

Approved: May 24, 2022

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA

Present: Select Board Diana Szynal, Chair, Members Brian Moriarty and Edmund Jaworski; Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator; Phil Genovese, DPW Director; Amy Landry, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity; Robert Osley, Chair and Member Liz Kugler Board of Health; Sue Berry

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC FORUM Robert Osley, Chair, and Member Liz Kugler of the Board of Health informed the Board that COVID cases are still on the low side. The Board of Health has requested that if a resident tests positive for COVID using a home test, please call the Board of Health to let us know. You can do this anonymously, but the Board would like to get a better count of positive cases. At this time, the Board of Health would like to focus on other health issues. Chair Osley informed the Select Board that we would like to do educational programs. These programs are done in conjunction with Public Health Excellence Shared Services Grant. Northampton Public Health is the host, the public health nurses will arrange to have some educational classes or written materials to be put on social media. Member Kugler informed the Select Board at the last Board of Health meeting there were 2 representatives from Northampton Public Health and gave a list of programs and supplies. Member Kugler said they have supplies of Narcan boxes, COVID tests, PPE, sanitizer and meeting owls. Member Kugler said she will be doing a health fair soon. Member Kugler wanted everyone to know that you can still get free COVID tests by going to the CDC/COVID 19 Topics/Self Testing; scroll down to how to get a free test. Member Kugler mentioned she would like to do a weekly blood pressure clinic at the Council on Aging. Chair Szynal told Member Kugler to also check with the Fire Chief as he may be interested in these programs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Selectman Jaworski reminded everyone that Town meeting is May 10th, 6:30 PM at Smith Academy gym. May 17th is annual Town elections.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of April 26, 2022, Selectman Jaworski seconded, no discussion, all in favor – aye. minutes approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 1 Request for One Day Liquor License from Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, May 25, 2022 Fundraiser: Amy Landry from Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity presented before the Board and informed them of the fundraiser for May 25, 2022 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at R.K. Miles. Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity is looking for a one-day liquor license. Ms. Landry said this is one of our signature fundraisers. There are currently 3 small homes being built in Northampton. This is a

ticketed event open to the public. For \$50.00 there will be food and beverage tastings from many vendors. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the application for one-day liquor license for the fundraiser at R.K. Miles, 21 West Street, West Hatfield from 5:30-8:00 PM on May 25 hosted by Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity; Selectman Jaworski seconded, no discussion, all in favor-aye, motion approved.

TOPIC 2 Request for vacation carryover: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator requested the Select Board approve vacation carryover time in excess of the two weeks allowed for Robert Flaherty, Fire Chief and Officer Clinton Phillips. Chair Szynal stated both requests came with a “use-by” date. Selectman Moriarty informed everyone that this is also the remnants of COVID where people were not able to take vacation. Selectman Moriarty said going forward we need to have employees stick to the two-week HR policy; we need to stay on track with this.

TOPIC 3 DPW Report

- Water Abatement for West Street, North Hatfield: Phil Genovese, DPW Director is requesting a water abatement for 356 West Street, North Hatfield as the meter on the property runs fast and the meter was replaced. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the water abatement for 356 West Street, North Hatfield, Massachusetts for \$279.80 as recommended by DPW Director due to a faulty meter; Selectman Jaworski seconded, no discussion, all in favor - aye, motion approved.

- Equipment Damage Report: Mr. Genovese informed the Board that Mr. Barry provided a lengthy investigation and pictures and cost estimate of what needs to be filed with the insurance company for the damage to the trailer. We are looking to take some disciplinary action. Chair Szynal informed Mr. Genovese that this matter should be scheduled right after Town Meeting.

Mr. Genovese informed the Board the fuel tank project started today. The tanks will be delivered in June.

TOPIC 4 Town Administrator Report:

- Letter to support Hatfield Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant Proposal: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator informed the Board the letter has been drafted for the Select Board of support and Chair to sign. The letter is in application for a grant to develop a climate smart comprehensive plan to assure integration of nature-based solutions and climate resilience in guiding land use choices, policy, decision making and investments in Hatfield. The application is due Thursday. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to support the grant application, Selectman Moriarty seconded, no discussion, all in favor – aye, motion approved.

TOPIC 5 Jericho Road Offer to Purchase: This issue is no longer necessary as a private investor is under agreement for the purchase of this property.

TOPIC 6 Structural review of existing second floor for live load capacity from Jacob Smith Engineering & Design: Ms. Michonski presented the Board with the structural review from Jacob Smith Engineering & Design. Selectman Jaworski said you cannot store anything on the 2nd floor of Town Hall as it is not structurally safe. Jacob Smith gave a letter of what could be done to support that area.

Selectman Jaworski said the next step is getting a price of what it would cost to make it into a storage area. Chair Szynal said after Town meeting we can get out a bid.

TOPIC 7 Master Plan Committee Appointments: Ms. Michonski informed the Board she is requesting the Select Board make the appointments to the Comprehensive Plan Committee. The persons seeking appointments are: Bob Wagner-Agricultural Commission; Michael Bartlett-Community Preservation Committee; Luke Longstreeth-Conservation Commission; Micki Sanderson-Historical Commission; Angelica Dewy-Open Space Committee; Stephanie Slysz-Planning Board; Garrett Barry-Public Works; John Kostek-Recreation Committee; Christopher Smith-Redevelopment Authority; and Becca Bench-School Committee. Chair Szynal made a motion to appoint those names mentioned before and then the three at large, David Kier, Julie Frisy and Jalil Johnson to Comprehensive Plan Committee, Selectman Moriarty seconded, no discussion, all in favor – aye, motion approved. Selectman Moriarty said that Housing and Council on Aging will have candidates very soon.

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURN

Selectman Moriarty made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of MGL, Ch. 30A, §21a, 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 and not to return to open session; Selectman Jaworski seconded. Szynal – aye; Moriarty – aye; Jaworski – aye. Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully,
Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant