

Approved 1-19-21

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2021
Memorial Town Hall

Present: Board of Selectmen Chair Diana Szynal, Edmund Jaworski and Brian Moriarty

Also, in attendance: Cindy Doty, Resident; Kerry Flaherty, COVID-19 Coordinator; Robert Schrader, Chestnut Mountain Tree Farm; Sharon Strzegowski, Treasurer/Collector; Town Administrator Marlene Michonski.

Chairwoman Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Announcements

Wishing the audience, a Happy New Year, Chairwoman Szynal thanked the 350th Committee for the fireworks display on the evening of the Town's Annual Luminarium.

Several Board and Committee vacancies were announced as follows: Council on Aging, Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee and Housing Committee. Vacancies appear on the Town's website.

Public Forum

Resident Cindy Doty expressed appreciation for the response and research of Building Inspector Kyle Scott and Planning Board Chair Bob Wagner who looked into the legal ramifications concerning a couple of businesses that occupied property on King Street that affected the abutters and their quality of life. Occupants moved into the property without inspections, permits and plans.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Selectman Jaworski to accept the minutes of July 9, 2020 and November 17, 2020. Motion was seconded by Selectman Moriarty. Unanimous

COVID-19 Coordinator Update

Mrs. Flaherty explained that based on current data, Hatfield has 16 cases. Individuals will come off quarantine later in the week and next week and a single individual in one day. Cases have been averaging 3 a day. A significant amount of time is spent on contact tracing. Emphasizing the necessity for contact tracing, Ms. Flaherty said it is beneficial for individuals to return calls and respond to questions in order to complete the process. The information remains confidential. Referring to this surge since holidays, she is hopeful numbers will begin to decrease. Selectman Moriarty stressed that the tracing is the most important part of the process. Chairwoman Szynal followed up by adding that it is the best tool the Town has.

First line responders will be eligible for the vaccine which is expected to be available the week of January 11. Arrangements for this is being set up as a regional distribution. Approximately in April and May the vaccine will be available to the public. Selectman Jaworski's message to the community urged people not to let their guard down.

Attending a meeting with the School, a decision was made to extend the remote learning schedule.

Board expressed appreciation for the work Kerry and Scott are doing.

Appointments and Resignations

- Resignation was received from Electrical Inspector Stanley Symanski effective January 1, 2021. Chairwoman Szynal recognized Mr. Symanski's 41 years of service; Selectman Jaworski, referencing the resignation last year of another long time inspector, David Lizek, the Board thanked the individuals for the many years of great service. Motion made to accept resignation of Electrical Inspector Stanley aka "Buster" Symanski. Motion seconded by Selectman Jaworski with regret. Chairwoman Szynal adding with deep regret. Unanimous
- Resignation from Tim Paciorek was received after 20 years with the Police Department as an Officer and currently, the rank of Lieutenant, effective 12/20/2020. Selectman Moriarty, on behalf of the Board expressed thanks for his expertise and professionalism, adding that Lt. Paciorek was the longest standing officer and will be missed. Motion made by Selectman Jaworski to accept the resignation of Lt. Paciorek with regret. Motion seconded by Selectman Moriarty. Unanimous
- Resignation from Jill Tucker, member of the Board of Council on Aging, effective 9/5/2020. Chairwoman Szynal recognized Ms. Tucker's valuable membership and said she is sad to see her leave. Selectman Moriarty expressed the special connection the Board members have for the seniors. Selectman Jaworski thanked Jill for her efforts, and also encouraging people to step forward to join the Board. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to accept the resignation of Jill from the COA with regret. Selectman Jaworski seconded the motion. Unanimous
- Appointment of Tim Paciorek to Electrical Inspector is recommended by Building Inspector Kyle Scott. Motion made by Selectman Moriarty to appoint Tim Paciorek as Electrical Inspector. Motion seconded by Selectman Jaworski. Unanimous
- Appointment of Craig Neal to Alternate Electrical Inspector is recommended by Building Inspector Kyle Scott based on highly recommendations and his qualifications. Selectman Jaworski recommended appointment of Craig Neal to Inspector and thanked him for taking the position. Selectman Moriarty second the motion. Unanimous

Chestnut Mountain Tree Farm Conservation Restriction / Proposal for Irrigation

Joining the meeting remotely, property owner Robert Schrader explained his proposal for a well to install irrigation for the trees. Considering the Conservation Restriction on the property held by the Town and the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation ("DCR"), Mr. Schrader has worked with an engineer and reviewed this proposal with DCR and is asking approval from the Board of Selectmen. DCR has determined that the improvement meets the criteria within the Conservation Restriction. Selectman Jaworski recommended notifying the Conservation Commission as a courtesy. The Board of Selectmen did not have any objection to the proposal and would like to see it move forward. Regarding the Conservation Commission's meeting schedule, Chairwoman Szynal would not want to see the plans delayed. There is no indication that Conservation Commission must act on it.

Town Administrator

Financial Update

- RE Tax Bills mailed
- Accountant reconciled through November

Treasurer reported bills are due February 1.

CARES Funding Update

- Round 2 payment from State \$155,148; \$177,382 in CvRF to date
- MA Office of Administration and Finance calculates a percentage cost that is FEMA eligible.

Chairwoman Szynal suggested contacting Senator Comerford to discuss formula for reimbursement.

MassWorks Grant Drawdown

- Town has expended \$297,900 of the \$2,000,000 grant funding

FY2022 Capital Planning

- Committee set to meet Jan. 11, 20 & Feb 1

FY2022 Budget

- Correspondence to Boards, Committee and Departments sent

Board concluded business. A motion was made by Selectman Jaworski and seconded by Selectman Moriarty to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 pm.

Respectfully,

Marlene Michonski
Town Administrator