of code compliance - expand the COAA kitchen and other changes at \$253,000.00. Articles 4 & 5 involve transferring money from Community Preservation regarding a land purchase on N. Hatfield Road and asking the town to approve monies from CPC.

Selectman Jaworski explained that article 1 is to bring Memorial Town Hall building up to ADA compliance for an additional \$390,000.00. This has been going on for 7 years. Article 2 was already voted on prior to this for the elevator and, article 3 is the request for the ramp and downstairs improvements. The architects will be there at the Special Town Meeting, also land to be kept for agriculture.

There was brief discussion regarding article #5 with Selectman Jaworski noting that the parcel already includes a house. However, the 24 acres is under 61a. Selectman Moriarty said the request is for a habitat house. Selectman Doty was asking about 1 being allowed to build. Ms. Michonski is to reach out to Bob Wagner concerning this.

Selectman Jaworski moved to accept the warrant as written. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved. Selectman Jaworski moved to accept the questions as written. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved.

#### Appointments

Ms. Michonski consulted with town counsel, chapter 41, sec 55. Board can appoint a town accountant for up to 3 years.

Selectman Moriarty moved to appoint Baystate Municipal Accounting Service under Chapter 41, sec. 55 as Town Accountant, until June 30, 2020. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

#### Joe Shea - Hampshire Group Insurance Trust-

Mr. Shea met previously with Ms. Michonski and Ms. Palmisano and Ms. Strzegowski. Mr. Shea handed out an overview of the trust noting that it is a self-insured entity and is the insurance company, not Blue Cross and Blue Shield. As such they decide premiums, benefits, etc. He said they are the second largest in the state and they include an HMO, PPO and retiree plan. They have an executive committee of 9 members and total net assets of 21 million, and are in a strong financial position at this time.

He said a number of unions objected to some of the changes made in July 1, 2018 to keep rates low. Lawsuits might have been a possibility for those entities which did not properly adopt sections 21-23. Additional benefit changes may be discussed at the meetings of January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Selectman Jaworski asked about notification to bargaining groups prior to making changes to their insurance. Selectman Moriarty commented that the proposed changes are in line with other entities such as Westfield. Mr. Shea said pharmaceuticals have more than doubled and represent 23% of all of the claims. Proposed changes would help the viability of the trust. Ms. Strzegowski said the people who use the insurance will be targeted. Mr. Shea said a number of municipalities have already adopted 21 and 22.

Town Clerk Lydia Szych said right now the Board of Selectmen has no authority to make a change in the insurance but when they adopt 21 & 22 then they can make the changes.

Selectman Moriarty asked about section 23 and Mr. Shea said the trust isn't asking anyone to adopt 23. Ms. Michonski did talk with Tom Mullen. Selectman Moriarty said it's in the town's best interests to adopt 21 & 22 as it covers the town moving forward. We're not necessarily endorsing potential changes. Ms. Szych asked if this would need to be brought to Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Shea said no the governing Board can make this decision. Ms. Strzegowski said we're just being proactive instead of reactive.

Selectman Moriarty moved the Town of Hatfield adopt MGL chapters 21 & 22. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

#### Town Administrator Report

Ms. Michonski noted the power outage last week so invoices for contractors are coming in. We will be processing invoices and submitting them to MIIA. Their claims adjuster came out a few days ago and we filed a report with them. Everything seems to be working well now. Selectman Moriarty said the effort between Fire, Police, and DPW was impressive. Ms. Michonski informed that Baystate Municipal Accounting Group is working on a peer review process. A letter was sent to Mary Jane Handy. Ms. Michonski and Mr. Cole are willing to talk with her.

#### School Department Property

John Robert informed the Board that the electric truck was given to us through a grant. However, the batteries are @ \$10,000.00.

Selectman Moriarty moved to declare the Smith Academy electric truck as surplus property. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved.

#### Hampshire Power Cost Increase

Ms. Michonski asked the Board to table this item. She would like to have a better understanding before discussing this with the Board.

The town filed special legislation to increase the quota for an all alcohol package store license. The bill was signed by the House, Senate, and Governor Baker.

Selectman Jaworski moved to grant the license to the Hatfield Center Store upon receipt of an additional \$700. Selectman Doty seconded.

#### HR Policy Review - Sections 15.7 – 15.10

Ms. Michonski asked town counsel to review this section and his edits are shown in blue. Selectman Doty asked a question regarding the probationary period.

Selectman Jaworski moved to accept the changes in the handout for Chapter 15.7 of the HR policy. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved.

The Chapter 61a property item will be taken up at a subsequent meeting.

Selectman Moriarty moved to adjourn. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting ended at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ki J. Eno, Executive Assistant