

Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Memorial Town Hall Conference room & Teams

Oct. 7, 2020, 5:30pm  
Diana Szynal, Chair  
Approved: Nov. 4, 2020

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

Selectman Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. She did not read the public forum policy because of the possibility of a power loss because of the storm.

#### Minutes-

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve regular and executive session minutes of 9-28-2020.

Selectman Jaworski seconded.

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the minutes of 9-22-2020, 9-8-2020, and 7-29-2020 as presented. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All being in favor the motion was approved.

#### Appointments-

Bob Wagner has expressed his interest in the position of at large representative to the CPC, formerly held by John Wilkes, who is now the Housing Authorities representative. The Planning Board is to discuss their representative to the CPC tonight.

Selectman Moriarty moved to appointment Bob Wagner as the at large representative to the CPC.

Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Selectman Moriarty moved to appointment Stephanie Slys as the Planning Board representative to CPC pending Planning Board approval. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

Selectman Moriarty moved to appoint Mary Nied to serve as an election worker. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved.

#### Financial Update-

Ms. Michonski reported the town is moving ahead with the FY20 audit which is to begin next week. We are currently loading documents for the auditor. The accountant is submitting FY20 reports. Ms. Strzegowski said we are on track. Ms. Michonski is grateful because we haven't seen reports submitted so timely in years.

#### Contract Award for Route 5 Water/Sewer Phase 1 Project

DPW Director, Phil Genovese noted a letter from the consulting engineers recommending Geeleher. Selectman Szynal led a discussion regarding Geeleher and previous jobs they have done for the town, most recently on Chestnut Street. The Board asked that the second lowest bidder, Ludlow Construction be qualified by CEI deciding it would be worth the additional \$25,919.60, to avoid the delays and mess experienced with Geeleher. They have a better track record in town and on state projects. Route 5 & 10 is heavily travelled, and we don't want to muddy the rapport we have with the state and MA DOT. Mr. Genovese commented that there were resident complaints about materials left in their front yards that Hatfield DPW had to clean up.

Selectman Jaworski asked to make sure we have the legal footing to go with the next bidder.

Selectman Szynal said we need to start documenting problems when we have a pattern. Selectman

Moriarty noted the situation on Chestnut St went on for a very long time and other companies have done jobs and not had a string of complaints and issues. All the bids were under the estimate.

Selectman Moriarty moved to engage Ludlow Construction to complete the West Street project for \$2,221,679.60, subject to CEI qualifications and legal counsel review. Selectman Jaworski seconded noting the bid is still under the original estimate. Selectman Moriarty said the low bidder did some work for the town that we are not happy with, so we have the right to award to the next lowest bidder. All voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Town Administrator- Ms. Michonski has submitted MAWorks quarterly report. She reported the town has expended close to \$15,000.00 of an estimated \$29,000.00 in COVID19 funding but is continuing to accumulate additional expenses in FY21. She is coordinating with the Fire Chief on this. Regarding the Municipal Vulnerability Plan, she informed there has not been much progress because of COVID19 but an update has been submitted. It would be helpful if someone could go to all 3 workshops.

#### License Fees-

Ms. Michonski presented a spreadsheet of fees for liquor and food licenses in town. She asked the Board to consider a possible reduction in fees to support town businesses. A brief discussion followed. Ms. Michonski explained that the Board of Health issues licenses for food and the \$14,000.00 figure on the spreadsheet did not include food permits. The Board stated they wish to support and not lose town businesses.

Selectman Moriarty moved to waive the 2021 fees for Liquor Licenses, entertainment fees and auto amusement fees, for Hatfield restaurants and bars but not package stores. Selectman Jaworski seconded though he had initially abstained from voting on the Legion and Polish Club as he is a member. But as he has no financial interest in these, he voted. The motion was approved. Selectman Szygal asked the businesses be notified asap. She also asked that an email be sent to the Board of Health asking them to follow suit so the town can be as supportive as possible.

Ms. Michonski reported that under a COVID relief package money was allocated for small businesses. She is working with PVPC, on a micro enterprise, small business recovery grant. Information was posted to the website today and she will contact businesses about the grant program.

#### Special Town Meeting-

Ms. Michonski confirmed the survey for properties is to be completed by November 1st. Details need to be put in to the warrant for Special Town Meeting, to be held possibly on a Saturday if the moderator can make it. Ms. Flaherty informed this must be done outside, but on a Saturday, it could be scheduled early enough to take advantage of daylight. The Board discussed the 14 days posting requirement, the proximity to Thanksgiving and the possibility of a reduced quorum under COVID. The warrant needs to be kept to a minimum with a 10 or 11am start time. The Fire Chief had an item but the Finance Committee said they can cover it with their reserve. There is nothing else that needs to be addressed now.

Selectman Moriarty moved to set Special Town Meeting date for Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> at 11am based on the advice of Attorney Mullen. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion was approved. We need to check with the moderator.

#### Covid Update-

COVID Coordinator Kerry Flaherty reported there have been no new cases in Hatfield since August so there are not weekly letters going out but just the weekly phone call. She noted being contacted by people frustrated about bars not opening but we are doing what is instructed by the Governor. These are not local decisions. She reported on the town's low numbers of cases, and no cases in the schools because people are following the rules. Hatfield has been responsible and spent time, effort and finances making improvements at the schools. Selectman Moriarty said Ms. Flaherty has done an excellent job. If we continue to social distance, wear masks and wash hands it will create a sense of calm for the children getting back to classes.

Ms. Flaherty reported that towns like Hatfield have been moved to Phase 3. She said the Governor recently upped the inside capacity for restaurants. Selectman Jaworski urged townspeople to support the restaurants with take-out orders. Selectman Moriarty suggested getting weekly updates/suggestions from Ms. Flaherty.

Ms. Flaherty provided an explanation of metrics based on 14 day average/trend for decision making as well as providing an explanation of the color system. Selectman Moriarty summarized it's not a snapshot, it's a trend. Ms. Flaherty went over the protocol of contact tracing when she is notified of a positive case.

The Board discussed with Ms. Flaherty other communities that send children or staff to Hatfield, and DESI guidelines. Selectman Szynal asked if our policy is in line with other communities' policies. She asked if someone from the school department might come to a Selectmen's meeting to inform the community. Ms. Flaherty explained it is not inconsistency but differences in district school populations. It was important to oversee the response and it's important to oversee the recovery. Ms. Michonski will reach out to Superintendent McEvoy, Becca Bench, and Jill Robinson to share information.

Selectman Szynal commented on the 350<sup>th</sup> tractor parade event which had over 50 tractors. There is also a drive-in concert this weekend. Bobby Betsold, Anna Holhut, Bobby Vollinger, and Robin Vollinger were thanked

Selectman Moriarty noted there is no homecoming this year and no fall sports.

Selectman Jaworski moved to adjourn. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved, and the meeting ended at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ki J. Eno  
Executive Assistant