

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Memorial Town Hall

10-25-17
approved 11-15-17

Present:

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

Also present: Darryl and Lucinda Williams, Sinead Coleman, Bob Wagner, Sean Barry, Treasurer Laura Lee Bertram, Sharon Strzegowski, Assistant Treasurer

Selectman Moriarty opened the meeting at 5:30pm.

Announcements: the “Men Who Cook” fundraiser to benefit the arts in Hatfield through the STARs foundation. The event takes place on Sunday, November 5th at Smith Academy.

Ms. Doty made an announcement of the Veterans’ Day Ceremony on Saturday, 11/11 at 11am, and hoped the turnout would be larger than it has been in previous years. The ceremony is in front of Town Hall.

Chairman Moriarty recognized the hard work of the Fire Department to have the Hatfield Ambulance licensed at the Paramedic Level. This means that a paramedic will be available daily from 8am – 4pm, and overnight from 10pm to 6am. The dispatch center will be aware at all times as to whether we have a paramedic on duty.

There is a pilot program to test later start dates for Smith Academy. For 3 days in November, the day will start at 8am instead of 7:30am. Current research has shown that a later start date can improve academic performance as well as the overall mental and physical health of students.

Approval of Minutes Meeting minutes of 10/10/17 - motion to approve was made by Selectman Jaworski, seconded by Ms. Doty; the motion was approved by all. The motion passed.

Net Metering Contract – Sinead Coleman, Director of Energy, Hampshire Council of Governments (HCG), reviewed the Net Metering Credit Agreement. She explained that the sellers – Belden AG-GRID LLC is engaged in the business of developing, installing, owning, operating and maintaining anaerobic digestion generation systems in the State of Massachusetts. This agreement would mean that the Town buildings and schools could purchase energy at a 15% discount for up to 86.95kw. Town counsel, Gary S. Brackett, sent over some last minute addendums to the agreement which will need to be reviewed. Since this arrangement was brought about through HCG, Ms. Doty had questions as to what happens to the credits if the HCG were to disband. Sinead assured Ms. Doty that the credits would still be in place, even if something were to happen to the HCG. Selectman Jaworski entered a motion to enter into the Net Metering Contract pending legal counsel additions. Ms. Doty seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all. The motion passed.

Inquiry of Greenhouse Facility for Production of Marijuana Bob Wagner from the Planning Board brought up the subject of a party who were interested in locating a greenhouse facility for the purposes of recreational marijuana production. There was talk regarding whether or not Hatfield was able to have a one year moratorium, but since the town voted in favor of legalizing recreational marijuana, they are not able to opt out unless there is another vote. Furthermore, the town cannot “cherry pick” the law and allow sales but not production or visa versa. However, if a developer wished to put up a 50,000 square foot

facility, there would certainly be a review through the zoning bylaws. Bob pointed out that marijuana production is not considered agriculture.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has some suggested language that the town could use relative to a moratorium. Bob's recommendation to the board is that the town pursues parallel tracts to the same goal. He did also mention that towns who allow the sale of marijuana can collect an additional 3% sales tax.

Sean Barry, Representative to the Hampshire Council of Governments. Mr. Barry spoke on behalf of the HCG and the many benefits that it brings to the town of Hatfield. While the town does not employ a Purchasing Manager, we get the benefit of group buying from the member towns on things such as insurance, salt, sand, and most recently the power discount for the town buildings. For a yearly fee of \$3,000, it allows Hatfield to have a member sit on the board and be a part of the decisions. There has been some negative press lately, and some towns are voting to take themselves out of the HCG.

Ms. Doty had a list of things that she feels is wrong with staying in the HCG, including extra fees, hiring a public relations manager to make them look better, bonuses given to employees, and surcharges on fuel. She was adamant about sending a letter now, on behalf of the town, indicating that we might take a vote to remove the town from the HCG. Chairman Moriarty said that we really do not have the right to send such a letter on behalf of the town, because such a decision has to be voted on at Town Meeting. Selectman Jaworski said that he did not have enough information to make a decision on this matter. He would like to see more data as to how much are discounts are as opposed to how much our yearly fee is. The Town Administrator said she would look into this with the accountant. No action was taken on this letter.

Public Comments Selectman Moriarty realized that with taking the topics out of order, he had failed to ask if there were any public comments. Seeing there were none, the meeting continued.

Town Financial Report – Treasurer Laura Lee Bertram is working on July/August 2018, she reported that she is helping Derek get all the receipts in the system. Justin Cole from Baystate Municipal Accounting Group was in 10/24/17, working on the fourth quarter and the Town Accountant was working on the third quarter. She indicated that everything was on target. Selectman Moriarty asked if the Zobrio system has made us more efficient and the Treasurer said that it was.

Open Space Committee business – Omasta Landscaping had the low bid for the Smith Academy Park project. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to award the contract with renegotiations to be made between the Open Space Committee and Omasta Landscaping. Ms. Doty seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Abatement Requests – one for \$305.77 for broken water and sewer meter and one for \$224.50 for a sewer abatement related to a pool liner repair. For the \$305.77 abatement, Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Doty. All approved. For the \$224.50 sewer abatement, Ms. Doty made a motion to approve, Selectman Jaworski seconded the motion, all approved. Both requests passed.

Milling Bid – The Hampshire Council of Governments put together a contract for a milling project in town in the amount of 15,000 square yards. The awarded contractor is Garrity Asphalt Reclaiming in Bloomfield, Connecticut. After review of the contract, Ms. Doty made a motion to accept the contract as proposed. Selectman Jaworski seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

Open Meeting Law Review Town Administrator Marlene Michonski went over the Open Meeting Law, pointing out when agendas need to be posted and other aspects of the Open Meeting laws.

PVPC Land Use Grant Town Administrator Marlene Michonski brought up a letter that was sent to Mr. Timothy Brennan, Executive Director of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, expressing an interest in participating in a land use grant program. The grant is a 25% local match, and Hatfield is committed to providing \$2500 in funding if the grant application is funded. The grant would assist the town in developing and implementing zoning by-laws in regards to open space and expanding housing choices in town. Ms. Doty brought up the issue of in law apartments and tiny houses; any by-laws should address both of those scenarios. Ms. Doty made a motion to pursue the grant. Selectman Jaworski seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

Appointment of Paul Fisher as the Finance Representative of the Capital Improvement Planning Commission. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to appoint Paul Fisher as the Finance Representative of the Capital Improvement Planning Commission. Ms. Doty seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

Building Inspector Contract Addendum - Seeing as this was already approved at the last meeting, this was a vote to amend the contract of the Building Inspector from 28 to 33 hours per week. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the contract addendum, Ms. Doty seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

Police Detail Rate Update – According to Chief Dekoschak, the police department will be seeking no changes to the current rate per hour for Town or School details.

Human Resources Policy Update – a review of Sections 1-3.

Status of Capital Projects – The Town Administrator updated the Board on outstanding capital projects.

Green Communities energy Grant Update – Town Administrator gave an update as to how the \$48,388 grant was spent. Various weatherization projects were done throughout Town buildings and schools, including weather-stripping of windows and doors, insulation in the Fire Department attic, insulation in other town buildings, and 151 lightbulbs at the Hatfield Elementary School were converted to LED lights. All work has been completed.

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS – none

Selectman Jaworski made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Doty seconded the motion. All approved.

Meeting adjourned 7:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Sassi
Administrative Assistant