

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2021, 5:30 p.m.
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA
Virtual GoToMeeting

Present: Select Board Chair Diana Szynal and Members Edmund Jaworski and Brian Moriarty. Also present were Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator; Brenna Duquette, Clerk/Administrator Housing Authority; Jennifer Polverari, Assistant Assessor; Scott McCoy, Chair and James Lavallee Member of Assessors; Phil Genovese, DPW Director; Robert Flaherty, Fire Chief; Laurie DellOlio, Accountant; Sharon Strzegowski, Treasurer/Collector; Claudia Sarti, COVID Coordinator; Christy Boudreau and David Keir, Members of the Capital Improvements Planning Committee; Lydia Szych, Town Clerk; Darryl Williams, Chair and Members Kimberly Baker, Sean Barry, Diane Brzozowski and John Wilkes, Jr. of the Finance Committee

CALL TO ORDER Chair Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:33p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM None

ANNOUNCEMENTS Selectman Jaworski thanked all those who attended the Veteran's Day service at Town Hall last Thursday. He thanked Phil Genovese, DPW Director and the DPW crew as the grounds were nicely set up. Chair Szynal thanked the Fire Chief, Kerry Flaherty and all those who are helping with the COVID testing at the Hatfield Elementary School. Chair Szynal appreciates all their hard work and wants to be sure they are recognized for it. Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator informed the Board that Community Preservation received 100% reimbursement from a State grant in the amount of \$179,395.00.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Selectman Moriarty made a motion to accept the November 2, 2021 and November 10, 2021 meeting minutes; Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, minutes approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

Housing Authority Executive Director re: Tree planting and crosswalk: Brenna Duquette presented before the Board informing them that motorists are not stopping at the crosswalk on School Street by Capawonk when the lights are flashing. She reminded the Board that the residents living there are elderly, handicapped and it is difficult for them to walk. Chair Szynal asked if the police can keep any eye on that area and Ms. Duquette told her that it is her understanding that the police have been there. Selectman Moriarty said this is frustrating because everyone can see the flashing light. He walks Main Street daily and motorists need to slow down and obey traffic laws; there is no excuse for this. Motorists need to slow down and pay attention. He reminded everyone that there are school children walking in the area as well as residents of Capawonk using the crosswalk and you cannot assume that motorists will stop. He reminded motorists to just slow down, what's the rush? Chair Szynal asked if something can be posted to on social media. Ms. Duquette also informed the Board that the issue with the tree at Capawonk is in any way the fault of the DPW. A former member of the Housing Authority

instructed the DPW where to plant the tree and the DPW followed instructions. Ms. Duquette wanted the Board to know that the tree was removed and a new one will be planted next spring. The issue has been resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

COVID-19 Report Update: Claudia Sarti informed the Select Board that this has been a tense four to five days. Last week there were five new cases, the previous week only one. Ms. Sarti explained that it's been in the papers due to an outbreak at the elementary school. Chair Szynal mentioned that the additional cases are related to the school but they are not Town residents. Ms. Sarti told the Board that she is limited to what she can report because they are not "our" (Town) cases. Ms. Sarti informed the Board that she only has authorization to view cases in Hatfield and she cannot look at any other town. She only does contract tracing for Hatfield. Chair Szynal mentioned that as we report this on a regular basis, we need to find a way to get the appropriate information so townspeople have a good understanding of what is happening within the community. Ms. Sarti informed the Board that if someone comes to work in Hatfield but lives in Northampton and tests positive, the case is reported to Northampton. Businesses used to report the number of COVID cases but since the emergency has been lifted, they are no longer required to report the information.

6:15 p.m. Tax Classification Hearing: Chair Szynal opened the hearing at 6:00 P.M. There was a discrepancy with the public notice in the newspaper which listed the hearing at 6:00 P.M. and the Agenda listed the hearing at 6:15 P.M. As the hearing was opened at 6:00 P.M., Chair Szynal suggested that we wait until 6:15 P.M. to take action on this and continue with the Agenda items.

DPW REPORT:

Water Abatement: Phil Genovese, DPW Director presented a water abatement from Mr. and Mrs. Weeks, 19 Plantation Road explaining that something was wrong with the meter or the water reading gun. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to abate 19 Plantation Road a total of \$150.00, \$75.00 for sewer and \$75.00 for water; Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Mr. Genovese also presented a sewer abatement for 102 Main Street. A new pool was installed and the owner has requested an abatement on the sewer side. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to abate the sewer for \$91.18 at 102 Main Street, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Fuel Tank Removal/Replacement Contract: Ms. Michonski reminded the Board that they voted on this at a previous meeting and they just need to sign the contract. Chair Szynal asked if everything is in order and Mr. Genovese informed the Board that he met with Sovereign Builders, they said once they order the tank it take 20 weeks to arrive. He filed all the necessary documents with the Fire Chief and the Fire Chief is reviewing them now but doesn't see a problem.

Melanson Proposal – ARPA Funds and Reporting: Chair Szynal reminded everyone about the proposal from Melanson CPAS to do the accounting and reporting of the ARPA funds which are almost \$1,000,000.00. The billing rate is \$155.00/hour. Laurie DellOlio informed the Board that the ARPA funds requires annual reporting which will be done in April. She estimated it would take one to two days or eight to 16 hours but that it's hard to estimate because it depends on how many projects you use the money on. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the hiring of Melanson CPAS to do the

ARPA grant account expense and reporting, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

At 6:15 P.M. Chair Szynal called the Tax Classification hearing to order. Jennifer Polverari, Scott McCoy and James LaVallee presented before the Select Board. Ms. Polverari read to the Select Board the Assessors recommendations. After consideration, Selectman Moriarty made a motion at the Assessors recommendation that a factor of 1.0000 be adopted for FY2022. This will keep a single tax rate for all classes of property in Hatfield; Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Selectman Jaworski made a motion at the Board of Assessors recommendation that no open space discount be granted for FY2022; Selectman Moriarty seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Selectman Moriarty made a motion at the Assessors recommendation that no residential exemption be granted for FY2022, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Selectman Jaworski made a motion at the Assessors recommendation that no small commercial exemption be granted for FY2022, Selectman Moriarty seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Fire Chief Flaherty, Future of the Fire Department: This topic was tabled as the Fire Chief was called out for an emergency.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Change Order #3, Rt. 5 Water and Sewer Improvements Project: Selectman Jaworski questioned this change order and was wondering about the additional manhole. Mr. Genovese advise the Board that the additional manhole is a manhole that came from Brockway. Mr. Genovese agreed to install that manhole so if Brockway ever wants to hook up to water in the future, they will be able to. Chair Szynal asked about the change order being for \$0.00 and Mr. Genovese affirmed. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve change order #3 under contract #2020-1, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Joint Meeting with Finance Committee and Capital Improvement Planning Committee: ARPA ("CLERF") Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund – Discussion of use of funds and FY2023 Budget Guidance: Chair Szynal informed everyone that the purpose of getting everyone together is to discuss how we are going to use the ARPA funds as there are specific uses for these funds. Maybe some projects can be checked off our list. Laurie DellOlio, Accountant reminded the Board that they need to be sure where the funds go and not to spend it before they get it. Ms. Michonski asked if the accountant's fee for expense reporting of the ARPA funds could be covered under the ARPA funds and Ms. DellOlio said yes. There was lengthy discussion over proposals of where the monies could be best used. There was discussion as to what is more of a priority project. Mr. Genovese presented the Board with a number of projects which he needs to have completed such as generators at different pumping stations around Town, bringing broadband to the highway garage, Water and Sewer Departments, funds for the replacement of the fuel tanks at the highway garage. Christy Boudreau, member of the School Committee and Capital Improvements Planning Committee mentioned that the list from the school is only what the school has already expended. The Fire Chief returned to the meeting after his emergency and informed the Select Board and Finance Committee about items he needs, such as AED's. After

lengthy discussions, the Select Board, Finance Committee and Capital Improvements Planning Committee, agreed that more information is needed and that everyone needs more time to review the list of projects. This issue will be brought up again in another meeting in January.

Selectman Jaworski wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Municipal Aggregation and future pricing: Ms. Michonski informed the Board that with regard to Colonial Power, under the current contract they will be watching the market and after the first of the year, the rate should drop.

OLD BUSINESS

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURN

Selectman Jaworski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m., Chair Szynal seconded, all in favor, aye, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant