

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Memorial Town Hall Conference room & Teams

Sept. 8, 2020, 5:30pm
Diana Szynal, Chair
Approved: October 7, 2020

Present: Selectmen Brian Moriarty, Edmund Jaworski, Diana Szynal, Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator, Kerry Flaherty, COVID Coordinator, Sharon Strzegowski, Town Treasurer/Collector, Phil Genovese, DPW Director

Selectman Szynal called the meeting to order @5:30pm.

Selectman Moriarty moved the Board convene in Executive Session, according to MGL Ch. 30A, S, 21a, #3, To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; The Board will return to open session. Selectman Jaworski seconded. A roll call vote was conducted and with Selectman Moriarty voting aye, Selectman Jaworski voting aye and Selectman Szynal voting aye, the motion was approved.

The meeting resumed at 6:12pm in open session.

Selectman Szynal read the public participation policy. She also read a Board of Selectmen statement regarding Baystate Municipal Accounting Group.

Selectman Jaworski announced the Emergency Management Planning Committee meeting. Selectman Szynal thanked the 350th Committee for the opening of the time capsule. A 350th event – restaurant night is scheduled for 9-25th in the Fire Department parking lot from 4:30pm – 7pm.

School Administration new faces were introduced via Teams: Martin McEvoy – new Superintendent of Schools, Principals: Conor Driscoll – Hatfield Elementary School, and Christopher Buckland – Smith Academy. They are working hard to be able to offer a safe model. The HVAC systems were upgraded and they are poised to open to students next week.

Ms. Flaherty gave an update on HVAC systems upgrades at the schools, HEPA filters, UV lights and electrostatic fogging machines. Janitorial staff is trained on this equipment. Hatfield has chosen 6' distancing rather than 3 in the schools. All students are to wear mask – unless there is a medical reason. She feels the risk is minimal. Ms. Flaherty, Selectman Moriarty, the Fire and Police Chiefs were thanked for their efforts and for a great working relationship. The school have utilized close to \$165,000. Selectman Szynal acknowledged Superintendent McEvoy and Principals Driscoll and Buckland for all their work.

Selectman Jaworski thanked Mr. Genovese, Ms. Flaherty, Ms. Michonski, Selectman Moriarty and the school and everybody for an incredible effort. Face shields, according to Ms. Flaherty might be required for some special education children. Those children will be kept 6' from others. The risk is minimal for these children and the number of students not wearing a mask will be very small and the decision will be made by a team.

Ms. Flaherty spoke about the school lunch program, school start dates, and bus transportation. Selectman Szynal thanked Chief Flaherty, Ms. Flaherty, Selectman Moriarty, and the whole COVID team for a great job. Selectman Moriarty said Ms. Flaherty is the one spearheading all of us. You

are the COVID Queen. You've invested a lot of time. Selectman Moriarty noted that he wanted to publicly thank her. There are no new cases. There have been 22 cases technically since Jan 21st.
River Valley Growers

Bernie Smiarowski, Isaac Fleisher, Bacon & Wilson

This is a cannabis cultivation and greenhouse growing operation under CCC controls and on land owned by Smiarowski Bros LLC transferred to River Valley Growers. Selectman Moriarty said townspeople should know this is just 1 of the beginning steps. A draft host community agreement including 3% of gross sales has been reviewed/approved by town counsel.

One change is to be made on page 8 where "River Valley, Inc." should be "River Valley Growers". Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the River Valley Growers Inc. host agreement. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor the motion was approved.

Minutes

The minutes of June 2, June 9, August 10, 11 and 31 were approved on a motion by Selectman Moriarty seconded by Selectman Jaworski. Selectman Szynal asked for a change to the 8-31 executive minutes and will send something.

DPW updates

Mr. Genovese updated the Board on working hard with contractors in the schools over the past few months for a safe transition to bring back students and staff. He updated on the Chestnut Street water project and crack sealing of roads.

He informed that meter reading is to start next week, and September water bills will include the increase. Residents were asked to look at their usage. A water ban is not mandatory, but voluntary. We are still in a drought. Regarding trees coming down Mr. Genovese said if we take a tree down we plant 1 and grind the stumps.

Mr. Genovese updated the Board regarding the MA Works project. It was advertised on the 2nd and is a 2-bid process, 1 for pipework and 1 for the pump station. Bid opening may possibly be the 23rd with shovels in the ground before winter. Forty homes are involved.

Some materials were delivered today for the solar project. The Board discussed contacts with landowners for easements. Ms. Michonski noted the need to send a letter to the property owners before town meeting. She said a surveyor is needed also.

Responding to a question from Selectman Szynal, Mr. Genovese said the problem with brush dumping is that people dump whatever they can. Security cameras are now up, and police will knock on doors of those dumping. It has been closed for the past couple of days for grinding.

Mr. Genovese reported that town bylaws would have to be amended in order to make the South side of Memorial Town Hall driveway a one way. The intention is to maintain no parking on that side. Fire Chief Flaherty thinks this should be marked as a fire lane. Parking tickets will be generated. Selectman Jaworski asked to have a future conversation about the transfer station in a few months.

The Board took a short break at 7:30pm.

Selectman Moriarty moved to post the vacant position for the Board of Assessors, seconded by Selectman Jaworski who asked to thank Ron Punska for his years of dedicated service to Hatfield. The Board asked for clarification on the length of term. The motion was approved. Interested parties should be in touch with Town Clerk, Lydia Szych.

Assistant Collector Treasurer-

Fifty applications were received for this position and 5 were interviewed. Patricia Cotton was selected and will start 9-21st. Selectman Moriarty moved to accept the recommendation of the Treasurer. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved. The Board thanked Edwina Palmisano for many years of service.

There are vacancies on the Housing Committee and Conservation Commission. Vacancies should be posted on the town website.

FY20 Close Out Update-

A scheduled close out of FY20 is currently being done. Ms. Michonski has asked the auditor to pencil us in for 10-5-2020. Ms. Strzegowski said we are on schedule. The management letter has been reviewed, and in response some items are in process, and some have been corrected.

Council on Aging Surplus Property

Selectman Moriarty moved to declare a 2011 Council on Aging van as surplus property. Selectman Jaworski seconded. Ms. Michonski will post on the central register that it will be donated. It is planned to go to the South County Senior Center in S. Deerfield.

Special Town Meeting

Less than urgent articles deferred from Spring Town meeting may possibly be taken up at a Special Town Meeting. These may be: easements for route 5 project, some capital projects, and transfer of monies from Finance Committee reserve. The Planning Board and Zoning Board need to be aware of this. The Board asked for clarification and guidelines, perhaps talk to the moderator. Selectman Moriarty asked Ms. Michonski to talk with the Town Clerk about what she would need.

HR Policy Review-

Ms. Michonski presented 2 sections for Board discussion and approval, prohibiting smoking in town vehicles and a temporary work location policy. Selectman Szynal requested language to address the Council on Aging vans' passengers.

Selectman Jaworski asked if this could be taken up at next department head meeting. Regarding the remote work location, Selectman Moriarty said ultimately it is up to the department heads. Selectman Moriarty voted to accept changes to section 21.4, and section 24 smoke free workplace. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Town Hall Renovation Project-

Fire pump upgraded pts to be installed. Electrician to be on site to do the wiring. Wiring to be done this week and test will be done. Selectman Jaworski said the coordination was very disappointing on this. Selectman Moriarty noted until all this is done we cannot open town hall fully.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Update-

Online workshops are scheduled for Oct 19, 26th and Nov 2, from 6-8pm. Ms. Michonski said this focuses on a hazard mitigation plan for climate change. Selectman Moriarty suggested there be a preliminary survey sent out. Ms. Michonski will have more information for the next meeting. Selectman Moriarty would like to see a list of the workshop questions.

Selectman Moriarty moved to adjourn. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved and the meeting ended at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ki J. Eno
Executive Assistant