

Board of Selectmen Meeting:  
Memorial Town Hall Conference Room  
Chairman: Edmund E. Jaworski

December 19, 2018 @ 5:30pm  
Approved: March 20, 2019

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

Selectman Jaworski opened the meeting at 5:30 pm and announced the Board would meet in executive session. Selectman Jaworski read Pursuant to MGL Ch. 30A, Section 21(a), #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares. Selectman Moriarty seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. Selectman Moriarty aye, Selectman Jaworski aye, and Selectman Doty voting aye, all voting in favor the Board convened in executive session. The Board returned to open session at 6:15pm.

#### Announcements –

Selectman Jaworski wished everyone a happy holiday season. Luminarium will be December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30p.m. He read the schedule of festivities and wished everyone a safe holiday. There was no-one present for public forum.

#### Appointments

Selectman Jaworski moved to appoint Stephanie Slys to the Planning Board. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved. This was a joint vote with the Planning Board who voted according to a roll call. Paul Labbee, voting aye, Paul Dostal, voting aye, and Robert Wagner, voting aye, the motion was passed.

#### Pioneer Valley Conservation Compact - Michael Paszek

Selectman Moriarty moved that Michael Paszek be the Planning Board representative to the Pioneer Valley Conservation Compact. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved.

#### Chapter 61a Property – N. Hatfield Road

Mr. Bob Wagner, Planning Board, Chair and Ag Commission

Mr. Wagner said the Boards he represents and also the Conservation Commission encourage the Board of Selectmen to exercise the town's right of 1<sup>st</sup> refusal. He mentioned a change of use and is aware of 3 potential non-approval lots. The Planning Board has met with representative of the land owner who is indicating a housing subdivision is to be on the property. Mark Gelotte has talked with farmers interested in farming the land, and talked with Kestrel Land Trust about a package to keep the land for agricultural use. Money also needs to be raised for a conservation easement. Potential funding options were discussed for a possible habitat for humanity purchase as the town is far behind the state mandate for 10% affordable housing.

Mark Walmsley, Kestrel Land Trust, advised that if the Board votes it will trigger a clock on this timeline, 120 days from October – would be the beginning of February. If the right is exercised or transferred, a second clock will start. The financial aspect was discussed. Mr. Wagner said the property, now in 61a, doesn't generate a lot of taxes but the town doesn't provide a lot of services. More tax revenue would come with a lot of cost, or as a Gazette headline read, "cows don't go to school." Selectman Moriarty asked how the town would pay for the land. Mr. Wagner said the town must match a bona fide offer. If the right of 1<sup>st</sup> refusal is transferred to Kestrel, they can pre-acquire the property for \$430,000.00, then we will pay them back. The landowners' situation was briefly discussed.

Mark Walmsley, Kestrel Land Trust – As long as the project is in 61a we're limited to the agreement struck between the owner and buyer; there's no negotiation. Kestrel can be assigned the right of 1<sup>st</sup> refusal. Mr. Wagner said this property is between North Hatfield and Straits Roads, and adjacent to Black Birch Vineyard. It would be a challenge for the town to have a subdivision there. Selectman Jaworski asked if

the town would have to put up a lot of money. Mr. Wagner answered the only cost to the town would be what the town agrees to contribute through CPA.

Selectman Doty said the Hatfield master plan includes preserving the rural character. She read the 12-12-2004 Right to Farm bylaw, and said this is in line with the town and the peoples' wishes.

Selectman Jaworski asked what Mr. Wagner needs from the Board. Mr. Wagner asked that the Board of Selectmen do nothing at this time. He said Kestrel will want information before Annual Town Meeting as we can't wait until Annual Town Meeting. Selectman Jaworski thanked Mr. Wagner for bringing more information to the Board.

Selectman Jaworski moved to appoint Julianne O'Connor to the Local Cultural Council, Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved.

#### Town Accountant

Selectman Jaworski moved to appoint Baystate Municipal Accounting as Hatfield Town Accountant for 1 year. Ms. Michonski said a person or company could be town accountant but only a company could be a temporary town accountant. Selectman Moriarty moved to appoint Justin Cole as Town Accountant until September 1, 2019. Ms. Michonski said she can investigate if it has to be 1 year or 3 years. Selectman Doty seconded for discussion. Ms. Michonski said town counsel advised appointing Baystate. Selectman Moriarty withdrew his motion. The motion was approved.

#### January 2019 – Special Town Meeting and Election

Selectman Jaworski explained the West Street sewer extension grant for \$200,000.00. he said we found out we would not be able to set the tax rate if we put the cost overruns for town hall improvements on the Special Town Meeting.

#### ADA Compliance, Handicap Elevator

The Council on Aging kitchen rehab and costs went over but the Town got an AAB extension for 2 years. Cost overruns were \$380,000.00 on an article 1 and over \$200,000.00 on a second. Article 1 is the fire protection and handicap access – the longer we wait the more it costs us. mentioned the fire test. There was brief discussion about fire pump.

Ms. Michonski said a January date makes it tight, and the moderator won't be available. Selectman Jaworski mentioned the 61a property coming up. Selectman Moriarty said the town hall project is very important. We will have gotten extensions for 7 years so it must be up and running in 2020. It's a two-part process, a vote at town meeting and a special election. Selectman Moriarty noted having it in January makes everyone's life easier. Mr. Wagner said a February date would be past our 120 days so Kestrel may not be able to act on it. Ms. Szych said there would be a special election for the debt exclusion and the ballot would have 2 articles. Special Town Meeting is within 35 days of special election.

Ms. Szych needs time after setting a date for Special town election for reports. January 15<sup>th</sup> would be the last day to submit questions. Selectman Jaworski moved to have Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved.

Mr. Lavallee said people respond if it's a time sensitive issue. He cautioned against people trying to slip additional items through. Selectman Jaworski agreed with Mr. Lavallee. Selectman Moriarty said there may be something from the school about SPED costs.

January 9<sup>th</sup> is the next Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Lavallee said there is a lack of communication. He said people only come to meetings if there is something they're interested in. Controversial issues bring people out to vote. Selectman Jaworski said the increase of the Board of Selectmen isn't something he would do at a Special Town Meeting, but rather Annual Town Meeting. Kerry Flaherty suggested putting an announcement in with tax bills or census.

The Board discussed setting an election date with Ms. Szych. Ms. Szych said she can put something in the census mailing. Selectman Jaworski moved to have special election on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved. Ms. Michonski will need to have warrant articles.

#### License Renewals

Selectman Moriarty moved to renew licenses for 2019 as presented this evening. Selectman Doty seconded. Selectman Jaworski abstained. The motion was approved.

#### Old Stage Road

Selectman Jaworski moved to accept quit claim deed and to approve a conservation restriction. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved. Selectman Jaworski thanked Mr. Wagner for his work on this.

#### Request for Extended Hours on New Year's Eve

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the Double B's request for extended hours on New Year's Eve. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved. The Police Department is to be notified.

#### Town Administrator- Hampshire Power Cost-

Ms. Michonski said Hampshire Power notified the town of a cost increase of less than 1 penny per kilowatt hour. DOER lifted a program capacity cap allowing Hampshire Power to pass on this cost.

#### Financial Update-

Ms. Michonski said the town set the tax rate at 13.89 for FY19. Regarding the FY18 reconciliation some items are outstanding, and the peer review is moving slowly. Mr. Cole is still confident they will be ready for the auditors. Ms. Michonski said Mr. Cole anticipates free cash will be certified before the end of January and that we'll be back on schedule for FY19.

#### Holiday Schedule-

Ms. Michonski asked if the Board would grant employees a shortened Christmas Eve work day or close for the day. Selectman Jaworski said everybody sacrificed this past year so he moved to close for Monday, December the 24<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved.

#### Approval of Minutes-

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the meeting minutes of 11-29-18. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the meeting minutes of 9-19-18. Selectman Jaworski seconded. FRTA – add word previously. Minutes were approved with 1 edit.

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the meeting minutes of 8-28-18. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

#### HR Policy- Section 15.7, #1-

Ms. Michonski is awaiting answer from town counsel regarding a difference in language in the probationary period and recommended delaying this item. Selectman Moriarty said this should be held until we hear back from town counsel.

Selectman Moriarty reminded that Sunday is Luminarium.

Selectman Moriarty moved to adjourn. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The meeting ended at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ki J. Eno

Executive Assistant