

Board of Selectmen Meeting:
Memorial Town Hall Conference Room
Chairman:

February 4, 2020 @ 6:00pm
Approved: February 18, 2020

Selectman Brian Moriarty

Present: Selectmen Brian Moriarty, Edmund Jaworski, Diana Szynal and Marlene Michonski,
Town Administrator

Selectman Moriarty opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

Announcements –

Candles for the 350th anniversary cake are still for sale. See 350th Committee members or the Treasurers' Office. The cost is \$25.

There will be a link on the 350th website about a 350th UMass Hockey game scheduled for Feb. 22nd. Those interested can call Ms. Michonski at Town Hall.

A gun violence presentation will be made by Heads Up on Feb. 11th at Hatfield Elementary School from 6:30 – 8:30pm. Snow date would be the following night.

Selectman Moriarty clarified information about Colonial Power & supplier rates the town has negotiated in response to comments and emails. He assured that the Town did due diligence, & that Colonial Power is a legit supplier. Any questions can be directed to the Colonial Power Residential Call Center at 866-485-5858. Selectman Jaworski thanked people for letting the town know about the Attorney General's scams report, which had prompted some of the inquiries.

Selectman Moriarty read the Board's public forum policy.

Minutes

Selectman Szynal moved to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of January 7, 2020. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of December 26, 2019 and Executive Session. Selectman Jaworski seconded. Selectman Szynal abstained. The motion was approved.

Selectman Szynal moved to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of December 17, 2019. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Selectman Szynal moved to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of August 27, 2019. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Police Department Appointment

Sgt. Clinton Phillips introduced part time officer, Thomas Gentile, of the Hampden County Sheriff's Department. Board members commented favorably on his resume.

Selectman Jaworski moved to appoint Mr. Gentile to the Hatfield Police Department. Selectman Szynal seconded. Selectman Moriarty mentioned that Thomas goes by TJ.

Fire Department Appointment Acknowledgement

Ms. Michonski brought to the Board's attention, recommendations for firefighter appointments from Chief Gaughan, for which Mr. Flaherty has also indicated his acceptance. She explained that the Hatfield Fire Chief is a strong chief and as such, has appointing authority.

Selectman Szynal acknowledged the appointment of Melissa Brown and Hannah Zahn and said she is happy they have joined the department. Selectman Jaworski and Selectman Moriarty welcomed them aboard.

The Board will hold a public hearing for proposed water & sewer rate increases. It will be posted for 6:00pm Tuesday, February 18 in the William Belden Training Room, behind Memorial Town Hall. Ms. Michonski explained Memorial Town Hall construction necessitates the meeting location change from the usual Board of Selectmen conference room.

Selectman Szynal noted there was a lengthy discussion at a previous Selectmen's meeting and she suggested that people watch this previous meeting on Youtube. The public was encouraged to come to the meeting. Selectman Jaworski said the Board will be happy to explain the rates at the hearing.

Selectman Moriarty announced also that Memorial Town Hall will not be accessible Monday through Friday next week. Selectman Szynal thanked town hall employees for their patience.

Ms. Michonski spoke about potential articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. These included changing the Board of Selectmen to Selectboard, and cleaning up of funding articles so that money can be repurposed.

Ms. Michonski, speaking for Mr. Robert Wagner, said Community Preservation will present articles which she read. The Planning Board is also proposing amendments to the bylaws. Two items under use designations and table of use regarding solar generating systems, and having a minimum setback for marijuana establishments. Planning Board will schedule a hearing March 5th.

Selectman Szynal moved to refer the matters to the Planning Board so they can hold hearings. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All being in favor, the motion was approved.

No Board member has a problem with changing "Board of Selectmen" to "Selectboard", and also amend the town bylaws to reflect the change.

Ms. Michonski noted the close out of FY19. She would like to review the balance sheet with Justin Cole and other items/projects that can be closed out.

Billings Way-

A portion of this property has traditionally been leased for agricultural purposes. An agreement with Harrison Bardwell has expired. Ms. Michonski will put out proposals. Selectman Szynal asked that she check with the recreation committee about the property's use as playing fields.

Accountant Services Update

Ms. Michonski said Pat Squillante, of Melanson-Heath, will work with Diane Lavery. Ms. Michonski is waiting for a response from Mr. Cole regarding the handoff. She maybe will be talking to him at the end of this week.

Ms. Michonski asked that the Board sign contracts with the town clerk here. The Town has been awarded a grant. Selectman Moriarty thanked Ms. Michonski for spearheading work on the grant received. Selectman Szynal said the information is embargoed. Selectman Moriarty when we get the paperwork back to the State and then we can announce it. Selectman Szynal moved to authorize the Town Administrator to be able to sign on behalf of the Town going forward regarding this grant. Selectman Jaworski seconded.

The motion was approved. Lydia Szych, Town Clerk, witnessed Selectman Moriarty's signature.

Colonial Power-

An update was received. These will be received quarterly. As of Monday, the opt-out percentage was 11.9%. The original enrollment list was 1696, with 202 opting out. Some mail was not delivered, some accounts were no longer open, and 4 people opted in after the fact. So in total 1465 are participating.

Memorial Town Hall Building Renovation Update

Selectman Jaworski noted an updated construction schedule, with a completion date of May 1st. On Feb.10 the building will be shut down for sprinkler system installation on the 1st floor.

Verizon's power situation has been worked out for the elevator work. He noted this project started in 2012, and the town has worked through code and pricing changes. The elevator now requires a sump pump, and venting. Selectman Moriarty noted the town has also had to deal with the State because agreed upon renovation items have been extended for years.

Selectman Jaworski was thanked by Board members for being there on behalf of the Board.

Selectman Moriarty called for unanticipated new business.

Ms. Szych announced primary voting on March 3rd which will be in the Fire Department Training room. Early voting, on Feb. 24, 25 & 27, will also be at the Fire Station. Last day to register to vote is next Wednesday, Feb. 12. She said there will be a notice on Memorial Town Hall's front door. The Town Clerk's office is required to be open 9am to 8pm. There are now several ways to register to vote, such as conducting business at the Registry of Motor Vehicles will automatically register patrons.

Selectman Moriarty announced the Board would go into executive session and not return to regular session. He read that the Board would convene in Executive Session according to MGL Ch. 30A, §21a, #2 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. A roll call vote was conducted and with Selectman Jaworski voting aye, Selectman Moriarty aye, and Selectman Szynal abstaining, the motion was approved. The meeting ended at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ki J. Eno
Executive Assistant