

Approved: August 30, 2022

Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
August 9, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.  
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA

Present: Select Board Chair Diana Szynal, Members Brian Moriarty and Edmund Jaworski; Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator; Phil Genovese, DPW Director; Amy Hahn, Historical Commission; and Robert Osley, Historical Society; and resident John Pease

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

**PUBLIC FORUM** John Pease presented an article from the Daily Hampshire Gazette. The article is about respect for horses on roadways. The article says a woman was riding her horse on a roadway and was confronted by a person who shouted at her while she was riding her horse. The article highlights Massachusetts law which says, “every person operating a motor vehicle shall bring the vehicle ... immediately to a stop when approaching a cow, horse or other draft animal being led, ridden or driven...” Mr. Pease stated we know what to do when approaching horses. In this community people walk and ride horses. Please be careful - we don’t want accidents. Farmers are harvesting tobacco, please slow down, get off your phones and watch what is going on. Selectman Moriarty added that people need to slow down, not only are there distracted drivers but they are going too fast. Mr. Pease talked to someone whose daughter was confronted by a person who was arrogant to the ways of a farming community. This is a farming community, tractors, horses, cows and other farm animals have the right to be in the road.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Selectman Jaworski said the Elvis concert was great. Chair Szynal informed the public there are Board and Committee vacancies if anyone is interested. One seat on the Council on Aging, two seats on the Agricultural Advisory Committee, four seats on the Housing Committee and one seat on the Capital Improvement Planning Committee at-Large. You can call Town Hall or go on the Town’s website for more information. There is an Open Space and Recreation Plan update survey on the Town’s website and in Town Hall. The public visioning meeting will be held in October. A big project – the solar project at Smith Academy - is now active.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of July 12, 2022; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; Minutes approved.

**POSTED BUSINESS**

**TOPIC 1** Appointments/Resignations: Selectman Jaworski made a motion to appoint John Wilkes, Jr. Finance Committee Representative to Capital Improvement Planning Committee, Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Jaworski said Robert Wagner is resigning from the Agricultural Committee. Chair Szynal said it’s a huge loss. Selectman Jaworski said Bob’s vision was exceptional for the Town; he has been fantastic in keeping farm land and we will miss him but hope he has a great retirement. Selectman Jaworski made a motion - with regret - to accept the resignation of Robert Wagner from the Agricultural Committee; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Selectman Moriarty stated Russell Powell is resigning from the Agricultural Committee and thanked Russell for his years of work on the Committee, he has been involved forever and he put his heart and soul into Hatfield; Selectman Moriarty made a motion to accept the resignation of Russell Powell from the Agricultural Committee; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor -aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 2      Approve and Sign 2022 Primary Warrant: Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the warrant for the 2022 State Primary; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. The polls open September 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. You can check Town Hall or the website for information on early voting days and times.

TOPIC 3      Police Officer Assignments at Polling Places: Selectman Jaworski made a motion to authorize the Chief of Police to assign available police officers to cover the hours of the State Primary on September 6, 2022; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 4      DPW Report: Water abatement 108 West Street. Mr. Genovese advised the Board that currently this is an inactive account, no one is living there. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the water abatement in the amount of \$96.13 to Jeffrey Bruscoe at 108 West Street based on the fact there is no meter on the property; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Mr. Genovese advised the Board after discussions with the property owners at 3 Prospect Street there was no one there when the water was leaking, Mr. Genovese would recommend the abatement. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to rescind the vote on June 14, 2022 denying the abatement request; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the water and sewer abatement at 3 Prospect Street based on the information received in the total amount of \$472.56; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 5      Town Administrator Report: ARPA Expenditure/Revenue Report Update: Ms. Michonski updated the Board about the ARPA funds: another payment was received last week for \$656,011.00; \$465,650.00 has been allocated and \$264,942.00 is actually spent.

Massworks Grant Final Report Update: Ms. Michonski informed the Board we have expended the \$2M grant and Massworks received and approved the final report and final payment. It is now closed out.

Solicitation for Renovations of Second Floor Bathroom: Ms. Michonski informed the Board that specs have been finalized and requests for quotes sent out. Hopefully the project will be under way soon. The request for quotes is only for labor to bring the bathroom to ADA compliant. The Town will purchase the materials and quotes are due by August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Request from Kyle Scott to Extend Vacation Time: Ms. Michonski informed the Select Board of the request from Kyle Scott to extend vacation time. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Scott to carry over his additional hours.

TOPIC 6      Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project/Engineering Services Agreement: Ms. Michonski informed the Board they have the Agreement for the Hatfield WWTP Upgrades Project in their packet and is recommending they vote to accept the Agreement with DPC Engineering, LLC. Selectman Jaworski asked if the USDA portion has been approved and Phil Genovese said they are waiting to see what the percentage will be. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the engineering and design services agreement for the

Hatfield WWTP Upgrades Project; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 7      Comcast Cable License Renewal Update: Ms. Michonski informed the Board there will be a public hearing on August 30, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at Town Hall for the public to attend. A draft copy of the franchise license renewal will be made available on the Town's website. Selectman Moriarty thanked Ms. Michonski and John Novak for their efforts in getting this done.

TOPIC 8      Proposed CT River Bike Trail: Chair Szynal informed the public of the public forum meeting scheduled for September 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at Town Hall. Documents will be made available prior to that meeting.

TOPIC 9      Historical Commission and Historical Society – Discussion of Storage Options for Historical Artifacts: Amy Hahn, Chair, Historical Commission and Robert Osley of the Historical Society came before the Board to discuss storage options for the artifacts. After some discussion, the Historical Commission and Historical Society agreed that the best storage area for the artifacts would be Unit #102, Diamondback Properties. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve Unit 102, Diamondback Properties; Selectman Jaworski seconded, no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the funding through June 30, 2023 out of the ARPA funds; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. When the lease is ready to be signed, the Chair of the Select Board will sign.

## **UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS**

## **ADJOURN**

Selectman Moriarty made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of MGL, Ch. 30A, §21(a)2. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining with nonunion personnel in the DPW and not return to regular session; Selectman Jaworski seconded: Szynal – aye; Moriarty – aye; Jaworski – aye. Meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully,  
Karen Brodeur  
Executive Assistant