

Board of Selectmen Meeting  
July 14, 2020, 6:00 pm  
Memorial Town Hall  
Approved: July 29, 2020

Present: Board of Selectmen Chair Diana Szynal, Edmund Jaworski and Brian Moriarty.

Also in attendance: Town Administrator, Marlene Michonski, Finance Committee Chair, Darryl Williams, Sean Barry, Diane Brzozowski, Kim Baker, and Betsy Rider; Collector/Treasurer Edwina Palmisano and Assistant Collector/Treasurer Sharon Strzegowski; Town Clerk Lydia Szych; Rich Abbott, Open Space Committee Chair; 350<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Members Bobby Betsold and Anna Holhut; Resident Mike Cahill.

Chairperson Szynal called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. following technical difficulties with audio.

Announcements

Recognizing the display of the 350<sup>th</sup> sponsor banners along Main Street, Chairperson Szynal thanked Garrett Barry and DPW for their assistance, including, Anna Holhut and Bobby Betsold.

Selectman Szynal read the public forum policy.

Public Forum

Resident Mike Cahill cited aloud a number of questions which he will submit in writing to the Town Administrator for the Board of Selectmen to respond to.

1. What, if anything, is being done regarding the issue of our former town accountant, Justin Cole dba Baystate Municipal Accounting , after recently having been charged with stealing almost ¾ million dollars from several other towns he was also the town accountant for?
2. Has the AG's investigation included Hatfield?
3. Will we have a forensic audit done on our A/P for the period he was involved here?
4. Exactly how much money did we pay Baystate Municipal Accounting and Cole since we engaged him?
5. Where do we stand with our fiscal '19 Roselli CPA audit? Is a draft available yet?
6. Where do we stand with the implementation/conversion to Vadar and its financial reporting functionality? Have you and/or any department ever received any (accurate) financial report from this system (eg, actual expense vs budget for/thru any period)?
7. You say fiscal '19 is closed and audited... did we produce and receive management financials (OS & BS) using the Vadar accounting system for the year ending June 2019?
8. Where do we stand with accounting for fiscal '20?

Chairperson Szynal acknowledged the questions Mr. Cahill recited and confirmed that he will send them to the Town Administrator.

### Minutes-

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the minutes of May 26, 2020, June 8, 2020 and June 16, 2020. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All being in agreement, the motion was approved.

### Building Inspector Report-

This item was put aside as Selectman Szynal did not have the old fee schedule in order to make a comparison with the proposed new fees.

### Lydia Szych, Town Clerk - Dog License Fees

Ms. Szych is looking into an on-line payment method for dog licenses, marriage licenses, and death certificates. In the meantime, as a result of COVID-1, Veterinarian's schedule and reduced hours at Town Hall have made it difficult for dog owners to register. Ms. Szych would like to implement an amnesty program for late fees. She will send out a notice with a new deadline of licensing dogs by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> and will include information about on-line payment.

Motion was made by Mr. Jaworski, seconded by Mr. Moriarty to waive late fees and past due fees for dog license registrations. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

### Resignation

Board accepted resignation of full-time Police Officer Mark Ruddock from the Police Department, effective June 30, 2020, with appreciation for his services on motion made by Selectman Moriarty and seconded by Selectman Jaworski.

### DPW

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Memorandum of Understanding for sludge hauling and disposal was submitted and recommended by Director Phil Genovese for approval.

Motion was made by Mr. Moriarty to accept the Memorandum of Understanding between the FCSWM and Town of Hatfield regarding hauling and disposal of sludge. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jaworski. Vote was unanimous.

### FY20 End of Year Budget Transfers and Discussion of Financial Loans

Year-end budget overruns (attached) amounting to \$56,127.80 were reviewed.

Finance Committee approved budget transfers with a motion made by Ms. Rider and seconded by Ms. Brzozowski. Vote unanimous

Board of Selectmen approved budget transfers with a motion made by Mr. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Jaworski. Vote unanimous

Board discussed with the Finance Committee the ability of School Department and DPW to transfer monies within their own departments and the reason why other departments don't have similar ability. This is to be researched. Selectman Szynal emphasized that the DPW Budget is not overspent but required movement of funds between DPW line items.

Treasurer/Collector staff Edwina Palmisano and Sharon Strzegowski gave an overview of the Town's current financial loans. Referring to an excel report, Ms. Strzegowski and Ms. Palmisano explained loans that will be completed, years remaining on loans and the current interest rates. Consulting with the Town's financial advisor, Ms. Palmisano referred to the inconsistent audit trail and reporting by the Town which does not put the Town in a good position to refinance at this time. The Finance Committee adjourned.

#### Smith Academy Park Pavilion Construction Project

The COVID-19 Pandemic forced the 350<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee to make a decision to delay the parade until May 31, 2021. The Steering Committee has asked to extend the display of the anniversary cake in Smith Academy Park until then. Discussion between Open Space Committee Chair, Rich Abbott, 350<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee members Bobby Betsold and Anna Holhut, with the Board of Selectmen about concerned delaying construction of the Smith Academy Park pavilion to spring of 2021. This could potentially mean a cost increase in the project. Mr. Abbott presented reasons for moving the project forward. Mr. Betsold explained that if it were not for the current pandemic and the parade had been held, the cake would have been removed. Recognizing that the cake signifies history and a celebration, Mr. Moriarty said it is cause for positivity in the community during a difficult time. Board of Selectmen acknowledged that the available project funds may not be enough to cover cost of constructing the pavilion next year. Board of Selectmen expressed their support to get the message out that additional funds may be necessary and would recommend funding additional costs, if necessary.

Motion was made by Mr. Moriarty, and seconded by Mr. Jaworski, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully,

Marlene Michonski  
Town Administrator