

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

6-4-2019 @ 6:00pm
Approved: Nov. 5, 2019
Selectman Brian Moriarty

Present:

Edmund Jaworski, Brian Moriarty, Diana Szynal, Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator, Finance Committee – Diane Brzowski, Paul Fisher, Darryl Williams, Sean Barry, Betsy Rider, Treasurer/Collector’s Office: Edwina Palmisano, Sharon Strzegowski, DPW Director, Philip Genovese

Selectman Moriarty opened the meeting at 6:00 pm. The Board convened in executive session. According to MGL CHAPTER 30A , §21 #2. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel with the intention to return to regular session. A roll call vote was conducted and with Selectman Jaworski voting aye and Selectman Moriarty voting aye, the motion was approved. The Board returned to regular session afterwards at 6:15pm.

Chairman Moriarty congratulated Hailey Springman, winner of an essay contest whose essay on solar energy will be published in The Beacon. She is a school choice student attending Hatfield schools.

Selectman Moriarty and Ms. Michonski attended a Pioneer Valley Regional Economic Development workshop attended also by Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy and Lt Governor, Karyn Polito. Selectman Moriarty noted that Hatfield will reapply for the Massworks grant.

Selectman Jaworski thanked those involved for Memorial Day activities. The Strawberry Festival will be on the 15th. He cautioned all to watch for kids as school will be letting.

Selectman Moriarty noted tonight marked the first televised meeting since town election. He thanked Selectman Jaworski for serving as chair and welcomed newly elected Selectman Szynal. Cindy Doty was thanked for serving as a Board member for the last 2 years.

Selectman Jaworski moved to accept the minutes of Board of Selectmen meeting of 3-20-2019. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved with Selectman Szynal abstaining.

Verizon Pole Location Hearing - 6:15pm

Selectman Moriarty opened the hearing at 6:25pm at Memorial Town Hall. Pole on Linseed Road. He asked for discussion. Mr. Paul Davis, Eversource, explained a new pole is requested for an electric upgrade. He read the pole location which indicated moving one jointly owned pole, #T.6½/E.5M. Selectman Moriarty noted it would be behind rk Miles. He called for comments or questions. There being none, Selectman Moriarty closed the hearing.

Selectman Szynal moved to grant the petition to Verizon as specified for the purpose of moving one jointly owned pole on the southwesterly side of Linseed Road at a point approximately six hundred ninety-eight feet northwesterly from the center line of West Street to accommodate an electric system upgrade; and to provide for distribution of intelligence and telecommunications and for the transmission of high and low voltage electric current. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor the petition was granted.

Cronin Hill Road

Selectman Moriarty opened the hearing at 6:27pm.

He read the notice and asked for comments. Mr. Davis addressed a question regarding 2 leaning poles. 18' from left of an existing pole. When there is a pole petition, Mr. Davis said he would mention the leaning poles to Mr. Bessette. A resident asked that the petition be amended to be more specific about the poles. Mr. Nicholas Vangonni, Eversource representative, showed an illustration and attempted to address the resident's question. Existing poles being replaced do not require a public hearing. The equipment being installed spans the distance between the two poles. It is a voltage regulator and acts as a booster.

Selectman Moriarty said the petition is to replace 2 poles and add a pole.

Selectman Moriarty called for any other comments, and hearing none, he thanked the gentlemen for their comments and closed the hearing at 6:36 pm.

Selectman Szynal moved to grant the petition as specified by Verizon for the purpose of placing one pole on the northwesterly side of Cronin Hill Road at a point approximately 1,548 feet southwesterly from the center line of Depot Road to accommodate an electric system upgrade; and to provide for distribution of intelligence and telecommunications and for the transmission of high and low voltage electric current.

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

Minutes –

Selectman Jaworski moved to accept the minutes of March 20. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved.

Status of Town Government Committee

Selectman Moriarty explained that the study committee of Lary Grossman, David Keir, and Chris Smith gathered information regarding increasing the 3 member Selectboard to 5 members. The Board discussed extending the committee 6 months or a year perhaps so they will be available to answer questions at town meeting. The Board discussed reaction to the committee's report. Selectman Jaworski said they gave their report and few people showed interest. Selectman Szynal said she has yet to talk to anyone who supports it.

Selectman Moriarty moved the town government committee be extended until June 30, 2020. Selectman Szynal seconded but doesn't want to spend a lot on legal expenses. Selectman Jaworski said we do differ on this topic, and he doesn't want to see them calling up legal and spending a lot of money. Selectman Moriarty said this is not to do more research but for townspeople to ask questions. A roll call vote was conducted and with Selectman Moriarty voting aye, Selectman Szynal voting aye, and Selectman Jaworski voting nay, the motion was approved.

DPW Director Items

Transfer Station Fees

Mr. Genovese said the cost of business has risen and we don't know about MRF (Materials Recovery Facility). Proposed fee increases are compatible with other communities. He explained it is not a moneymaking thing and there has not been a fee increase in 10 years. Transfer station fees don't go toward the brush pile. The decal price is not going up. Ms. Michonski said we are anticipating an increase in recycling costs.

Selectman Szynal moved to approve transfer station fees as proposed. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion carried.

Proposed Recycling Program

Ms. Michonski met with Mr. Genovese, and Garrett Barry. The DEP offers grants for towns with policies in place. Selectman Szynal moved to adopt the recycled product procurement policy and designate the Town Administrator to notify boards on a yearly basis. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Selectman Moriarty explained that the Finance Committee was present to assist with work on articles for Special Town Meeting, June 25th which is very important and he urged residents to attend.

Mr. Williams said the Finance Committee met last Tuesday to review what happened 2 weeks ago.

He said the free cash number is \$717,981. He then read the proposals for spending the free cash which included budget deficits of \$187,921 from FY18, a \$13,000 paramedic equipment lease and \$50,000 I&I compliance study required by DEP.

The IT budget of \$7,000 was briefly discussed. The Finance Committee proposed \$14,000 to take care of replacing all outdated workstations. Selectman Szynal warned of ransomware affecting older computer systems. A new ambulance was mentioned with \$31,000 from free cash with 20,000 from ambulance trust, not surplus. Other items included a request from the 350th Committee for \$25,000 and repayment to Community Preservation in the amount of \$41,000, with \$100,000 possibly to stabilization. School safety items for \$140,000 were locks, blue lights, and fire alarms. Selectman Szynal asked about an offset grant but John Robert has not heard yet.

Ms. Strzegowski described a tax title software module for \$7,000 to improve efficiency in the Treasurer's office. She asked about a funds transfer from FY19 from Treasurer to collector. Ms. Strzegowski clarified what happens to the money from property sales and the revolving fund.

Mr. Barry moved to transfer \$3972.00 from Treasurer's expense to Collector's expense. Mr. Williams seconded. Selectman Szynal moved to transfer \$3972.00 from Treasurer's expense to Collector's expense. Selectman Jaworski seconded. There being no objections, the motions carried.

Ms. Strzegowski talked about a new software package within Vadar to replace the present DOS based POINT system. It is a 3 year contract but the price is guaranteed for 6 years. She explained the costs for the system. Ms. Strzegowski is impressed with its functionality. The most efficient time to switch systems is in October. December bills can be done in the new system.

The Board discussed with the finance committee ways to fund the \$22,339 needed. There will be 4 users: Edwina Palmisano, Jenni Dawson, Tony Lastowski, and Sharon Strzegowski.

Mr. Williams noted that the changes essentially eat up the free cash. The Fire Chief's budget changes a little, \$6,000 moves to ambulance expense and \$14,000 for workstations goes in the budget. There was discussion regarding the ambulance quote and the jaws of life. Mr. Genovese is looking into including the jaws of life as part of the lease program and he gave an example of a dump truck with a plow.

Ms. Michonski noted a vote would be required for the lease as it is for 7 years. The Board and Finance Committee thanked Chief Gaughan and Mr. Genovese.

Mr. Williams asked to take a vote to approve the FY20 budget as proposed including the amendment to finance reserve, an additional \$7,000 for IT, the amendment on the ambulance which Ms. Michonski has already changed, and a transfer of \$12,537 to the Collector's budget through a reduction in the finance reserve. Ms. Rider moved. Ms. Brzozowski seconded. All voting in favor the motion was approved.

It was explained that the module for tax title money would be coming out of FY19. From FY20 \$9802, and \$12,537 from free cash for a total of \$22,339 would also go into Collector's expense for the software package.

Selectman Szynal moved to revise the budget as amended by the Finance Committee. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Mr. Barry moved to approve free cash as listed in page 9 of the budget with amendments. Ms. Rider seconded. All voting aye, and none opposed, the motion passed.

Warrant Articles-

Warrant articles for the Special Town Meeting were read and the Finance Committee decided which of the articles they would recommend.

Mr. Williams noted the Special Town Meeting is June 25th at Smith Academy. Finance Committee will meet at 6:00pm as usual prior to Special Town Meeting. Finance Committee will do year end transfers on July 9th. Ms. Rider moved to adjourn. Mr. Fisher seconded. The motion was approved, and the Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 7:55pm. Mr. Paul Fisher is the rep to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. A short break was taken, and the Board of Selectmen began again at 8:00pm.

Selectman Moriarty thanked the Finance Committee for their work. The Board moved to approve articles 1 – 11 as proposed. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting aye, the motion was approved. Selectman Moriarty moved to approve article 12. Selectman Jaworski seconded. Selectman Szynal abstained. There was no further discussion on article 12. Selectman Moriarty moved to approve articles 13 – 17. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

Town Administrator items

Ms. Michonski announced a vacancy on the Council on Aging and a letter of interest by Cindy Doty. Selectman Szynal moved to appoint Cindy Doty to the Council on Aging. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor, the motion carried. Selectman Moriarty said this was a good appointment. Selectman Moriarty moved that Selectman Jaworski be appointed Board of Selectmen representative to Emergency Management Planning Committee. Selectman Szynal seconded. The motion was approved. Selectman Szynal moved to appoint Paul Fisher as Finance Committee representative to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

SOLECT Energy PILOT-

Ms. Michonski explained a solar project at Smith Academy and proposed in lieu of taxes agreement on equipment with Solect Energy. The Board is to designate negotiators. Selectman Jaworski said there should be one member from the Board, one from the Board of Assessors, and one from the Finance Committee. Ms. Michonski said the Assessors have an outside consultant they use but their consultant doesn't attend meetings.

Selectman Jaworski moved that Selectman Moriarty be the Board of Selectmen representative for this PILOT. Ms. Szynal seconded. The motion was approved.

Selectman Moriarty is to meet with Matt Shortsleeve. Also, Ms. Michonski will ask the Finance Committee who would be their representative.

Regarding old business, Selectman Szynal reported she attended a 350th Anniversary Steering Committee meeting. They are not moving forward with a request regarding adding alternates just now.

Selectman Szynal moved to adjourn. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion being approved the meeting ended at 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ki J. Eno
Executive Assistant