

Board of Selectmen Meeting:
Memorial Town Hall
Chairman:

Brian Moriarty

May 29, 2018 @ 5:30pm
Approved: September 19, 2018

Present: Selectman Brian Moriarty, Selectman Cindy Doty, Ms. Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator
Selectman Edmund Jaworski

The meeting opened at 5:30pm.

Reorganization of the Board

Selectman Doty nominated Selectman Jaworski to Chair the Board. Selectman Moriarty also said he is willing to serve again. Ms. Michonski said Selectman Moriarty and Selectman Jaworski have been nominated. Selectman Doty closed the nominations. Selectman Doty moved to elect Selectman Jaworski. Selectman Moriarty seconded. All voting in favor of Selectman Jaworski as Chair, the motion carried.

Selectman Jaworski announced there would be an Eversource hearing at 5:40.

Public Forum – Resident, Mike Cahill expressed disappointment that the Board or Finance Committee did not take advantage of the opportunity presented at Annual Town Meeting to update townspeople on the financial challenges the town is trying to address. Regarding the forensic report, Ms. Michonski said it is now on the town's website.

Announcements

Selectman Jaworski thanked Memorial Day participants for showing the patriotism of the town.

Eversource Public Hearing

Selectman Jaworski opened the public hearing at 5:40pm regarding a request for a new padmount on the grass belt in front of the building. Karla Cacho, Eversource representative presented the Eversource proposal. There was a request to upgrade from the present 200 amp service. The town will be charged a bill in the ballpark of \$3,000 to \$5,000. Responding to a question from Selectman Doty, Ms. Cacho said that renovations will go underground. The Fire Chief had said the issue is the fire pump. Selectman Jaworski moved to close the hearing. No decision was made by the Board at this time.

Approval of Minutes

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of March 21, 2018 as submitted. Selectman Jaworski seconded. He then said some comments made regarding the custodial agreement were not in the minutes and said he wished to think about this. The minutes were then tabled on motion of Selectman Moriarty.

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of April 17, 2018. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of May 8, 2018. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved.

Board Reorganization/Liaisons

Selectman Jaworski asked to take this up at a future meeting and let Selectman Doty and Selectman Moriarty have a chance to see what they're interested in.

Fire Chief Gaughan – Discussion /Review of EMD Position

Selectman Doty excused herself from this discussion. Selectman Jaworski read a proposal that emergency management become its own department answerable to the Board of Selectmen with a director's office relocated out of Fire Chief's office. Money would be moved from Fire Department salaries to Emergency Management and EM expense money would also be moved. Selectman Moriarty asked to take this item in parts. There is a problem with the EMD reporting to the Board of Selectmen because Selectman Doty holds the EMD position and there might be a perception of conflict of interest. Ms. Michonski, responding a question from Selectman Jaworski, said this has not been reviewed by legal counsel. Selectman Moriarty said if Selectman Doty is willing to not be compensated then he could make a motion right now.

Selectman Moriarty said his concern is the reporting to the Board. Chief Gaughan said there are a lot of parts to this and suggested getting a legal opinion or talking to MEMA saying this is an opportunity to better shape the position for the community. Selectman Moriarty said this term expires on June 30. Selectman Moriarty noted that in a majority of towns the Fire Chief or Police Chief is the EMD. Ms. Michonski said the position did report to the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Jaworski said but now we have a colleague in that position. Selectman Moriarty said if the position is filled following proper posting, we can avoid conflict of interest and do our due diligence and perhaps make it a stipend position.

Selectman Jaworski said he likes the recommendations but is concerned now since Selectman Moriarty brought up the conflict. He said we're trying to be open and make sure we're doing it the right way.

Emergency Management Planning Committee member, Ed Lesko suggested a call to the ethics commission, also suggesting keeping her in the position because she's doing an excellent job. Selectman Moriarty said to be clear, everything is for the best interests of the town. Letters from Police Chief and Fire Chief were received and this is the opportunity to have the job description so we cannot be perceived as having a conflict of interest. Selectman Jaworski said Ms. Michonski is to ask town counsel. Selectman Moriarty would like to see the position posted with the job description so that procedures are followed.

Fire Chief Gaughan said his second letter reflects the budget reduction asked by the Board. There was discussion about not being able to change the budget after a vote at Town Meeting. Ms. Michonski said space is an issue at Memorial Town Hall and she described how the veteran's agent and building inspector will have to share a room during town hall renovations. Selectman Jaworski said the Board will have to wait until we get more information, and perhaps re-advertise. Chief Gaughan said there is clearly a difference of opinion regarding hours. Selectman Jaworski said the 1st thing we have to find out is the conflict thing. Selectman Moriarty noted the decision is the Board's and the Board can clean up the job description if that person is going to report to us. Selectman Jaworski asked Ms. Michonski to get the information to be discussed at the next meeting. Selectman Moriarty said if we need to extend the position we can.

Letter of Resignation – Police Department

Selectman Moriarty moved to accept the resignation of Timothy Boyle. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved. Selectman Jaworski asked that a letter of thanks be sent.

One Day Liquor Permit – Pioneer Valley Indoor Karting

This is a charity fundraiser for Big Brothers and Sisters. The event is from 6pm to 9pm. Selectman Moriarty said they have met with Police Chief Dekoshak.

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the license from 5:00pm to 10:00pm. Selectman Doty said 1700 to 2200 hours. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved.

Town Administrator Report

Financial Report Update – GASB75 Actuarial Report

Ms. Michonski received Mr. Cole's update Friday. Schedule A is substantially complete and may be submitted next week. He is working on the balance sheet. Auditors will be here next Monday, June 4 and provided everything is in place, he could have a draft report by Monday, June 11. DOR would need a couple of days and afterwards they may certify free cash.

Ms. Michonski recommends the last week of June, for a Special Town Meeting. She has provided a list of what should be funded for discussion purposes. If the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee meet next week, the warrant would have to be signed the following week. Selectman Moriarty suggested meeting with Finance Committee on 6-12.

Ms. Michonski said there are FY18 deficits and read them from her list. Mr. Lesko requested \$25,000.00 be reinstated for the 350th Anniversary Committee.

Resident, Mike Cahill discussed FY17 with the Board and Ms. Michonski. He said at some point the Board should present something to the town.

Community Preservation Letters of Agreement - Ms. Michonski said these were authorized at Annual Town Meeting meeting this year. Selectman Moriarty moved to accept the three letters of agreement as proposed. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved.

Approve Rocks Road Conservation Restriction

Ms. Michonski explained the conservation restriction at White Rock Trail.

Selectman Moriarty moved to accept the conservation restriction as presented. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved.

HCOG Budget Update

Ms. Michonski reported that the HCOG executive committee met May 24th, but she has not received word of their vote or action. A letter that HCOG sent to area communities said that towns should be responsible for their deficit. There was discussion about HCOG services that the town uses. Resident, Ed Lesko asked if we are getting our money's worth. Ms. Michonski said the number of participants drives the rates and there are only 5 other towns participating in the IT program. Selectman Doty said IT and gas prices were discussed and she is concerned about the sustainability of HCOG and mentioned the HCOG employee bonuses. She said their annual report was not good and Belchertown pulled out. Ms. Michonski said fewer towns increase the assessment. Selectman Doty noted regarding IT, that they are the middle man and get 6%. She said the town should really take notice because of the letter.

The Board discussed some of the HCOG issues. Selectman Moriarty suggested maybe getting a commitment from them about prices. Ms. Michonski said the HCOG losing clients is affecting the municipalities that remain.

Request for Section 15 License

The Board discussed a request by the Hatfield Center Store with Ms. Michonski. She will work with the Board and town counsel for a draft article that would go to Annual Town Meeting.

Selectman Moriarty moved to accept the request for an additional package store license. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved.

Selectman Jaworski said we're finally getting the front steps done, work started today. This will take 2 weeks so he asked that people use the side door.

Ms. Michonski noted regarding Memorial Town Hall renovation that she received a draft copy of specs from the architect. She has made a request for prevailing wages to DOL. Ms. Michonski this is going into the central register possibly this week for bids. Also, she reached out to the diocese last week by calling Mr. Labroad but has not heard back from him.

There followed a brief discussion regarding the bids and funding for the project. Ms. Michonski estimated the middle of July for the start of construction perhaps going through April.

FRTA

Selectman Doty said her concern is that a bus stop is provided but not the required sidewalks. Only the shelter is paid for but sometimes it falls on the owner of the land and that may be part of what's taking so long. They like to have a matching stop across the road. There is one at the old Danco building, or by la mirage. Selectman Moriarty inquired who contacts the property owners, FRTA has asked them. FRTA Representative, Rauley Caine will set up a meeting with Selectman Doty, Ms. Michonski, and Mr. Genovese.

Selectman Moriarty moved to adjourn. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting ended at 7:20PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ki. J. Eno
Executive Assistant