

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

11-5-2019 @ 5:30pm
Approved: May 19, 2020

Selectman Brian Moriarty

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

Selectman Moriarty opened the meeting at 5:30pm.

Announcements –

Selectman Jaworski announced Veteran's Day observances. Saturday Nov.19 is Vet's Night, which is a dinner dance at the American Legion Post.

Also, a ceremony will be conducted Monday, the 11th at 11am in front of Memorial Town Hall. Selectman Szynal said 3 fall sports teams for Smith Academy are in tournaments. The boys soccer team won, on Monday, girls soccer tonight and girls field hockey won last week. Congratulations to the players.

Selectman Moriarty read the public participation notice.

Selectman Szynal noted that the 350th Committee is now selling candles for the 350th cake to be lit up at Luminarium. Candles are \$20 each and will be sold at the craft fair. The Gala is approaching and there are only about 20 tickets left.

Assessors Tax Classification Hearing – Scott McCoy, Stan Pitchko and Ron Punska

Assessor, Ron Punska read 4 recommendations:

1. The Board of Assessors recommends a factor of 1.0 be adopted for tax year 2020, keeps a single tax rate
2. Shift from open space to residential class. Board of Assessors recommends that no open space discount be granted for tax year 2020.
3. Residential exemption be granted – Board of Assessors recommends no residential exemption be granted for tax year 2020.
4. Small commercial exemption, Board of Assessors recommends that no small commercial exemption be granted for tax year 2020.

Mr. Punska then requested the Board of Selectmen sign LA5 form and forward to Ms. Strzegowski, Town Collector.

Mr. Pitchko explained that the Board of Assessors do not recommend a split tax rate and asked the Board of Selectmen to adopt the Board of Assessors' recommendations and to vote on items 1-4 individually.

Selectman Moriarty read – according to MA general laws, each year the Board of Selectmen must vote whether to have a single tax rate or have multiple tax rates for the different classes of property. Last year the Board of Selectmen adopted a single tax rate for all classes of property. After a public hearing, which we are having right now, the Board of Selectmen must determine the following:

1. allocation of tax levy factoring against the property classes for the FY2020. Selectman Jaworski moved.

There followed a brief discussion and Selectman Jaworski withdrew his motion.

Selectman Szynal moved to vote a factor of 1.0 to be adopted for FY2020 and a single tax rate be adopted for all classes of property in Hatfield. Selectman Jaworski seconded. Selectman Moriarty called for comments and there being none, and all voting in favor, the motion was approved.

Selectman Szynal moved the Board recommend no open space discount be granted for FY 2020.

Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

Selectman Szynal moved that we do not have a residential exemption for FY2020. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

Selectman Szynal moved that no small commercial exemption be granted for FY2020. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

Mr. Pitchko asked that the Board of Selectmen review and sign the LA5 form before the Board of Assessors adjourn. Ms. Michonski clarified that the Board usually signs this at the hearing.

Mr. McCoy moved the Board of Assessors adjourn. Mr. Pitchko seconded. The motion was approved.

Minutes

Selectman Jaworski moved to accept the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's June 4, 2019 meeting. Ms. Szynal seconded with one edit to page 2. The motion was approved.

Selectman Szynal moved to accept the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's May 7, 2019 meeting.

Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Water/Sewer Abatements-

Ms. Sharon Strzegowski, Town Collector filled in for Mr. Genovese.

Regarding 15 Mountain Road, the meter and account number didn't match up.

Selectman Jaworski moved to abate \$22.90. Selectman Szynal seconded. Selectman Moriarty asked if everything had been resolved. All being in favor, the motion was approved.

There was a receipt for a pool liner repair and the request is for abatement of \$284.40 sewer charge, and also a meter adjustment for \$141.74. Ms. Strzegowski believes the meter had to be replaced.

Selectman Szynal moved to approve abatement for 31 N. Hatfield Road. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Second Coming – Liquor License hearing

Selectman Moriarty noted this paperwork is in order. Selectman Jaworski commented that it's great to see a restaurant continue at this location. They are opening possibly in mid-December. Selectman Moriarty asked for introductions, and introduced were Amy Golkowski, Paul Hathaway and counselor, Kristi Bodin. Mr. Hathaway had the Chez Albert restaurant in Amherst for 13 years. He wants to do farm to table. Selectman Szynal complimented the menu.

Selectman Szynal moved to approve an all alcoholic beverages license for The Waxwing and approve Mr. Hathaway as manager of record. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved. Selectman Jaworski wished them great success.

Selectman Moriarty said the Board was in receipt of clarification from Bob Wagner regarding the agricultural soils in Hatfield. Ms. Michonski read an email from Mr. Wagner. In response to a question from Selectman Szynal, Ms. Michonski said this would be in addition to the federal designation of 61a. This topic was briefly discussed before Selectman Moriarty suggested the Board needed more clarification.

Selectman Szynal asked that Mr. Wagner come in to talk about this. The Board took no action on the item at this time.

Notice of Acceptance for Chapter 43D-

Ms. Michonski reported on this previously and has received a packet in the mail. The Board should vote to approve this as the Town's notification of acceptance from the State, to be signed by the Chair.

Selectman Szynal moved to enter into the agreement regarding Chapter 43D. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

WMASS Regional Recycling Program update

Ms. Michonski informed that MA DEP put this out to bid, and the contract was awarded to Waste Management America. The town would be looking at an increase in cost. Garrett Barry is to attend a conference and will report back. Selectman Moriarty said recycle will no longer be a money maker but a budget buster.

HR Policy Review-

Selectman Moriarty described this item as more of the HR Policy updating that the Board has been chipping away at. The words alcohol, marijuana and drug free work environment. Selectman Szynal asked if the town driver pool is subject to random drug tests. Ms. Michonski said the DPW union is. Selectman Moriarty noted there are part time van drivers for Council on Aging. Selectman Szynal said the policy doesn't address the fact that marijuana stays in the system for 20 days and what happens if it's found; what action is taken? Selectman Szynal would like to potentially revisit this if we can get more information from another community. This item was tabled.

Continued Old Business-

Town Hall Renovation update-

Selectman Jaworski said the ramp in the back would be about \$86,000. Regarding an article for \$325,000 for the downstairs, Ms. Michonski's research revealed that \$196,000 of that amount was earmarked for the second ramp. Ms. Michonski said we have money to cover the cost. She revealed that at a meeting on Thursday she learned that costs for options 2 & 3 had increased by \$3,000.

Selectman Jaworski suggested that after fire protection and code items were addressed maybe some painting could be done. He said the good news is we do have the money for the back ramp if \$196 was earmarked and the cost is \$85,000, then over \$100,000 could be used downstairs. Selectman Moriarty asked if the ramp in back would break ground, now or in the spring. Ms. Michonski said the \$325,000 was authorized for the second external ramp, the Council on Aging kitchen and to relocate the building inspector. Selectman Moriarty summarized there is \$325,000 to do everything downstairs but is that enough to do everything we want to do?

Selectman Jaworski said the ramp would be part of this project and we have a feasibility study. If there was not enough money there could be another article. Selectman Szynal asked if the second ramp was bid to which Selectman Jaworski replied the estimate is part of the current construction project and there are estimated costs, not bid costs. Selectman Szynal expressed concern that \$80,000 was high for a ramp. Selectman Moriarty supports a ramp out back but doesn't want to vote until he sees real numbers. Ms. Michonski has to look at bid specifications. She believes the contractor would look at this as a change order. Selectman Moriarty wants the Board to have all the information necessary to be ready to roll but thinks it's too early in the process to commit the funds. Selectman Jaworski said fire protection is coming in downstairs, and the contractor has to put in steps or a ramp and we shouldn't put steps in just to take them out to be replaced with a ramp. He then described the 3 options that had been presented regarding the

downstairs steps and/or ramp. Board members agreed that the ramp should go in rather than steps, but Selectman Szynal wanted to be sure that we operate within state procurement laws.

Selectman Moriarty asked if steps or ramp would be worked on now or in the Spring. Selectman Jaworski said if the ramp moved forward that Ms. Michonski, who has been fantastic as our procurement officer, would make sure everything was done correctly. Selectman Szynal doesn't know if a change order for \$80,000 is ok or if we have to rebid. Selectman Jaworski said the ramp estimate was based on the engineer's submitted design specs. He said the current contractor might prove the lowest price because he is already on site. Ms. Michonski presented a drawing for the Board to examine. The ramp is meant to be the main entrance to the Council on Aging and especially for those parking in back who may have mobility issues. Selectman Szynal said the ramp is high priority and perhaps bids would help get a better price. Selectman Jaworski said painting, and maintenance should be done before anyone moves back in.

Selectman Jaworski said there have been some dust issues in town hall. Ms. Michonski said this is still being addressed, dust and some exhaust fumes in the building. A drainage pipe in the Council on Aging kitchen was split in half.

Ms. Michonski reported that new workstations were ordered through Paragus and they are currently being set up. Ms. Strzegowski said the old system will be shut down after the end of the week. There will be 1 to 2 weeks with no collections. Ms. Michonski said there is a priority list for the workstation replacements. Selectman Szynal asked about department head meetings. Ms. Michonski answered that these are bi-weekly. Previously they were on Thursdays but are now Tuesdays. She would like to move department head meetings back to Thursday.

Selectman Jaworski moved to adjourn. Selectman Szynal seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting ended at 6:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ki. J. Eno
Executive Assistant