

Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Memorial Town Hall Conference room & Teams  
Approved March 2, 2021

Jan 19, 2021, 5:30pm  
Diana Szynal, Chair

Present: Selectmen Brian Moriarty, Edmund Jaworski, Diana Szynal, Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator, Kerry Flaherty, COVID Coordinator, Sharon Strzegowski, Town Treasurer/Collector

Selectman Szynal called to order @5:35pm.

Selectman Szynal read the public participation policy.

#### Announcements

Selectman Szynal announced Executive Assistant, Ki Eno's retirement at the end of March. She also talked with Hatfield Elementary School 1st graders about being on the Selectboard. Public forum-no one was present for public forum.

#### Minutes

The minutes of January 13, 2021, and January 5, 2021 were approved on a motion by Selectman Moriarty seconded by Selectman Jaworski.

Chief Flaherty responded to false statements made at Public Forum 2 weeks ago regarding blasting at 50 King Street. A seismic report was completed, permits were obtained, and fees paid. The Fire Department did what it was supposed to do.

#### COVID Coordinator Report - Kerry Flaherty

15 cases are reported since last Monday. Some people had to be hospitalized. For vaccines Hatfield might have to coordinate with other towns. The Board of Health will not allow winter sports because numbers are high in town.

Ms. Szynal addressed anonymous rumors that spread is due to the Polish Club. The Polish Club is closed and has been closed, this may be related to some other town's Polish Club.

There have been complaints regarding gatherings. People need to wear masks, and not be gathering, or we will end up having to fine people.

Ms. Flaherty, and Mr. Pomeroy were thanked.

#### Appointments/resignations

Police Chief Dekoschak Cole Leighton. Officer Leighton holds an associate's degree and is academy trained. Selectman Moriarty moved to appointment Cole Leighton as part time police officer. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Selectman Jaworski moved to accept with regret the resignation of Elizabeth Denny from the Historical Commission. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved. There is now an opening on the Historical Commission.

#### Chief Flaherty - Staffing/Fire Fighter Grants

Chief needs a Full Time FF/EMT for the 7am – 4pm time-period. Calls are missed during this time-period and missed revenue is @ \$18,000. A team of 2 is required for transporting. We have used an emergency waiver, but that is not a permanent solution. Calls are missed because we don't have staffing. Selectman Szynal said we have been having these conversations for years. The town bill at a higher rate because we are running at paramedic level. The Chief has included data in his budgeting packet. The pandemic has dropped ambulance calls for 2020.

#### Assistance to Firefighters Grant – Communication Equipment

Chief Flaherty explained upcoming changes in Franklin and Hampshire County police and fire department radio communications systems that will affect Hatfield. He is seeking a grant to purchase multi-bandwidth communications equipment to replace radio equipment that is 18 years old. The grant is a 5% match and Hatfield's share would be around \$14,000. The town would only have 30 days to accept the award, and this happens between March and April.

Fire Chief and Police Chief are working together to maintain compatibility regarding changes to fire partners' radio upgrades. Changes will occur in Franklin and Hampshire systems within 6 months to 3 years. Chief Dekoschak said the Police Department is asking for radios which are not tri-bands at \$6700 each, but which nevertheless require expensive chargers, batteries, and other accessories. Ms. Szyal wants to make sure we have equipment compatible with our mutual aid communities. Police Chief Dekoschak informed that everything is going digital and small towns take a hit. Selectman Szyal thanked Fire Chief for exploring the grant opportunity.

#### Emergency Management Charter-

Choosing an Emergency Management Director is now part of the Fire Chief's duties. Emergency support functions, ESF were added to the Planning function, an example of which would be the media. This function would not make decisions about emergency procedures. The committee should not have authority to tell the Fire Chief or Police Chief how to handle emergency responses. They would work on emergency preparedness, COOP planning, etc. The charter change was a paring down to what is required by law.

The Board discussed membership on the Emergency Management Planning Committee. The updated charter was discussed at the EMPC meeting. Selectman Szyal read the 9 voting members. Selectman Moriarty clarified that membership is inherent in the position, not the person filling the position. Selectman Jaworski thanked both chiefs, and former Chief Gaughan for putting a lot of work into this. Only 9 will need to take an oath. Ms. Szych asked the Board to take a vote. Fire Chief Flaherty said previously because the number of people on the committee was too high there was no quorum at some meetings. There will be a differentiation between voting and nonvoting members. Ms. Szyal said this can be discussed at the next meeting. Ms. Szych is to be an advisory member.

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve a charter as presented by Fire Chief Flaherty. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

#### DPW Director – Update

There was a water main break at Elm Court. 100,000 gallons of water was lost. The problem was a piece of transite pipe between ductile iron pipes. This is a \$50,000 item. Mr. Genovese will put this on the Capital Plan.

The Chestnut Street water main is on hold until after winter. Insulated pipe was laid on top of the bridge for now so it wouldn't be damaged by plowing. The iron bridge will stay there.

Pipe has been delivered at the well on Route 5 for the MAWorks project. There was brief discussion concerning easements. Mr. Genovese recommends acceptance of what was approved at town meeting. Selectman Moriarty said we will work with owners to do the best job we can do - minimally with repairs to parking lot, and odor control. Mr. Genovese noted it will be like the cabinet at the Bed & Breakfast.

Council on Aging renovation is 95% complete: the last mini split was put in today. It came in at \$60-70,000.00 under budget. Mr. Genovese said he will have to put in more hours for custodial services.

A recent 3rd party inspection at the transfer station recommends replacement of the underground fuel tanks. This will go back on the capital plan with a cost of \$95-\$100,000 for 2000 gallon above-ground tanks. About 3 or 4 years ago the 3rd party inspection recommended they be replaced within 10 years.

Mr. Genovese reported that the Waste Water master plan is complete. Dave Prickett will do a presentation once restrictions are lifted for public meetings. Selectman Szynal said she likes these updates and thinks they should happen once a month.

Town Administrator-

Financial Update – Ms. Michonski reported that the Treasurer and Accountant are reconciled. The letter is finalized. She will reach out to Tony Roselli. The Board thanked everyone who had a role in getting us to this point.

Ms. Michonski will pull numbers together for the reimbursable expenses. There may be some costs eligible through the CARES Act. Selectman Moriarty noted that federal and state guidance was followed according to the guidelines we had at the time. Ms. Michonski said the school had returned some items that were not covered. Selectman Szynal asked about some cameras that were purchased but were not being used at the schools. Chief Flaherty said the school superintendent was supposed to get back with him about the cameras. Selectman Szynal summarized that we will continue to have COVID expenses.

The MassWorks quarterly report for October through December has been submitted.

Town Hall Renovation Change Order

The change order referred to alteration of a railing and replaced ceiling tiles.

Selectman Jaworski mentioned a plugged steam pipe.

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve change order 07 in the amount of \$3456.15. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Mr. Genovese briefly discussed problems with fire pump alarms and increased electric bill. Mr. Genovese was asked to provide bill copies.

Selectman Jaworski moved to adjourn. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved, and the meeting ended at 7:25pm