

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2021, 5:30 pm
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA
Virtual GoToMeeting
Approved: April 6, 2021

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

Also in attendance: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator; Lydia Szych, Town Clerk; Sharon Strzegowski, Treasurer/Collector; Robert Flaherty, Fire Chief; Tim Kane of Treeworks of MA

CALL TO ORDER Chairperson Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS None

PUBLIC FORUM None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES The Minutes for March 1, 2021 meeting need to be corrected to add Selectmen Jaworski as being present. Motion made by Selectman Moriarty to approve the March 1, 2021; March 2, 2021 and March 9, 2021 Minutes; Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

1. COVID-19 Update: Chair Szynal noted that Claudia Sarti was not in attendance at the meeting. Chair Szynal noted that she had a letter from Claudia Sarti stating that there were three new COVID cases from March 8, 2021 to March 14, 2021. Chair Szynal stated there is a reduction in the number of cases in the community so please continue to follow the CDC guidelines, adhere to the 6' social distancing guidelines and wear a mask. Selectmen Jaworski noted that vaccines are proceeding and it's getting better for people to get vaccinated. Chair Szynal also noted that there is a plan for getting schools back, a rollout, that is going to take a little time. Selectman Jaworski stated that March 27, 2021 is when teachers will be able to sign up for vaccinations, according to the Massachusetts vaccination site. Chair Szynal stated that some teachers are already being vaccinated.

2. Treeworks of MA: Treeworks of MA is looking to expand their license and is requesting authorization from the Board to hold a virtual community outreach meeting. Tim Kane of Treeworks of MA told the Selectboard that the State has three new requirements for the expansion of his license. The first step is for Treeworks of MA to host a virtual community outreach meeting. The second step is to request a special permit for the manufacturing license from the Board and then to negotiate the host community agreement. Chair Szynal clarified that the Board was only granting permission for a community outreach meeting and Mr. Kane confirmed. Chair Szynal questioned Mr. Kane about the expansion of his license. Selectman Jaworski stated that the wording on the Agenda is incorrect in that tonight's vote is only to grant approval for Treeworks of MA to host the community outreach meeting and not to expand the license. Treeworks would like to expand cultivation and sales

of marijuana. In order to obtain the special permit, the State requires he complete the three stages.

Chair Szynal made a motion that the Board authorize Treeworks of MA to do a virtual community outreach meeting under the circumstances of COVID. Selectman Moriarty seconded the motion. All in favor, motion was approved.

Selectman Jaworski noted that Treeworks of MA has their signage out and questioned Mr. Kane as to where he is in the process of his business. Mr. Kane informed the Board that Treeworks of MA received their final license from the State and is just about ready to start their first production batch and looking to make sales from their product manufacturing facility which should begin in about a month or so. Chair Szynal stated all those in favor, all in favor, motion was approved.

3. Appointments/Resignations: Chair Szynal noted that this issue was tabled from an earlier meeting. Lydia Szych, Town Clerk, noted that the question at the earlier meeting was why does the Board appoint people when they are really Town employees and at different times during the year. Ms. Szych stated that it has been done that way ever since she has been Town Clerk. Ms. Szych stated after extensive research on this matter she found that all the appointments are statutory and noted that under the statute they are appointed by the Selectmen. Regarding the Fire and Police Chiefs, their appointments follow their contracts. Selectman Moriarty noted the language drafted by Ms. Szych which might assist the Board. Ms. Szych stated that Selectman Moriarty brought up the issue of possibly changing the time frame of the appointments from July 1st to June 30th. Ms. Szych noted that prior to 2012, appointments ran from July 1st to June 30th. Ms. Szych stated that if the Board wanted to make the timeframe from July 1st to June 30th, she suggested the Board first extend the appointments and then take up the appointing in early June. Chair Szynal stated that would work as it would take care of Selectman Moriarty's concern. Selectman Moriarty stated that it seems to flow better given the way elections work in Town. Chair Szynal stated that at tonight's meeting they will be voting to extend all appointments through June 30th. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to extend the terms of all appointed persons, boards and committees to June 30th, of their respective "end of term year"; and to make annual appointments during the month of June going forward. Selectman Jaworski seconded the motion. All in favor, motion approved. Selectman Moriarty thanked Ms. Syzch for all of her work on this issue.

Ms. Szych stated that when Jim Crowell was appointed to the Open Space Committee the terms were off. Town Administrator Marlene Michonski stated that when the Board voted they left off the term because it would expire in 2021. Ms. Szych stated that Mr. Crowell's term would actually be three years. Ms. Szych stated that Mr. Crowell has already been sworn in. Selectman Moriarty said that we need to remind Mr. Crowell that his term is for three years.

Selectman Moriarty made a motion to appointed R. Scott Pomeroy as animal control officer. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All in favor, motion approved. Town Administrator Marlene Michonski stated that the Board needs to nominate R. Scott Pomeroy as the Inspector of Animals effective May 1, 2021 until April 30, 2022. Selectman Moriarty

nominated R. Scott Pomeroy to be the Inspector of Animals effective May 1, 2021 until April 30, 2022. Selectman Jaworski seconded the motion. All in favor, motion approved.

Chair Szynal wanted to thank Scott Pomeroy for all the hard work as the Animal Control Officer and the Inspector of Animals. No one really knows the work that goes into these two positions. Thank you Scott.

Chair Szynal stated that since Chief Flaherty was not available yet, the Board move on to Topic 5 and wait for Chief Flaherty to sign into the meeting.

5. Town Hall Renovation Project Update: Town Administrator Marlene Michonski updated the Board about the leaking pipes in the basement of Town Hall. Selectman Jaworski noted that the problem is bigger than anticipated.

4. Fire Chief Flaherty Mutual Aid Agreement with Town of Whately: Fire Chief Flaherty updated the Selectboard with regard to the Mutual Aid Agreement with the Town of Whately. Chief Flaherty informed the Board that the Town of Whately would provide initial fire department coverage on Interstate 91 southbound and the Town of Hatfield would provide initial fire department coverage on Interstate 91 northbound. Chair Szynal asked if the Agreement is for quicker and more efficient response to emergency calls. Chief Flaherty said if it is just a standard call like a car accident (just like we do now with Williamsburg) the other covers our calls on that side unless it turns into an actual fire then, by statute, Hatfield must respond. Unless the call turns into a long duration situation or they needed to be relieved from the call, then Hatfield would respond. This is only for fire calls. Now when Hatfield gets a call for 91 south, the responders must get to the station from their homes, get in the truck, go to South Deerfield to get on 91 south. This way Whately would get there quicker and visa-versa for 91 north. Selectman Jaworski thanked Chief Flaherty for all his hard work in getting this agreement. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to accept the Agreement presented by Chief Flaherty for cooperative efforts between Hatfield and Whately. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All in favor, the motion was approved.

6. CARES Spending Update: Town Administrator Marlene Michonski updated the Board on the CARES spending. Town Administrator Michonski advised the Board that she spoke with Massachusetts Office of Administration and Finance regarding the process of submitting eligible COVID expenses and she was assured that there will be coverage through FEMA or CARES. FEMA is a rolling grant program. For expenses submitted under CARES or allocated to Hatfield that have not been covered should be submitted to FEMA. She will be reviewing this with the Fire Chief. If money is available, it must be used by December of 2021. Selectman Moriarty thanked Chief Flaherty and Town Administrator Marlene Michonski for all their hard work in tracking and submitting the expenses related to COVID.

7. FY2022 Capital Planning Town Facilities: Town Administrator Marlene Michonski updated the Board on the assessment on Town facilities. She contacted David Keir and that he would be looking into this after Town elections. She stated that Fran Spellacy may be retiring but that David Keir would take on this project.

8. FY2022 Budget: Town Administrator Marlene Michonski brought up the Annual Town Meeting Warrant/FY2022 budget along with a copy of a draft warrant as the Board needs to start looking at this.

9. Route 5 Water/Sewer Project: Town Administrator Marlene Michonski stated that there is no update on the Route 5 water/sewer project as of today.

Selectman Moriarty made a motion to adjourn the public meeting and go into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)#2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; Treasurer/Collector Employment Agreement. Selectman Jaworski seconded that motion. All in favor, motion approved. The meeting ended at approximately 6:17 P.M.

Respectfully,

Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant