

Approved: March 22, 2022

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2022 at 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, Hatfield Housing Authority; Julie Pokela; Eliza Langhans, Director, Library; Amy Hahn, Historical Committee; Darryl Williams, Chair, Sean Barry, Kim Baker, Diane Brzozowski, John Wilkes, Jr., Finance Committee; Danielle Stanisewski, Recreation Committee; Micki Sanderson, Member Historical Commission; Robert Flaherty, Chief, Fire Department; Mike Cahill

CALL TO ORDER Chair Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM

ANNOUNCEMENTS Chair Szynal presented the Hatfield 350th Commemorative Quilt made by Jeannette. The blocks symbolize corn, tobacco, wheel at the old mill, town seal, beef, sawmill, and vegetables and crops of Hatfield. Chair Szynal informed everyone that George Washington purchased beef for his troops in Hatfield, The quilt will be hung in Town Hall so everyone can enjoy it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Selectman Moriarty made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of March 4, 2022 and March 8, 2022, Selectman Jaworski seconded no discussion, all in favor, aye, minutes approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

COVID-19 Update: Selectman Moriarty informed the Board that he spoke with the Covid team and March 16, 2022 will be the last robocall because the COVID numbers are low. Should the COVID numbers spike, the robocall will resume.

Brenna Duquette, Hatfield Housing Authority re: Update on recent improvements at Capawonk: Through a Massachusetts State Program grant, mini-splits will be installed at no cost to the Housing Authority. Weatherization for the building will be just under \$77,000. There is a grant through the Housing and Community funding, the Housing Authority has been afforded \$150,000.00 to install bathroom fans. The community room will be getting new carpeting and furniture. The community building will get an emergency generator which will give residents around 24 hours of power if the electricity is out. Security cameras will be installed. Ms. Duquette mentioned that Capawonk tenants have organized themselves and now residents have a different route to use. Chair Szynal asked if you get on a wait list how long does it take? Ms. Duquette said if you are already a Hatfield resident, you go to the top of the list and normally could take up to 2 years. Selectman Jaworski thanked her for all her hard work.

Julie Pokela Proposal for use of Basketball Court, School Street: Julie Pokela and Danielle Stanisewski, came before the Select Board with the idea of sharing the basketball court with pickleball. After some discussion it was agreed that Ms. Pokela would have the lines drawn at the basketball court so Selectman Moriarty could stop by to see what it looks like. There was discussion about how the area would be handled between playing basketball and pickleball. Once Selectman Moriarty sees the pickleball lines drawn, he will have a better sense of use of the area. It was suggested that the matter be placed on next week's Agenda.

Appointments/Resignations: Selectman Jaworski made a motion to accept the resignation of Ernest Fitzell, III from the Police Department, Selectman Moriarty seconded, no discussion, all in favor, aye, motion approved. The Board thanked him for his service and wished him well.

Selectman Jaworski made a motion to appoint R. Scott Pomeroy as Inspector of Animals for Department of Agriculture Resources, Selectman Moriarty seconded, no discussion, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Town Administrator Report: Use of Smith Academy Park: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator asked the Board to support the request of the Bad News Jazz and Blue Orchestra for use of Smith Academy Park on September 11, 2022 from 5:00 to 7:00PM with a rain date of September 18th. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the concert be held on September 11 from 5:00 to 7:00PM with a rain date of September 18, Selectman Jaworski seconded, no discussion, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Activity/Event Application Form: Ms. Michonski presented the Board with an Event Application. She asked town counsel to review. After reviewing the application and still questioning who will oversee use of the park, the Board agreed that no action would be taken tonight.

Requests for Use of ARPA Funds: Additional accounting services: Ms. Michonski presented the Board an additional request for use of ARPA use. Chair Szynal said the Board would rather wait until the Finance Committee meeting begins and will take the article up at that time.

CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between Town and Historical Society: Ms. Michonski presented the Board with the updated MOU which now includes a term limit. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between Town of Hatfield and The Hatfield Historical Society with the change made under Section F for a one-year term, Selectman Jaworski seconded, no discussion, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

FY2023 Budget Reviews/Annual Town Meeting Business with Finance Committee:

Capital Improvement Planning Committee: FY2023 Capital Plan Report: Chair Szynal presented the Capital Improvement Planning Committee capital plan report. There was discussion of the cost to renovate the bathroom upstairs and there were questions about what will be done with that space. Chair Szynal stated that would be a discussion at a further date. Robert Flaherty, Chief Fire Department submitted a grant for a ladder truck which would cost \$1 million. If the grant goes through the Town's

portion of that firetruck would be \$60,000.00. Chief Flaherty said the announcements on the grant will be in May. Chief Flaherty recommends Engine 2 be housed in North Hatfield; replacing personal equipment and clothing, 6 sets of turn out gear for members of the Department - \$15,000.00. Chief Flaherty stated that the utility vehicle which is up for replacement next year is not in great shape, it smokes. The cost of a new vehicle would be \$55,000.00. It was discussed taking the four leased vehicles for FY23 and FY24 and combining them into FY23. The Police Department would like to replace the 2014 cruiser, which is the back-up cruiser. DPW is looking to upgrade waste water plant at a cost of \$12,100,000.00. There was discussion of other items on the capital plan but this matter will be continued when David Keir is able to attend.

Library: Eliza Langhans, Director presented the Library budget which is almost the same but that network costs are going up \$100.00. The State requires her budget go up 2.5% every three years but last year the Library had a substantial increase so we are fine this year.

Town Administrator: HCTV: Ms. Michonski informed the Board and Committee that they are in the middle of negotiations with Comcast. She is requesting a 5% salary increase for the cable manager. His knowledge and experience are very beneficial to the Town and helpful during negotiation meetings.

Animal Inspector/Animal Control Officer: The budget is the same as the previous year.

Zoning Board of Appeals: The budget is the same as the previous year.

Conservation Commission: The budget is the same as the previous year.

Recreation Committee: Recreation is looking for an additional \$5,000.00.

Historical Commission: The budget has not changed much from the previous year.

Superintendent Michael Wood sent letter to Ms. Michonski. The freezer at Smith Academy is being replaced and the cost of electrical work to support such freezer needs to be updated. The cost is \$9,260.58 which Mr. Wood is asking to be taken from free cash or finance reserve. Darryl Williams made a motion to fund \$9,260.58 for the final cost of repair and installation of freezer at Smith Academy which was purchased by the Town last year from finance reserve, Sean Barry put the motion forward, Kim Baker seconded, no discussion, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Ms. Michonski said Town Counsel has an additional \$4,100.00 for review of ARPA laws. Selectman Moriarty made a motion use \$4,185.00 from ARPA funds for Town Counsel, Selectman Jaworski seconded, no discussion, all in favor aye, motion approved.

Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant: Ms. Michonski informed everyone that the copy of the warrant presented is a very early draft. There was discussion of the luminarium issue. There will be further discussion as time passes.

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURN

Selectman Jaworski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm., Selectman Moriarty seconded, all in favor, aye, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant