

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

Nov. 19, 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 thanked the town DPW for putting up the black cloths and flags for Veteran's Day. A proclamation from the governor was read at the ceremony by Veteran's Agent, Gerry Clark, The Council on Aging has a new type of newsletter going out, very informative for seniors. Contact the Council on Aging director if you did not received one.

Selectman Moriarty read the public participation at Board of Selectmen meetings notice.

No one was present for Public forum.

Minutes

Selectman Szynal moved to accept Board of Selectmen minutes of July 9. Selectman Jaworski abstained. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved.

Selectman Jaworski moved to accept Board of Selectmen minutes of November 6. Selectman Moriarty seconded. Selectman Szynal abstained. The motion was approved.

Mr. Robert Wagner, Chair, Agricultural Advisory Commission – Hatfield Soils

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service has identified important agricultural lands in Hatfield. Mr. Wagner distributed a map and described a portion of Hatfield from Straits Road to 91, then C&S to the Whately line on the map with sections drawn indicating different soil types. NRCS has identified soils important to the agricultural economy which may make that land eligible for a grant, but this is a status which the town would have to request. Hatfield would be the 1st town to request it, i.e. acting as a guinea pig. Selectman Szynal asked about soil restriction, and if the town would get the right of 1st refusal. Mr. Wagner said that ag restriction runs with the land, not the owner. The land is already protected and land not coming out of 61a doesn't need the town's right of 1st refusal. Mr. Wagner said the area is all zoned rural residential. The Board of Selectmen thanked Mr. Wagner, and he, in turn thanked the Board for sending a letter.

Pole Hearing – Eversource

Selectman Moriarty opened the hearing at 5:45pm.

The hearing is regarding the upgrade of service at 59 Main St.

Selectman Moriarty read the hearing notice that Eversource proposes to install a padmount transformer on the grass as part of phase 2 upgrades at Memorial Town Hall. Eversource representative Nicholas Langone explained that to increase service from 400 amp to 600 amp requires decommissioning overhead service, and installing a padmount transformer. He also explained that the placement of the padmount was influenced by underground gas lines and the proximity to memorial stones at the front of town hall. Selectman Jaworski said the spot seems to be the best compromise.

Selectman Moriarty called for comments/questions. Responding to a resident's question about the location of the padmount, the Eversource representative answered that the padmount would be closer to School St. Selectman Moriarty then closed the hearing. Selectman Szynal moved to grant permission to install a padmount and pole to upgrade service at 59 Main Street. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All being in favor, the motion was approved.

One Day Liquor License for Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce

Lucy Abbott appeared before the Board to request a license for a Dec. 4th, event to be held at the Food Bank of Western Mass. Selectman Szynal moved to grant a One Day Liquor License to the Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

The Board noted it would wait until 6:00pm to address an appointment to the housing authority.

Appointments to Recreation Committee -

A recent resignation has left 2 vacancies on this committee which created a problem.

Selectman Szynal thanked Scott McCoy and Bridget Rodrigue for their work on the Recreation Committee. Selectman Szynal moved to appoint Jessica Phaneuf and Natalie Didonna to the Recreation Committee. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All being in favor, the motion was approved. Selectman Moriarty thanked the previous members and the new members.

Abatement-

Selectman Moriarty was in receipt of an email from the DPW Director regarding this request; it was an inaccurate meter reading.

Selectman Jaworski moved to accept the abatement for Town Counsel, Gary Brackett and Catherine Olson for \$1406.41. The total bill was \$1481.41. Selectman Szynal seconded. All being in favor, the motion was approved.

Appointment to Housing Authority-

Town Clerk, Lydia Szych explained that the Housing Authority Board should have a tenant representative. The State never sent rules on how to accomplish this. She said she spoke with town counsel and they came up with a tenant election which was held on Nov. 4th at Capawonk. Roland Laurin elected by a large margin. Town counsel suggested a joint appointment by the Housing Authority and the Board of Selectmen.

Housing Authority Board Chairman Mike McGrath opened their meeting at 6:02pm. Roland Laurin is to be appointed to a 3 year term and subsequent appointments would follow the same procedure.

John Wilkes moved to appoint Roland Laurin as a member of the Board. Stanley "Buster" Symanski seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Mr. Symanski, voted aye, Mr. Wilkes, voted aye, Alex Malinowski, voted aye, and Mike McGrath, voted aye, the motion passed.

Selectman Szynal moved to appoint Roland Laurin as the tenant representative to the Housing Authority for a term expiring in 2022. Selectman Jaworski seconded. A roll call vote was conducted; and with Diana Szynal voting aye, Brian Moriarty voting aye and Ed Jaworski voting aye, the motion was approved.

FRCOG – Highway Products Contracts

Ms. Michonski said Mr. Genovese asked to have this item tabled.

Town Administrator items

Ms. Michonski noted that the financial staff are working with Justin Cole to get the recap to the DOR. They are awaiting items from the school side and expect resolution tomorrow and Thursday morning have

a call with Mr. Cole. DOR will have that hopefully by the end of this week. Selectman Moriarty said the school department, Mr. Cole and his team have been working hard on this. Selectman Moriarty said it has taken a lot of research to straighten this out as there were so many line items. Ms. Michonski said the recap is for close out FY19. Selectman Moriarty thanked everyone who worked on this.

HR Policy

Sec 23 – Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace. Our Council on Aging drivers are not tested, also the School does not test drivers. Whately has CDL drivers tested. Hadley has random testing for all town vehicle drivers. Selectman Szynal this is worth visiting. Ms. Michonski said CDL driver testing is required by law. Selectman Moriarty said bus companies that the town contracts with must test their drivers. Selectman Szynal said we insure these vehicles and we should consider putting this in. Selectman Moriarty said we should go to town counsel, and have a conversation with Geri Rodgers and John Robert. It was noted that this was not based on any particular concern.

Continued Old Business

Town Hall Renovation -

Selectman Jaworski noted the Board had previously talked about egress at the back of the building and changing stairs to a ramp for those with mobility issues. Attorney Mullen said we can use the \$325,000 and could use a priority check list for use of the remainder of the money for the maintenance. Ms. Michonski said the ramp would be \$89,000. Selectman Moriarty thanked Selectman Jaworski and Ms. Michonski for getting the necessary information. He said the ramp will end up in the back, near the parking lot, where it belongs. Selectman Jaworski moved to put the ramp in the back. Selectman Szynal seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

Ms. Michonski is proceeding with employment searches. An interview is scheduled Thursday night for the finance director position. Selectman Moriarty explained for viewers that 6-8 weeks ago we were notified that our accounting service would be closing up shop at the end of the calendar year. The town is now in the midst of looking for an accountant/accounting service. There will be some overlap, and a transition period. We will not be going back to what we've been going through in the last few years.

Selectman Moriarty wished everybody a Happy Thanksgiving. Ms. Michonski said the next meeting of the Board is 1 scheduled for December 3.

Selectman Jaworski moved to adjourn. Selectman Szynal seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting ended at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ki J. Eno

Executive Assistant