

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

10-9-2019 @ 5:30pm
Approved April 7, 2020
Selectman Brian Moriarty

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

Selectman Moriarty opened the meeting at 5:30pm.

Announcements – Selectman Jaworski would like to announce new town yard grass and brush hours at a televised meeting. Residents can access the brush pile when the transfer station is open. The issues have been with contractors dumping.

No one was present for public forum.

Police Department Update

Police Chief Dekoschak reported that the Police Department budget is good. A school resource officer is paid 8 hours/week through a school grant. Chief Dekoschak commented on Officer Lavallee and her emotional support dog, for which, so far there has been no bad feedback. Responding to a question from Chief Dekoschak, Ms. Michonski said that insurance is all set. The Chief then answered some questions about Officer Lavallee's dog, which must be insured and bonded and will be certified after passing tests. The Chief related that equipment and personnel are all operating well. They are fully staffed, and coverage is consistent.

In answer to a question from Selectman Jaworski, Chief Dekoschak said there is no overstrain of the department with road work detail as that is strictly a volunteer work detail and normal shift personnel are not doing this. Ms. Szynal thanked Chief Dekoschak for being so responsive and Selectman Moriarty said it's good to hear from the Police Department in case something happens or may be about to happen. The Chief said parade arrangements are going well. Selectman Jaworski said Police Chief Dekoschak is doing a great job.

DPW Director – Abatement Requests

Three abatement requests were presented by the DPW Director. Two were for meter reading errors: the Hatfield Elementary School and American Legion Post. A third was for the sewer side of a bill sent in response to a pool liner replacement.

Selectman Jaworski moved to approve all 3 abatements as presented by the DPW Director. Ms. Szynal seconded. The motion was approved. Also mentioned was the painting of the lines on Main Street to be done when the company, MarkingsInc., is in the area.

Minutes

Ms. Szynal moved to accept the minutes of June 7. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Public Hearing – Eversource Underground Electrical Permit

Selectman Moriarty opened the hearing at 5:45pm.

Eversource wishes to install an underground cable to feed new service at 126 Mountain Road, a primary riser on pole at 108 Mountain Road and a trench 3 ft. north of Mountain Road. A transformer will be installed on customer property. This is for the tree farm and the majority of the work will be underground with no overhead wire.

Selectman Moriarty asked for public comments. There being none, Selectman Moriarty closed the hearing.

Selectman Jaworski moved to grant the petition and read the hearing notice. Selectman Szynal seconded. All voting in favor. The motion was approved. The DPW Director should be consulted for the trench. Selectman Moriarty suggested they consult Mr. Genovese.

Appointments-

School Department and Finance Committee representatives to Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Selectman Szynal moved to appoint Jill Robinson as School Department rep to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, and also, Seann Barry as Finance Committee's rep to the CIPC. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All being in favor, the motion was approved. They are to be notified.

Kestrel Land Trust-

Ms. Michonski informed that the Town holds a conservation restriction on the Sliwoski property. Kestrel is required to file a baseline documentation report which requires signatures but not a vote. Selectman Moriarty explained this is a follow up to what's transpired.

Hatfield Housing Authority Proposed Parking Lot

Hatfield Housing Authority members Michael McGrath, John Wilkes, and Brenna Duquette, Executive Director, Tom Boyer, Department of Housing and Community Development, Boston. Dan Boulais, Tighe and Bond

The Housing Authority is trying to provide as many additional parking spaces as possible. The Board examined a plan/diagram with Mr. Boulais. The crosswalk, benches and sign would be relocated. A short white picket fence is to be removed as well as 2 trees. Selectman Szynal asked if Mr. Genovese has seen the diagram. Mr. McGrath answered yes and said he had also talked to zoning enforcement.

The Town requirement is 9 feet wide for spaces. Part of the project is to repave the parking lot. Selectman Moriarty asked about the land at the side, in the back. They related that the Fire Chief had said a fire truck could not get in there. Ms. Szynal noted it would be great to have more parking spots at Capawonk so people wouldn't have to cross the street. The 22 rather than 24 foot entrance was discussed with Selectman Moriarty saying that should have to go through code enforcement. He expressed concern about the removal of the 2 trees. Mr. McGrath said they have some CPA money for trees.

DHCD doesn't want the parking spaces in front. There may be future snow removal problems. Selectman Moriarty asked about how close the space at the end would be to School Street and was told it mirrors the spaces already there. Responding to a question from Selectman Moriarty regarding a possible grant to pay for this, John Wilkes said it wouldn't be easy as money would have to be juggled around. Construction is anticipated for spring. Selectman Szynal noted the

parade is June 13th. The project should be done before that or should start after that date. HCD will be flexible, there shouldn't be a problem.

Roland Laurin expressed a concern that the benches would always be in the sun if trees are taken down. He was also concerned about older drivers pulling in and backing out of the parking spots. Resident, Dave Levigne said for the most part the residents are opposed to changing the spot and taking the trees down and losing the benches as they're located now.

Selectman Moriarty said a meeting with the DPW Director and Zoning Enforcement officer is the next step, to get everybody in the room at the same time and have the conversation. He said he understands the concerns of the residents.

There are 44 units with 25 parking spots. Selectman Jaworski said a big issue seems to be shading over the benches. The green space was discussed with a pole to remain in the green space 10' away from the parking spots. Mr. Wilkes said the biggest tenant complaint is the lack of parking. The lot was built 48 years ago. Ms. Szynal you don't want to miss a funding opportunity. Selectman Moriarty agreed that 44 units with 25 parking spots is a problem but believes the conversation needs to continue, with the Zoning Board, and other to learn the facts. Selectman Szynal asked to include the Fire Department, and DPW to see the impact to the residents. Selectman Moriarty said walking across the street in the winter is not good. A pergola was suggested. Selectman Szynal said there's a way to make everyone feel that they win. Mr. McGrath said he'd already passed these plans by the powers that be and to suggest doing it again was just mumbo jumbo.

Selectman Moriarty said he disagreed that it was mumbo jumbo. He said we will have everyone in the same room at the same time. Kyle Scott is the zoning enforcement officer, and Ms. Duquette will reach out to him. Ms. Michonski has forwarded the zoning bylaws to Ms. Duquette. Selectman Szynal asked for funding deadlines. Selectman Moriarty said somebody has to get the ball rolling. The tenants reached out to the town clerk for a tenant rep to the Board.

Town Administrator Report

There was a water/sewer receipts question from a previous meeting. The total estimated receipts for water and sewer was \$872,000. Selectman Moriarty asked about an addition of 2%, wanting to make sure that the town had not funded more than \$872,000.

Ms. Michonski asked a question regarding the abatements if the meter is checked. Ms. Strzegowski answered that the school has a manual read meter. Selectman Moriarty thanked Ms. Michonski for the information.

Urban Grown Inc.

Steven Herbert, who had applied for a special permit for a greenhouse operation to grow marijuana on Depot Road withdrew the application without prejudice. Selectman Moriarty noted if they re-submit an application the town will have to do the host agreement over again.

Selectman Moriarty announced Baystate Municipal Accounting Group is going out of business at the end of the year. Justin Cole will work with us until the end of the year. The Board is meeting with the Finance Committee and Mr. Cole next week. Selectman Jaworski feels bad about this.

Selectman Moriarty noted they did what they were supposed to. Selectman Jaworski said the next company that comes along will have an easier time than Baystate did. Ms. Michonski has reached out to FCOG, and Scanlon, and has met with the Hadley Town Administrator. She said we just made a huge investment in software. She thinks it is important to explore options and discuss.

Ms. Michonski has been meeting with Justin Cole. He has completed a review of the collector's data. He is still on to complete the recon process next week. FY20, Nov. 5th is the date for the tax classification hearing. She said this is early for us.

Expedited Permitting Application – Ms. Michonski is working with Erica Geis, and Steibel. The State approved the Town's application and the priority site. The Town now has 120 days to implement the system. Ms. Michonski is working with Ken Comia, PVPC, technical assistance. She informed that the Town voted to accept Chpt 43d, but never voted to amend the bylaws. This is a checkoff on the Massworks grant application.

Article 27 on the Annual Town Meeting warrant authorized borrowing in anticipation of a grant to seek funding for a pavilion. Hatfield did not receive the PARC grant. Selectman Moriarty said the town will still go forward but without the grant.

FY2021 – Capital Planning

Material has been distributed. Selectman Szynal is the Board rep. Capital Planning has a kickoff meeting. Some dates have been set aside for meeting with departments. Ms. Michonski will provide notification after Ms. Szynal sends her a date. Ms. Michonski mentioned Phase 3 renovation to include a feasibility study for a Council on Aging center. Ms. Michonski has also discussed with John Novak the cable studio. Selectman Moriarty said for phase 3 we should regroup. Phases take a long time. Selectman Jaworski said maintenance needs to be done on the second floor. Selectman Moriarty said perhaps the Council on Aging could be phase 2.1. The upstairs is another discussion. We need to look at things that have changed.

HR Policy Review-

Ms. Michonski left off at the travel policy last time. Ms. Szynal moved to update the travel policy, Sec. 22, as submitted. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Sec. 25 Personnel Records

The Board discussed access to personnel items such as CORI and disciplinary records. Selectman Moriarty suggest removing 'The Treasurer' from this section. Ms. Szynal said items should be delineated. Selectman Moriarty said everything should go through the Town Administrator or Department head or designee. Ms. Szynal documents that need to be seen by the Treasurer and the Town Administrator should be delineated. Treasurer documents and administrator docs should be clearly spelled out. Ms. Michonski said we will return to this in the future.

Memorial Town Hall Renovation Update-

Selectman Jaworski will receive an estimate on the back ramp. Ms. Michonski said contractors are doing well with dust control. Some people have been walking around looking at the construction and she said this was discouraged. Ms. Michonski commented that the ramp at the back should be a Board discussion.

Selectman Szynal noted 30 tickets are left for the gala.

Ms. Michonski said Representative Lindsay Sabadosa sent an email regarding the transportation bond bill. Perhaps this will affect transportation for school choice students coming to Hatfield. She mentioned a meeting to be set up with Michael Perrault, FRTA set up meeting. Maybe there can be something set up to apply for funding to survey the town's needs. Selectman Szynal commented that even if we start something it would take time to catch on because people are used to driving. Selectman Moriarty suggested finding out if people want it, and then find out what FRTA is willing to do.

Selectman Jaworski moved to adjourn. Ms. Szynal seconded. The motion was approved and the meeting ended at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Ki J. Eno
Executive Assistant