

Board of Selectmen
Memorial Town Hall

January 31, 2017, 6:02p.m.
Approved: February 28, 2017

Selectman Marcus J. Boyle
Selectman Brian Moriarty
Selectman Edmund Jaworski
Mr. Phil Genovese, Director, Department of Public Works
Ms. Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator

Selectman Moriarty opened the meeting at 6:02pm. He listed some things that would be gone over in the meeting. Ms. Michonski said we are still interested in filling Housing Committee openings. He asked those interested to forward applications to Ms. Michonski's attention, also, anyone interested in serving on a committee to mark Hatfield's 350th anniversary.

Selectman Moriarty read burn permit information from Chief Gaughan. Burning Season is from 1-15 to 5-1. Those interested can go to the Fire Dept webpage at www.hatfieldmafire.org or call 247-9008. The department encourages use of the website.

Selectman Moriarty said welcome to Ed Jaworski, the newest board member. He said it was also nice to have Selectman Boyle back from his sabbatical.

Selectman Boyle moved to approve the minutes of 12-13-16. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

Selectman Moriarty said Selectman Gaughan was the Chairman and now the Board needs to vote to fill that spot. Selectman Boyle nominated Selectman Moriarty for Chairman. Selectman Jaworski agreed and seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

The Board discussed Selectmen liaisons with departments. Selectman Moriarty suggested that Selectman Gaughan's liaisons swing over to Selectman Jaworski, these being COA, DPW and FRTA rep and building inspector. Selectman Boyle said he'd like to switch DPW, Selectman Moriarty will take schools, Police and Town Administrator. Selectman Boyle requested capital planning, DPW and accountant. Fire/Ambulance is to go to Selectman Jaworski rather than Selectman Boyle. Ms. Michonski will send an email to confirm.

Public Forum-

Resident, Chris Smith suggested the Board look at the public forum policy and consider a less rigid format, allowing for 2 way conversation rather than have the Board not react. Selectman Moriarty said the Board would have a conversation about this.

Open Space Committee Mark Gelotte, Peter Cocks

Mr. Gelotte distributed a summary and additional trail maps. Open Space is asking for support for a project underway involving 94 acres for conservation at Horse Mountain. A state land grant for @90k for the purchase of that land was received by the town. Mr. Gelotte described White Rock, just north of Horse Mountain as a barren rock face with views of the valley. The land is privately owned by Mr. Burke of Northampton who was asked recently for public access to his property. He has agreed to donate a conservation restriction, for a conservation easement on the deed to build a trail to White Rock. It would prevent development in perpetuity and the Conservation Committee would be holder of that restriction. They are applying for trail grant for a small amount to cover drafting and recording of this

and asked the Board to sign a letter in support of the project. The trail grant application is due tomorrow and they apologized for last minuteness. The trail may be maintained by the Open Space Committee who would also like to work with the boy scouts. Selectman Jaworski suggested possibly expanding the constituency so people can participate.

Selectman Boyle moved the Board endorse the proposal in respect to the White Rock conservation area. Selectman Jaworski seconded. Selectman Jaworski thanked the Open Space Committee for their work in making this possible. All voting in favor the motion was approved.

Marijuana Moratorium

Selectman Moriarty noted a request from the Planning Board regarding a requested moratorium for retail marijuana sales. Ms. Michonski said the Planning Board would like the opportunity to do research. She said this is something other Committees are doing as well.

The Board viewed a sample notice. Selectman Boyle asked if they are asking the Board to endorse or adopt this. Selectman Moriarty noted their public hearing is 2-8.

Selectman Boyle moved to endorse the proposed announcement concerning a temporary moratorium on marijuana retail sales. Selectman Jaworski seconded for discussion. Selectman Jaworski said the Police Chief, Board of Health and Planning Board should all work together to find out what to do. Selectman Moriarty suggested this be prior to the Planning Board's meeting of the 8th. Ms. Michonski will ask if there's been thought given to reaching out to the Board of Health and Police Chief, to be part of the conversation. Selectman Moriarty called for endorsement and all voting aye, the motion was approved.

DPW- Emergency Generator at Hatfield Elementary School

Mr. Genovese said there was a fire in the emergency generator at Hatfield Elementary School and mostly electronic components were damaged. He said the elementary school cannot be opened for activities unless the emergency generator is in place. Milton Cat supplied rental for a month. Our insurance carrier has been contacted. The original generator was removed and brought to NY. The cost estimate for repair is @22k. Insurance will cover this minus a 1k deductible and 4k for a temporary generator. Today Mr. Genovese signed the repair work order and will start putting it back together. Fire also damaged the transfer switch inside the school, this at a cost of @ 5k plus the town had to hire an electrician.

Selectman Moriarty noted that the insurance company would rather pay for the repair rather than a new generator. Mr. Genovese said the new one is 35k. Selectman Jaworski asked if there will be some protection to keep mice out. Mr. Genovese said there is rodent control there.

Regarding the water ban Mr. Genovese showed the latest update on the drought from the State. The water ban remains in place as we are still in extreme drought.

350th Anniversary

Ms. Michonski said in 3 years the town will celebrate its 350th anniversary. She has communicated with George Ashley, Chair of the Historical Commission and she has also received letters from individuals interested in being involved in a 350th anniversary observance. She said it doesn't appear that the Historical Commission will take a leadership role. Ms. Michonski asked if the Board is interested in seeing a committee appointed. Selectman Boyle said yes and Selectman Moriarty noted it should be a town wide celebration. He said perhaps various organizations and departments could be represented such as churches, schools and maybe somebody from COA. Selectman Moriarty noted that he had been involved with the Holyoke Parade Committee. He said a steering committee is needed for questions

such as who will plan a bbq or who will make sure the band will be there. He said put a call out for whoever is interested. Selectman Jaworski likes the idea of 1 person from all different committees and departments.

The Board discussed this topic and agreed that a committee forming a leadership team was necessary. Selectman Moriarty suggested that subcommittees could do their work such as organizing a block party or firemen's muster and every once in a while they would all get together. There could be one committee named that is responsible. Selectman Jaworski asked how many people should be on that Committee. Selectman Moriarty said Board members were all basically saying the same thing. Ms. Michonski will ask the Recreation Committee to get involved. Selectman Moriarty suggested reaching out to the chief of police, the fire chief, school superintendent, the boy and girl scouts, and not exclude anybody. Residents can also be on the Committee. He said this will take people's time and will be an involved process. Ms. Michonski is to report back.

IT Support

Ms. Michonski said she feels it is in the town's best interest to issue an RFP for IT support. Currently the town has a contract with HCOG and she would like to notify them within the next couple of weeks. Selectman Moriarty said we should have a conversation giving HCOG a heads up. He said we use HCOG but it's not a free service. In response to a question from Selectman Moriarty, Ms. Michonski said the Town has a renewable 3 year contract. She said HCOG has the contract and we have an agreement with HCOG and can give them 30 days' notice. Selectman Moriarty said it is good to see what else is available and at what cost.

Ms. Michonski said she would appreciate a motion to move forward. Selectman Boyle asked if Ms. Michonski had tried to work out problems with HCOG. She said she would like to go through the bid process and review responses. The second sentence in a proposed letter should be softened. Selectman Moriarty moved to allow Ms. Michonski to request an RFP for IT services, but additionally have a conversation, out of courtesy, and let them know the issues. Selectman Moriarty suggested holding off on sending the letter. Selectman Boyle moved to proceed with the RFP process and Ms. Michonski is to communicate with HCOG. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Sale of Center School Update

The purchase & sale has been signed and the buyer submitted an application for a special permit with the Planning Board. The hearing is to be 3-1. The anticipated closing will be on or before 3-31.

Request from Housing Authority

Ms. Michonski has received a letter regarding additional parking spaces. Mr. Genovese has met with Mike Mendyk. Mr. Genovese described what the Housing Authority wants to do: take the tree belt in front of the buildings from the tree to the telephone pole going north and have 100' of diagonal parking in front of the building on the tree belt. Mr. Genovese said it would be a public lot under jurisdiction of the town. Capawonk residents would not be allowed to park there exclusively. It would not be private parking though they would pay for construction and plowing. Selectman Boyle noted a current agreement with them for 8 spots in the back lot. Ms. Michonski said that's a temporary solution. Selectman Moriarty said that would change the whole scene of Main St. He said he doesn't know why they are not looking at land they do have behind their building.

Mr. Genovese said he had suggested the Housing Authority send a letter to the Board of Selectmen since the Board will make the decision. He said this discussion has been going on for years and comes up every year. Mr. Genovese said they have no plan in place moving forward, no plan B. Selectman

Moriarty said he did not think he could get behind this with the amount of information he has. He said they need a long term solution for overflow parking. Mr. Genovese said the only way you'll get them to address their land is to say they cannot park here. Selectman Jaworski said they need a good reason for why they can't park on the land they already own. He said also that to make Main Street into a parking lot won't go over well. Mr. Genovese said changing the dynamic of Main Street being a wide tree belt with beautiful green areas will incur pushback. Selectman Boyle suggested Mr. Michonski go back and ask them for explanation why they can't use their own property.

Class II License Renewal

Ms. Michonski brought to the Board's attention one dealers license that was not approved at the time of annual renewals.

Selectman Boyle moved to approve the Labbee Auto Sales & Service Class II license renewal.

Selectman Jaworski seconded for discussion. Ms. Michonski explained this was a mix up with the mail. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

Selectman Boyle moved to adjourn. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The meeting ended at 7:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ki J. Eno
Executive Assistant