

Approved: April 5, 2022

Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
March 29, 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; Darryl Williams, Chair, Kim Baker, Diane Bzozrowski, John Wilkes, Jr., Finance Committee; Robert Flaherty, Chief, Fire Department; Stanley Pitchko, Assessor, Jennifer Polverari, Assistant Assessor and Scott McCoy, Chair, Board of Assessors.

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Chair Szynal informed everyone that the Select Board will be going into Executive Session and Selectman Jaworski will join later when the Select Board returns to open session.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Selectman Moriarty made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of March 22, 2022, Chair Szynal seconded, no discussion, all in favor, aye, minutes approved.

**POSTED BUSINESS**

**TOPIC 1** Selectman Moriarty made a motion to go into executive session and return to open session pursuant to MGL Ch.30A, §21a, 2 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, Chair Szynal seconded, Szynal – aye; Moriarty – aye; at 5:37 p.m.

The Select Board returned to open session at 6:33 p.m.

**TOPIC 2** Discussion of Annual Town Warrant Articles: Chair Szynal went through the annual Town Warrant with the Finance Committee. Ms. Michonski informed everyone that the Town Clerk needs the override question by April 14<sup>th</sup>. Chair Szynal explained the difference between an override question and a debt exclusion. A debt exclusion, higher taxes go on for the life of the project/ override it remains on the budget forever. Chair Szynal stated that it's hard to live within the confines of 2½ and still give the taxpayers the services they expect. Selectman Moriarty mentioned that we have the seconded lowest tax rate; we are \$13.80 this year. Mr. Williams mentioned that we can put a budget together on what we have; we can make a decision; and then we can hold a special town meeting and special election. Mr. Williams stated that it's very hard to stay within the budget because of 2½ but maybe the budget won't require that.

**TOPIC 3      FY2023 Budget Reviews/Capital Plan Projects/Annual Town Meeting Business with Finance Committee:**

Assessors: Stanley Pitchko, Assessor presented the budget which is level funded from FY22-FY23 and actually the Assessors took a decrease. We feel the budget will carry us fine. Every 6 years a re-evaluation is done and we are in year 3. Next year for software, there may be an increase but this year they are level funded. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Pitchko if he had any idea where new growth is going? Ms. Polverari told them no and permits will begin in the next month and we will have a better idea then. Selectman Moriarty thanked the Assessors, Ms. Polverari in particular, stating that the audit came in a couple of weeks ago and you all did a great job. Mr. Pitchko, everyone pulled things together, accounting back to where it needs to be, cooperation between the departments to get everything submitted to the state and rates certified quickly.

Accountant: Ms. Michonski presented the accountant's budget. There is a \$5,000.00 increase for software. Chair Szynal reiterated that we cannot complain about this firm as they have done a great job. The service they provide the Town is great.

Collector/Treasurer: Postponed.

**UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURN**

Selectman Moriarty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.; Selectman Jaworski seconded, no discussion, all in favor, aye, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

Karen Brodeur  
Executive Assistant