

Approved September 22, 2022

Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
September 13, 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; Robert Flaherty, Chief, Fire Department; Kerry Flaherty and Ray Romero, Fire Association; Wendy Foxmyn; Frank Stiebel, Erica Rioux Gees and Ellie Stiebel

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Selectman Jaworski reminded everyone to put their garbage and bird feeders away as black bears are around.

Chair Szynal informed everyone that Kat McCollough created a 9/11 Tribute Stone Garden which is in front of Town Hall by the flag. Ms. McCollough is the Ambassador for the Project 351, class of 2022 for Hatfield. The tribute has names of lost military heroes. Chair Szynal thanked Kate for her hard work.

Chair Szynal announced the award of \$283,900.00 for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant Award/Comprehensive Plan. People may remember the meetings in 2020 identifying ways Hatfield may be vulnerable to climate change.

Chair Szynal reminded residents of the informational meeting regarding the proposed CT River Bike Trail Informational Meeting to be held on September 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm at Smith Academy gym. Materials for this meeting can be found on the Town's website or at Town Hall.

**PUBLIC FORUM** Wendy Foxmyn of the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra informed the Board of a gala at Black Birch Vineyard on September 22, 2022 at 6:30 pm involving the Orchestra. She thanked the Board for supporting Black Birch Vineyard.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of August 30, 2022; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; Minutes approved.

**POSTED BUSINESS**

TOPIC 1 Presentation from Pioneer Valley Symphony – Wendy Foxmyn: Ms. Foxmyn spoke during public forum

TOPIC 2 Comcast Cable License Renewal Agreement: Ms. Michonski informed the Board the final contract is not complete, Comcast's attorney needs to review it. Because a vote is required at this time but there is not a final contract, a friendly preliminary assessment of denial must be voted.

Selectman Moriarty made a motion to vote to issue a friendly preliminary assessment of denial of the cable license renewal of Comcast of Massachusetts II, Inc. to allow additional time to complete the Cable License Renewal Agreement: Whereas, the Town of Hatfield granted a Cable Television Renewal License to Comcast of Massachusetts II, Inc. with a license term from September 18, 2012 through September 17, 2022; Whereas, the Town is desirous of completing the Cable Television License Renewal process and reaching a Cable License Renewal Agreement with Comcast pursuant to the informal licensing process set out in Section 626(h) of the Cable Act; Whereas, the parties are currently completing the final provisions of the Renewal License Agreement; Whereas, the Select Board as Cable Television License issuing authority deems it prudent to protect the interests of all parties with respect to the formal license renewal process; Now, Therefore, because an informal Renewal License Agreement was not completed in time to place it before the Board for the scheduled meeting of September 13, 2022 and to protect the interests of the Town, Comcast and the public, the Board, pursuant to Section 626(c)(1) of the Cable Act, hereby votes to issue this “Friendly Preliminary Assessment of Denial” of Comcast’s formal license proposal to provide additional time to complete the license renewal process and issue a renewal cable license to Comcast. The Board further authorizes the Town’s Special Counsel, in consultation with the Town Administrator, and as deem necessary or helpful, to take any related action related to the implementation of this vote and/or the completion of the Renewal License Agreement for presentation to this Board for review and a vote thereon; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 3      Stiebel Eltron – Frank Stiebel and Erica Gees to discuss proposed warehouse and recreational use (dog park) of property at 99 West Street: Frank Stiebel, Erica Gees and Ellie Stiebel presented before the Board. Ms. Stiebel wanted to open the dialogue up for the dog park/recreation space. As an RN at Cooley Dickin Hospital and working through COVID she noticed a rise in depression and mental health issues and a lot of people were adopted dogs during the pandemic. She is interested in bringing people together. Mr. Stiebel owns the property but would gift the property to the Town. 99 West Street basically is across the road from the end of Chestnut Street. Erica Gees said they are looking for a solar – zero emissions – area. The lower part is where they would like to put the dog park, public bathrooms, open space, disc golf, and different things. Ms. Gees said they are aware it’s near wetlands area but would work toward keeping the wetlands. Dog pee posts would be tied to the sewer system using systems and plants to remove the nitrogen from the dog urine. Disc golf is also an option and is growing quickly like pickle ball. You can play disc golf in the winter. This would create a space people can use. They talked to Historical about shows using the barn. Ms. Rees said we are here to see if the Board has any thoughts. Selectman Jaworski said it was a great idea. Ms. Gees said they would have a community meeting. Chair Szynal asked where would people park and what hours it would be accessible for residents. Ms. Gees stated that parking would be available for 80 cars and would it be open at all times.

TOPIC 4      Hatfield Fire Assoc., Request for Ceremonial Bonfire Permit October 8, 2022; One Day Liquor License Application from Hatfield Firefighter’s Association for Bon Fire on October 8, 2022: Robert Flaherty, Fire Chief is requesting a ceremonial bonfire permit. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to grant under MGL Chapter 111, Section 142H a ceremonial bonfire permit for October 8, 2022

to the Hatfield Fire Department, Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Kerry Flaherty and Ray Romero, members of the Fire Association, presented before the Board requesting a one-day liquor license for October 8, 2022 from 2:00 pm – 11:00 pm for the bonfire. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the one-day liquor license to the Hatfield Fire Association for the bonfire on October 8, 2022 from 2:00 – 11pm and to waive the \$75.00 fee; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 5      Robert Flaherty, Fire Chief: Discussion re: new hires and fire/ambulance department operations: Chief Flaherty is requesting the Board begin looking at the formation of the group to look over the Fire and Ambulance Departments daily operations. This was brought up back in June of 2022 and Chief Flaherty is requesting the Board form the group so that when budget season begins, he will be able to have “real” numbers for his budget. By forming the group now, Chief Flaherty would be able to have approximately 6 months of data to work with. Chief Flaherty suggested a member of the Select Board, member of Finance Committee, two firefighters and David Keir. Chair Szynal said she needed time to think about selection of the group. Chief Flaherty said he has recently heard residents making negative comments about the Fire Department. If residents have questions about the Fire Department, Chief Flaherty has asked those residents to speak with him personally. Selectman Moriarty agreed with Chief Flaherty if residents have questions – go to the source for answers.

#### TOPIC 6      **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Resignation from Planning Board Member Bob Wagner: The Select Board acknowledged the resignation of Mr. Wagner from the Planning Board. Ms. Michonski informed the Board we received the resignation on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Letters of interest can be sent to Ms. Michonski. Chair Szynal made a motion - with regret – to accept the resignation of Robert Wagner and thanked him for his years of service; Selectman Moriarty seconded; Selectman Jaworski stated Mr. Wagner has been on a lot of boards and committees over the years and there are big shoes to fill; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

- Resignation from Library Trustee, Amy Gocłowski: Chair Szynal made a motion to accept the resignation of Ms. Gocłowski as Library Trustee; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved; thank you Amy.

#### **CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS**

TOPIC 7      DPW Laborers Union Contract – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025. Ms. Michonski asked the Board defer this to a future meeting as the contract was returned. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to table Topic 7; Chair Szynal seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 8      Executive 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. The Board did not go into executive session but rather;

Chair Szynal made a motion to approve the contract as presented; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no further discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

### **UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Michonski informed the Board of something new as a result of the renovation to the upstairs bathroom. The contractor went into the attic and found holes in the roof which need to be addressed immediately. Mr. Genovese will reach out to the roofer that did the work. Ms. Michonski said there is no idea of costs for this project. Chair Szynal asked if there would there be insurance to cover this? Selectman Moriarty asked do we know of any damage that was done? Ms. Michonski could not answer those questions but said the holes are on the east side of the building. Chair Szynal said the roof is not that old. Chair Szynal said she wants to know how this happened and then have a discussion about insurance and what caused the damage.

### **ADJOURN**

Selectman Jaworski made a motion to adjourn; Selectman Moriarty seconded, no discussion, all in favor – aye; meeting ended 6:29 pm.

Respectfully,

Karen Brodeur  
Executive Assistant