

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2021, 5:30 pm
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA
Virtual GoToMeeting

Present: Board of Selectmen Chair Diana Szynal, Edmund Jaworski and Brian Moriarty. Also present were Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator; Lydia Szych, Town Clerk; Sharon Strzegowski, Treasurer/Collector; Phil Genovese, DPW Director; Anthony Lastowski, Water Superintendent; Darryl Williams, Chair, Sean Berry, John Wilkes, Jr., Diane Brzozowski and Kim Baker, Finance Committee members; Dennis Hackett of the Reminder Publishing.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM None

ANNOUNCEMENTS Chair Szynal reminded everyone of the concert on Friday in the park. Also, a reminder that transfer station decals are available. Lydia Szych, Town Clerk reminded everyone that dog licenses were due March 31st. People who did not get theirs are now delinquent. The list of delinquent dog licenses will be sent over to the Police Officers and the Officers will be sending out notices. If you don't want a notice from the Police Department, get your licenses which you can purchased online or at the Town Clerk's Office which is open Monday, Tuesday regular hours and Thursday until 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the regular session and the executive session meeting minutes from June 30, 2021, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

FY2022 Budget – Position(s) Rate Adjustments: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator presented the Board with the results of past meetings with department heads. The Finance Committee previously gave a list of what positions need to be competitive in pay. Ms. Michonski told the Select Board that this is the end result of the department head meetings. Selectman Moriarty wanted to make it clear that this money had been previously approved by the Finance Committee and not something new. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the pay rates from the various department heads effective July 1st, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, Chair Szynal abstained from the Fire Department portion of this list.

Water Quality Report: Anthony Lastowski, Water Superintendent, presented to the Board to explain the low/high range in the Water Quality Report. Mr. Lastowski said the numbers in the report are the way the Mass. DEP and the US EPA mandate and that he must report the highest detection and it cannot be averaged out. There will be a question/answer document posted to the Town website for further clarification.

MOU Between Franklin County Solid Waste Management and Town of Hatfield Regarding Hauling & Disposal of Sludge: Phil Genovese, DPW Director and Eric Meals, Waste Water Superintendent, presented the Select Board with the Memorandum of Understanding regarding hauling and disposal of sludge. Superintendent Meals informed the Board that it is the same agreement every year. Selectman Moriarty made motion that the Town of Hatfield enter into the Memorandum of Understanding By and Between the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District and The Town of Hatfield Regarding Hauling & Disposal of Sludge, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

DPW Personnel Changes: Selectman Moriarty made a motion to table this item, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Water and Sewer Infrastructure Improvements Project/MassWorks Grant – Quarterly Report: Ms. Michonski presented the Select Board with the quarterly report. The report was submitted on July 1st and a reimbursement request of \$247,578.00 was submitted. The grant is for \$2,000,000.00 and the Town has expended \$545,478.37, leaving a balance of \$1,454,521.63.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Quarterly Report: Ms. Michonski updated the Select Board that the quarterly report was filed to MEMA. Since May 14, 2021 the total combined in-kind hours from staff is 25.5 and the project budget is \$21,000.00 with \$15,750.00 from the federal grant funding.

Employee Agreement Renewal: Selectman Moriarty asked the matter be tabled until the next meeting until he has a chance for further discussions with his colleagues.

Use of Town Vehicles: After discussion, the Board recommended language be drafted and included into the HR policy. It was agreed that a methodology would be looked into which would be fair for both the Town and employees when a Town vehicle is used by an employee. There was general discussion about reissuing a W-2. No action was taken.

Phil Genovese, DPW Director, requested the Board approve that an employee be able to carry over vacation time. That employee began worker's compensation in mid-March and returned to work in mid-June. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the vacation/personal time as requested, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Darryl Williams, Chair, Finance Committee made an announcement that John Wilkes, Jr. joined the Finance Committee, replacing Betsy Rider.

Town Clerk – Discussion of Archiving Social Media Records: Lydia Szych informed the Select Board and Finance Committee that social accounts are subject to public records request and none of the social media accounts are currently being back upped. Ms. Szych said the Town needs to seriously look at this to protect the Town. ArchiveSocial would be able to archive information for \$2,980.00 for 12 accounts, \$5,000.00 for unlimited accounts. Ms. Szych recommended going forward that the Town join ArchiveSocial. Selectman Moriarty made motion to approve Lydia Szych's request for social media archiving for \$5,000.00, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Police Department Added Costs for Law Enforcement Bill: Mike Dekoschak, Police Chief, informed the Select Board and Finance Committee about the Bridge Academy and the officers he would like to

send for training. The Academy takes officers in alphabetical order and his officers would fall within FY22 for a total of \$15,200.00. The training will vary per fiscal year; FY22 will be 4 officers, FY23 will be 3 officers and FY24 will be 2 officers. There was consensus that this training is crucial to officers and that the budget be further looked at in the fall.

Joint Meeting with Finance Committee – Review FY 21 Operating Budget Deficits: Ms. Michonski presented to the Select Board and Finance Committee the overage of \$61,469.91 from health insurance. Chair Williams made a motion to transfer \$61,469.91 from the health insurance to those accounts to make them whole, Kim Baker seconded, all in favor, aye, motion carries. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to transfer \$61,469.91 from health insurance to those departments to clear them up, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Ms. Michonski presented the Board and Finance Committee with the deficits for both water and sewer. Chair Williams made a motion to pay \$96,482.65 water deficit and \$63,391.17 sewer deficit out of fiscal FY21 finance reserve, Sean Barry seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved. Chair Williams said the motion is for \$105,000.00 for water and \$70,000.00 for sewer. Chair Williams made a motion to transfer \$175,000.00 to pay for water and sewer FY21 deficits, Member Barry – aye; Member Baker – aye; Member Brzozowski – aye; member Wilkes – ayes, motion carries.

Selectman Moriarty made a motion for a roll call vote to go into executive session pursuant to MGL Ch. 30A, §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. DPW Union Contract Negotiations and at 7:34 PM; and not to return to regular session; Selectman Moriarty aye; Chair Szynal– aye; Selectman Jaworski – aye.

Selectman Moriarty made a motion for a roll call vote to go into executive session pursuant to MGL Ch. 30A, §21a, #1. To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. The individual to be discussed in such executive session shall be notified in writing by the public body at least 48 hours prior to the proposed executive session; provided, however, that notification may be waived upon written agreement of the parties at 7:34 PM; and not to return to regular session; Selectman Moriarty aye; Chair Szynal– aye; Selectman Jaworski – aye.

Respectfully,
Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant