

Board of Selectmen
Memorial Town Hall

Feb, 28, 2017, 5:45p.m.
Approved: April 4, 2017

Selectman Brian Moriarty, Chair
Selectman Edmund Jaworski
Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator

Announcements-

Selectman Moriarty announced Selectman Boyle's resignation. He thanked Selectman Boyle for many years dedicated service to the town and its residents. He will be missed as a member of the Board.

Public Forum-

Ron Punska of Maple Street, said Selectman Boyle has known him dedicated, tremendous worker and family man, who gave 30 years to the military and probably worked 40-50 hours/week. Mr. Punska said we owe him a serious debt of gratitude and he will be sorely missed.

Minutes

Selectman Jaworski moved to approve minutes of 1-31-17. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved.

Police Chief-

Fran Gougeon reported that the screening committee had completed their preliminary screening. Ernie Patnode, Russ Sienkowicz, Andrew Berrios, Tom Osley completed their work, having received 41 applications. These were screened on criteria as requested by the Board of Selectmen and 9 candidates were asked to complete Town of Hatfield employment applications. Of these 3 were chosen to be interviewed. Interviews were conducted and the committee forwarded two candidates for the Board's review: Michael Dekoshak and John Delaney, of the Springfield Police Department. Mr. Gougeon also thanked Ms. Michonski for her assistance.

Selectman Jaworski thanked Mr. Gougeon and the committee. Selectman Moriarty echoed Selectman Jaworski's sentiment. Having received recommendation from the Committee the Board of Selectmen will interview both candidates.

Zoning Board of Appeals -

Lisa Berkman, Chair, ZBA noted there are 2 vacancies on her Board, those of Fran Spellacy and Bryan Nicholas, who went to the Planning Board. ZBA asks the Board of Selectmen to accept the application of Charlie Guimond for appointment. Ms. Berkman explained he is a school counselor with a real estate license and Jonathan Scagel, who works at Smith Academy, also with a background in real estate. Selectman Moriarty said he is involved with the Hatfield Elementary School. Selectman Moriarty said he agrees with the strategy: Mr. Guimond would be the sitting member and Mr. Scagel would be the alternate, replacing Mr. Nicholas.

Selectman Jaworski moved to accept the ZBA recommendation. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved.

Selectman Moriarty asked Town Clerk, Lydia Szych to explain the election for Selectman Boyle's seat in May to fulfill the remaining 2 years of his 3 year term. This means there would be 2 seats on the Board to be elected. Nomination papers are due 3/28, so 15 days prior to that is the last day to get notice to the town clerk. Papers will be available Thursday afternoon and there will be 3 weeks to get 20 or more signatures. When papers are pulled they're pulled for a particular seat.

Selectman Moriarty moved the Board of Selectmen have the election for the remaining term of the vacated selectman's seat on the warrant for the annual town election on May 16th, 2017. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Ms. Szych informed the Board that Selectman Boyle was the Board's representative to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. She said it was not necessary to choose a rep to CIPC tonight. She said this also affects PVPC. She will get everything ready for Thursday.

Town Administrator Report

Ms. Michonski asked the Board to approve warrant #1030 for \$29,495.76. Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the warrant as presented. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Town Report

The due date for submissions is 3/6 and everybody's information should be in by then. Ms. Michonski asked the Board to consider individuals for the dedication page.

Appointment to Veteran's Commemorative Committee

Selectman Jaworski moved to appoint Michael Paciorek to the Veteran's Commemorative Committee. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved.

Ms. Michonski informed the Board that Bob Wagner is expected to attend tonight's meeting.

Ms. Michonski gave an update on the town's FY17 District Local Technical Assistance Program and noted a letter from PVPC in the meeting packet. There will be a meeting with a PVPC technical person to engage in projects identified from the town's housing production application. Members are needed to sit on the Housing Committee. The Planning Board would be involved and Stephanie Slys may be interested in sitting in on the discussions.

Colonial Power – Municipal Aggregation Response to Public Utilities

Hatfield was compared to Upton. Ms. Michonski finds the comments acceptable. She informed that HCOG was working on a petition on behalf of towns but the Department of Public Utilities rejected that plan and the COG suggested towns pursue projects individually. Ms. Michonski is to meet with Selectman Jaworski to bring him up to speed. Selectman Moriarty said it was surprising that the initial request was denied as it dealt with so many towns. Selectman Jaworski asked how much the town would save, Ms. Michonski did not know off the top of her head.

Ms. Michonski mentioned Saturday's storm. The Fire Chief did an assessment; everything in Hatfield was ok though Conway and Goshen did not fare well, Chief Gaughan and Mr. Genovese reached out to them to offer Hatfield's assistance. Selectman Moriarty said he reached out to Selectman O'Rourke, Conway and left a message at the Town of Goshen offering assistance. Selectman Jaworski spoke with the Fire Chief and Police Department. He suggested having Emergency Management people come in to speak so townspeople would be aware and feel assured that we have processes ready to go. Selectman Moriarty thanked Mr. Genovese and Chief Gaughan.

Planning Board - Moratorium for Marijuana Retail

Ms. Michonski informed that the Board is looking at 1 year moratorium. She has discussed an opt-out option with Bob Wagner. There are other options that can be discussed. This would require an article for the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Some language is included in the packet around wording. Selectman Moriarty said it's right to hear what the Planning Board has to say given that legislators are still trying to figure out the language. He said he thinks it's premature to opt out as there is still a lot of information to be gleaned. There is a meeting next week in Worcester about interpreting the laws.

Bob Wagner, Planning Board Chair, said he has spoken with Ms. Michonski and Ms. Szych regarding other towns and a moratorium which would allow time to plan and think about zoning. He said if the town decides a retail, manufacturing or production facility would be allowed in town it would be in conjunction with the Planning Board and Board of Health. The Attorney General has approved a moratorium with a 1 year time frame. The Planning Board voted to put a moratorium article on the warrant for May. An “opt out” provision was discussed, i.e. a town might choose to have no marijuana establishments or facilities in its community. Mr. Wagner said he is not advocating one way or the other. He noted that the legislature may extend the period of time or the federal government may also clamp down on state initiatives.

Regarding the law option for local tax, a community can put up to a 2% sales tax on sales of marijuana which is something for the community to think about. Mr. Wagner said this will happen at some point and purchasers will be able to make legal sales in other towns. He said we may want to think about a positive impact this may have on the town through generating sales tax with the easy access from the highway and retail shops nearby. This is the vote of the people and did pass in Hatfield. Selectman Moriarty asked if the town chose the moratorium, could it then opt out at the end of that period. Ms. Szych said she has not read the law, but said this may also be a ballot question. The opt out would be all or nothing.

Selectman Moriarty said he is still inclined to support a moratorium, knowing we could ultimately opt out or have time to figure things out. Selectman Jaworski said we did say we support a moratorium to give everyone a chance to figure things out. Mr. Wagner said that is the opinion of the Planning Board. The Planning Board will have a hearing on the moratorium, 3-22. He asked people to check the website for the date of the hearing. Selectman Jaworski thanked Mr. Wagner for his work.

Mr. Wagner said as Chair of the Agriculture Commission he was looking into interest for community gardens. Surveys were left at the library and town hall and as a tear off on the census. Fifty were received. There is a meeting tomorrow and they are moving forward to organize an information session to inform folks and potential volunteers. He will want to come back to talk about access to land, etc. Selectman Moriarty said this has to be a coordinated effort with the cemetery people. They are looking at the growing season of 2018 so there will be time to plan.

The Board recessed at 6:30pm and afterwards met with members of the Finance Committee: Fran Gougeon, Paul Fisher, Sean Barry, Darryl Williams, Shawn Robinson in a working session.

COA-

Kerry Flaherty, Amanda “Cooky” Zygmunt, Susan Hurley, Jill Tucker, and Janie Betsold were in attendance. Ms. Flaherty went over some of the expense lines. She said postage and dues are up a little. W. MA COA dues are based on the number of seniors in the community. The Council on Aging Director’s salary was discussed. Last year a \$4 increase was requested and \$2 was received. They are coming back to ask for the additional \$2 this year. A short discussion ensued regarding whether the Council on Aging Director received a COLA last year. Ms. Flaherty said after 28 years of service Ms. Betsold would be at the top of the range which the town set. She said we’ve been trying to get her up to the top of the range for several years.

They are also requesting that the office assistant be compensated equal to the secretaries upstairs as Ms. Zygmunt performs as Ms. Betsold when Ms. Betsold is not here. Also, the van drivers are underpaid based on other area van drivers. The 20+ hours per week van driver would be \$14/hour instead of the current \$12.50. Ms. Flaherty said a CPR certification will be required of these positions, which is a change in the job descriptions. Training will be done for the defib machine. Ms. Betsold said new training will be done yearly after elections.

Mr. Robinson said there are no capital improvement requests from Council on Aging. Director, Jane Betsold said that is up to Mr. Genovese and she made suggestions last year. Selectman Moriarty mentioned the feasibility study for phase 3, of the Memorial Town Hall renovation. He said the study will try to find out the needs of the COA. Ms. Betsold noted there has never been a needs assessment done. Selectman Jaworski said the feasibility study needs COA input. Mr. Robinson said the Council on Aging was not considered in the process of planning each phase. Selectman Moriarty said that was rectified. Ms. Zygmunt said last year we were finally heard.

Assessors

Ron Punska, Stan Pitchko, Jenni Williams, and Scott McCoy were in attendance.

Mr. Punska noted a 1% increase. Mr. Pitchko said the Assessors are pretty frugal. They have requested a 2% increase for Ms. Williams. Mr. Pitchko said she does a tremendous amount of work, and is 1 of the lowest paid in the district. Mr. Robinson said seeing comparisons about clerks' salaries would be helpful.

Building Inspector, - Kyle Scott

Mr. Scott noted that Inspection Services is presenting a level budget except for a requested increase in salary. He said he has a master's degree in engineering and doesn't take the health plan from Hatfield. He said the rate in Hatfield is not comparable. Selectman Jaworski asked if inspectors are paid salary and if they work only when they inspect. Mr. Scott said they field lots of phone calls and receive a \$10,200 stipend.

Mr. Robinson said Mr. Scott is always accessible. Selectman Moriarty said his reputation with homeowners is impressive. Selectman Jaworski said he is looking for justification of increases for others besides Mr. Scott. Mr. Scott explained that more commercial work takes in a tremendous amount of permit money, towards the 200k level. There is a revolving fund but the Building Inspector doesn't use it. Mr. Scott said Walter Geryk will retire at the end of June. Selectman Jaworski said David Lizek is now retired. Tim Paciorek will be taking over for Mr. Lizek. Buster Symanski was also noted to be a great guy to work with who will answer your call any time and fields a lot of questions. Mr. Scott said his department's expenses are level funded. Mr. Robinson noted Mr. Scott is paid for 28 hours and Mr. Scott said he does more work than that. He said every phone call gets answered the same day.

Town Clerk-

Ms. Szych said she wants to get paid for hours she is actually working. She said the clerk's salary job was based on an estimated 24 hours. She said the town clerk is doing more work. Ms. Szych said that Wilma Davis, Secretary for the Planning Board in particular, asks for advice because of the town clerk's legal background. Early election was terrible, involving more hours and as the RAO – records access officer, she has had 16 public records requests January. One was for 95 N. Hatfield Road, C&S for all building and zoning permits that were issued; this is all paper documentation. Mr. Fisher asked if we can bill for that and Ms. Szych answered for the 1st 2 hours. Mr. Barry noted that regarding the new public records laws, some may try to test the system just to sue. This consumes a lot of time. Ms. Szych gave an example of spending 40 minutes for 6 pages. We can charge for copies at .05.

Ms. Szych's office has no coverage on Wednesdays as she is a part time clerk. Mr. Williams said everyone got used to Louise being there Mon-Fri. There was brief discussion around what an assistant is allowed to do. Ms. Szych said an assistant, whom she is teaching to do copies of birth and death certificates, would be there on Wednesdays. Ms. Szych said residents are used to getting things done right away. She said there was even a selectman saying they did not understand why Ms. Szych wasn't working full time. Mr. Williams asked if she sees hers as an elected position and she answered that she thinks it should be an appointed position. She said she shadowed Louise, the former town clerk, using her vacation time. Someone without the right background could be a little dangerous to the town. Mr. Barry said it might be really hard even if you were to hire someone as no one goes to town clerk school. Ms. Szych said the parking clerk is the town

collector. The town collector can collect more than just a tax collector. The Police Department is not able to collect parking tickets.

Selectman Moriarty said basically your budget is level but next year will be slightly higher because of elections. The Board of Registrars will finish up the census. Mr. Williams said to send the information to the Finance Committee. Mr. Gougeon and Mr. Barry may roll off the Finance Committee so Betsy Ryder, and Edwina Palmisano are attending as they may be interested in being on the committee.

Board of Health -

Ms. Kerry Flaherty, Chair

Responding to a question from Selectman Jaworski, Ms. Flaherty explained that the health agent works for the Board of Health doing inspections, representing the town in court, and T5, perc testing, etc. There was brief discussion about Board of Health member stipends. Selectman Jaworski asked about a regional agent. Ms. Flaherty said Hatfield is very busy & Mr. Kaniecki brings many benefits. Mr. Barry said HCOG once looked at the regional health agent thing. Ms. Flaherty said the Board receives a lot of phone calls and emails and 2 separate cases brought us to court a lot. 2 of 3 Board members can't do inspections. Ms. Flaherty said currently there is someone going around not doing things to State code and the town says we want somebody there to witness it.

She said the Board of Health pays for Sharps containers. They also experience lower costs because some meetings and training classes are offered here. The Board requests an increase for the health agent and moved money from the expense line to salary to compensate for more health agent hours. These have been increased by 6 hours per week i.e. - from 8 to 14 hours. Ms. Flaherty said the Board doesn't use town counsel because of Mr. Kaniecki's expertise. Mr. Robinson asked about giving up stipends to cover the health agent increase. Ms. Flaherty said there are some things Board members must be present for. Mr. Kaniecki recently retired from regional public health. Selectman Moriarty said if he's working 12 hours he should be compensated for 12 hours.

Ms. Szych said the treasurer, collector, and accountant are all 24 – 27 dollars an hour, and the town clerk is still \$22.84. Mr. Williams said all those positions should be appointed. There was brief discussion regarding the clerk's training.

Selectman Moriarty moved to adjourn. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The meeting ended at 8:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ki J. Eno
Executive Assistant