

Approved March 15, 2021

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2021, 5:30 pm
Memorial Town Hall
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA
Virtual GoToMeeting

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

Also in attendance: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator; Sharon Strzegowski, Treasurer/Collector. Also in attendance via GoToMeeting: Phillip Genovese, Director, DPW; Lydia Szych, Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk Alaina Wilcox; Stephanie Slys, Planning Board Chair; Kerry Flaherty, Assistant to COVID coordinator; Amy Hudzik, Audrey Weston; and Jessica Corwin.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Selectman Moriarty wished to thank the DPW, the Fire Chief and crews for all of their hard work in cleaning up after the high winds on Monday. Selectman Jaworski also wanted to thank Eversource.

Town Administrator introduced Karen Brodeur who has been hired to replace Ki Eno, who will be retiring at the end of March. The new Executive Assistant, Karen Brodeur, was introduced to the Board and kindly welcomed.

Town Administrator Marlene Michonski reminded townspeople that there are vacancies on different boards and committees.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES The Minutes for January 19, 2021 meeting need to be corrected and resubmitted. Motion made by Selectman Moriarty to approve the February 8, 2021 Minutes; Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

Chair Szynal mentioned going out of order in order to accommodate the people present in the room. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to go out of order to take up business of the Route 5 Water/Sewer project. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

Rte. 5 Water/Sewer Project: Town Administrator Marlene Michonski stated that there are three parcels on Route 5 which the town needs to acquire easements in order to proceed with the water/sewer project. All three properties have had title searches done. Town Counsel is fine tuning the Order of Takings this week and expects to be completed shortly. A letter to the Selectboard from Susan Berry's Attorney John McLaughlin was forwarded to Town Counsel.

Attorney McLaughlin is in attendance at this evening's meeting. Chair Szynal asked if Attorney McLaughlin wanted to address the Board. Attorney McLaughlin claims that the vote itself is flawed because there is a statute that sets forward how a board could authorize a vote. He has been in touch with Town Counsel. Attorney McLaughlin said his client would like the chance to go before town meeting to lay out her case. His client would like to see the project be moved across the street. Ms. Berry would like to let the town know that this sewage pumping station is going to hurt the restaurant with outdoor dining. Attorney McLaughlin advised the Board that it may be more economical to put the sewage pumping station across the street. Also, referring that the statute states that you must publish the notice not simply post it. The notice was posted; however, there was no evidence the notice was published. He said that the process was not fair to his client, she did not have ample notice as she is the owner but does not live on the property. Chair Szynal thanked Attorney McLaughlin for presenting his case but that the Board was not going to take up this matter at this meeting and that he should be speaking with Town counsel about this matter.

COVID Update: Town Administrator Marlene Michonski stated that she did not believe the COVID Coordinator was in attendance and updated the Selectboard as to the current 13 new COVID cases in town. Code red message went out Monday night. Chair Szynal did not know the status of those cases but there was a meeting on Monday that discussed how the mitigation protocols in the school have worked very well. Chair Szynal suggested that Claudia Sarti should come to the next meeting. Selectman Jaworski stated that there is a problem in getting the vaccine to the teachers. Chair Szynal stated that they are trying to get teachers vaccinated soon. They are working with other towns to hopefully push forward in getting this done.

Rezoning Review: Planning Board Chair Stephanie Slys is recommending a rezoning. Discussion ensued about changing the zoning on a parcel of land on North Hatfield Road. Part of the parcel located on the GIS map #121 is zoned as part light industrial and part rural residential. There has been some talk in the past of getting that parcel rezoned to light industrial. In order for this matter to be taken up at the next Planning Board, the Board needs to approve the matter so that the Planning Board can go to a public hearing. Motion to submit to Planning Board for review and hearing was made by Chair Szynal; Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

Open Space Committee – Design Services Agreement: Rich Abbott and Mark Gelotte were in attendance should there be any questions regarding Design Services Agreement between the Town of Hatfield and Fitch Architecture & Community Design, Inc. for construction work of the pavilion. Chair Szynal asked if the agreement has been reviewed by Town Counsel. Town Administrator Marlene Michonski advised the Board that it was reviewed last year by Town Counsel. They also advised the Board that the price for the electrical work was \$3,600.00 more this year. It was agreed, after discussion, that the electrical work needs to be done properly and done right the first time. The pavilion was approved before but because of COVID, it was put on hold. The cake next to Town Hall will be taken down as soon as possible. Selectmen Moriarty made a motion to approve the contract between the Town of Hatfield and Fitch Architecture & Community Design, Inc. as presented; Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

Mr. Gelotte and Mr. Abbott also brought to the Board's attention that "no trespassing" signs have been placed on the White Rock Trail put up by an abutter on the trail. These signs are

posted on Town property. The Board suggested that maybe the DPW or police make contact with that abutter to advise them the signs are on town property. It was agreed that a letter would be sent from the Board to the abutter who posted those signs to have the signs removed.

Appointments/Resignations:

- **Open Space Committee:** The Board approved the appointment of Jim Crowell to the Open Space Committee. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to appoint Jim Crowell to the Open Space Committee to take the place of Peter Cocks. Selectmen Moriarty made a motion to approve the appointment; Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.
- **Council on Aging:** The Board approved the appointment of Gail Kopinto to fill the vacancy of Jill Tucker on the Council on Aging. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the appointment, Selectman Moriarty seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.
- **Annual Appointments:** However, discussion began as to why the Board is making these appointments for terms that only last a couple of months rather than making appointments for the full term which would bring those appointments until after the town election.

Chpt 61A, Notice of Intent, 96 Elm Street: Approval was required on the Right of First Refusal Notice of Intent to Convert land in Ch. 61A for the small plot of land located at 96 Elm Street. Selectman Jaworski made a motion that we as a Board choose not to purchase land coming out of 61A which includes 15,172 square feet or .3482 acres of land. Chair Szynal seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

Two Conservation Restrictions on Old Stage Road: Town Administrator Marlene Michonski advised the Board about the conservation restrictions on Old Stage Road there was a small change to the restriction. There were two changes made by the State. Town Administrator Marlene Michonski asked that the Board rescind the February 16, 2021 vote and then make a motion to vote the new current conservation restriction. Selectman Moriarty moved that the February 16, 2021 motion on the property on Old Stage Road be rescinded. Selectmen Jaworski seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved. Then Selectmen Moriarty made a motion that the Board accept the conservation on land on Old Stage Road on the entirety of 2.6 granted to Paul J. D'Auteurl. Selectmen Jaworski seconded the motion. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

Selectman Jaworski made a motion that the Selectboard rescind its February 16, 2021 vote approving the conservation restriction on land, Lot 2 Old Stage Road, 1.907 acre property from grantor Michael J. Marantz and Isabel Marantz. Selectman Moriarty seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was granted.

Local Cultural Council Grant: Town Administrator Marlene Michonski notified the Board that the Town receives an award from the state every year. This year the town has received \$4,900.00 from the state and Local Cultural Council Grant has been notified and they have to spend the money by June 30, 2021.

Employee use of vacation allotment: Treasurer/Collector Sharon Strzegowski brought to the Board's attention that some employees would like to either carry vacations over or have the town buy back their vacation time. Discussion ensued on which was the better way to handle this situation. It was agreed that a small portion of vacation time could be carried over but that all carry over vacation time must be used by June 30, 2022 or the employee will forfeit that time. This discussion was for non-union employees. As for union employees, this issue must be dealt with through their union. Selectman Moriarty made a motion that the Town of Hatfield non-union employees be able to carry over an additional third week of FY21 into FY22 with the understanding that the additional weeks of vacation must be used by June 20, 2022 or the employee will forfeit them, Selectman Moriarty seconded that motion. All voting in favor, the motion was approved. Meeting must be set up with the DPW union to discuss this matter.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Town Administrator Marlene Michonski advised the Board that she solicited an RFP for consulting services to assist with the updating the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The town received a grant for \$15,000.00. She only received one proposal from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. She will be scheduling meetings with the Fire Chief, Police Chief and DPW Director to move this matter forward.

Financial Update: Town Administrator Marlene Michonski advised the Board that the accountant will be on-site Thursday. The Treasurer and accountant continue to reconcile.

Town Hall Renovation Project Update: Town Administrator Marlene Michonski informed the Board there has been no change to the renovation update. Town Administrator Marlene Michonski informed the Board she is waiting for repairs to condensate pipe.

CARES Spending Update: Regarding the CARES spending, Town Administrator Marlene Michonski gave an update to the Board that the state has issued new guidelines and that use of those funds must be completed by June 30th. The school has received money and Treasurer/Collector Sharon Strzegowski would look into how that CARES Act monies was used.

FY2022 Capital Planning:

- Town Facilities: Discussion occurred regarding future of the town facilities and maintaining those facilities. Town Administrator Marlene Michonski suggested a committee to look into how town facilities can be maintained in the future. Chair Szynal asked if Capital Planning Committee could do an assessment.

FY2022 Budget: Update occurred on the budget for fiscal year 2022. Town Administrator Marlene Michonski reminded the Board of the budget meeting on March 31, 2021.

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN With no further business, Selectmen Jaworski a motion was made and Selectmen Moriarty seconded to adjourn. All those in favor, motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully,

Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant