

Board of Selectmen Meeting:

Memorial Town Hall

Chairman: Edmund E. Jaworski

Nov. 1, 2018 @ 6:00pm

Approved: Feb. 12, 2019

Present:

Selectman Brian Moriarty, Selectman Cindy Doty, Selectman Edmund Jaworski, Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator

Selectman Jaworski opened the meeting at 6:00pm. He announced the Assessors would be attending for a tax classification hearing.

A ceremony at Memorial Town Hall was announced for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, to be held Nov. 11 at 11:00am. Also announced was voting on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> for the Open Space Committee design for Smith Academy Park pavilion. There will be sketches of pavilion designs available and everybody can vote, even those who voted previously so, please stop by and vote.

No information is yet available on the water grant for West St. No grants have yet been awarded for Hampshire County. Selectman Moriarty asked the time for the Veterans ceremony – it will be 11-11 at 11:00am.

Approval of Minutes

Selectman Jaworski moved to approve the minutes of 1-17-18. Selectman Moriarty seconded. Selectman Doty said she would like to discuss this later as it was for an executive session. Ms. Michonski noted that minutes are not verbatim. Selectman Doty would like to discuss it further. Selectman Moriarty said this actually had to do with the Fire Chief and only 2 Board members should have been part of the conversation. Selectman Moriarty explained that the position of the EMD was under the Fire Chief and the Chief's contract was part of that meeting. Selectman Moriarty voted aye. Selectman Jaworski voted no, so minutes were not approved.

Selectman Moriarty moved to accept the minutes of 7-13-18. Selectman Jaworski seconded. This motion was approved.

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the executive session minutes of 7-13-18. Selectman Jaworski seconded. It was noted that a referenced recommendation was from the Finance Committee, not auditors. The motion was approved.

Fire Department appointment-

Selectman Jaworski read the Fire Chief's letter regarding EMT, Benjamin Lavie of School Street.

Selectman Jaworski moved to accept Mr. Labie as EMT. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved. Selectman Moriarty and Selectman Jaworski thanked him.

Cruiser Donation-

Ms. Michonski said this is regarding surplus property. Chief Dekoschak suggested donating an old cruiser to the Plainfield Police Department as they are looking for equipment. The cruiser needs work.

Selectman Moriarty moved to declare a 2011 Expedition as surplus. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved. Selectman Jaworski said it is great we can help another department in need and he thanked Chief Dekoschak for the idea.

Selectman Moriarty moved to support the recommendation to donate a 2011 Ford Expedition to the Town of Plainfield. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

#### Election Worker Appointments

Selectman Jaworski read the town clerk's request.

Selectman Moriarty moved to appoint 3 election workers as recommended by the Town Clerk. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved.

#### School Committee Appointment

Selectman Moriarty said during bargaining with the teachers association the town, in the past, has had a selectboard member representation. He recommends Finance Committee member, Betsy Rider be the representative to the Hatfield Teachers Association negotiations. He has contacted her previously and she is alright with it. Selectman Moriarty moved to appoint Betsy Rider as Board of Selectmen representative to the Hatfield Teachers Association negotiations. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved.

#### CPC Grant Request Application-

Ms. Michonski said this concerns the Memorial Town Hall renovation project. She has provided copies to the Board, but they haven't had time to review this.

Selectman Jaworski said unfortunately things cannot be scaled back and the architect came back with the cost of phase 2 being \$390,000.00 over. Because of a twice failed water pressure test, a fire pump is necessary, or a 10 inch extension which would cost a half million dollars. The Board has discussed the 2 phases of the project; part 1 would be just for handicap accessibility and the second would be for a down ramp and improvements to the kitchen. He talked about funding options that had been discussed – CPC or a town vote.

Selectman Moriarty said we had an original extension through September 2018 but we found the costs were more than allocated. They did extend this until June 2020, so we need to have the building ADA compliant to meet their expectations and our obligation to them. However, by waiting the costs have gone up. More information will follow but the town needs to know that at a minimum, we need to have ADA compliance and so we will ask CPC for money.

Selectman Jaworski said some say the ramp should be at the back because of people with mobility issues. Selectman Moriarty explained that there will be 1 ramp, but Selectman Jaworski is referring to a secondary ramp, that maybe we can look into at some point in the future. We can have a meeting and the townsfolk can decide. Ms. Michonski said the Board can review the CPC application and discuss it with her.

#### Possible Special Town Meeting-

The Board discussed water and WWTP grant applications filed on the town's behalf. The town was approved for a \$200,000.00 reimbursable grant. Regarding the end of November deadline, Selectman Jaworski said we should have heard about this earlier from Dave Prickett. Selectman Moriarty said it should be up to the townspeople if they want to move forward. The bottom line is it's a \$480,000.00 project for necessary improvements. Ms. Michonski has discussed straight borrowing or a debt override with Ms. Palmisano. If we move forward with Special Town Meeting for the end of November, the warrant needs to be posted 14 days prior. The Board is to decide on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.

Assessors Stan Pitchko, Scott McCoy and Assessors Clerk, Jennifer Dawson came before the Board at 6:30pm. Selectman Jaworski noted that each year there is a choice of 1 or 2 tax classifications, for residential or commercial, or 1 rate for both.

The Board of Assessors recommended a factor of 1 be adopted for FY19, which would keep a single tax rate for all classes of property in Hatfield. The Board of Assessors recommended that no open space

discount be granted for FY19. The Board of Assessors recommended that no residential exemption be granted for FY19, and the Board of Assessors recommended no small commercial exemption be granted for FY19.

Selectman Moriarty moved to accept the Board of Assessors recommended factor of 1 for FY19, which would keep a single tax rate for all classes of property in Hatfield, Selectman Jaworski seconded.

Selectman Moriarty moved to accept the Board of Assessors recommendation that no open space discount be granted for FY19. Selectman Jaworski seconded.

Selectman Moriarty moved to accept the Board of Assessors recommendation that no residential exemption be granted for FY19. Selectman Jaworski seconded.

Selectman Moriarty moved to accept the Board of Assessors recommendation that no small commercial exemption be granted for FY19. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The Board having approved the Assessors' recommendations then thanked the Assessors. Mr. Pitchko said he appreciates the Board's trust and confidence.

#### Thanksgiving Holiday Schedule

Ms. Michonski said past practice has been that the Board of Selectmen grant town employees the day off on the day after Thanksgiving. Selectman Moriarty moved to grant town employees the day after Thanksgiving off. Selectman Jaworski seconded. This motion was passed.

Selectman Moriarty said additionally that since this is done every year it could be made a part of the employment policy for non-contract employees. Ms. Michonski said that would include the building inspector, fire chief and police chief.

#### EMD Appointment/Job Description

Selectman Doty's expressed concern that the term 'remedial action' on the agenda did not clearly convey the meaning of what was to be taken up and that this might repeat what brought about the necessity for the remedial action in the first place. Ms. Michonski said that she should have added an open meeting law complaint to the agenda. She said this was a topic on the agenda at the last meeting when the Board asked for a revote at their next meeting. After a brief discussion the item was tabled on motion of Selectman Moriarty until the meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Selectman Moriarty moved to adjourn. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved and the meeting ended at 6:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ki J. Eno

Executive Assistant