

Approved November 9, 2022

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
October 25, 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; Dodie Gaudet, Chair and Marsha Humphrey, Library Trustees; Michael Carmasine, CEI Engineers

CALL TO ORDER Chair Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Chair Szynal mentioned homecoming was two weekends ago, it was very nice and a lot of fun. Thanks to all those who helped. Smith Academy soccer teams begin. Boys soccer has their first game on Thursday. Field hockey finished today. A shout-out to Hadley Szynal who finished her senior year of field hockey. Halloween is coming up - watch out for kids. The time change is November 5th - time to change batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Selectman Jaworski announced on November 10 there is a free breakfast for Veterans. You need to call the Council on Aging by November 1 for reservations. Selectman Jaworski announced that on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. in front of Town Hall there will be the Veterans Memorial service. Hopefully the Town can come out. Selectman Moriarty reminded everyone voting season has begun. Early voting is open with election day on November 8th.

PUBLIC FORUM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of October 5, 2022; Chair Szynal seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of October 11, 2022; Chair Szynal seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 1 Appointments/Resignations: Appointment to Board of Library Trustees: The Library Trustees are attending the Select Board meeting for the purpose of a joint vote to appoint a candidate to the vacant seat on the Board of Library Trustees, pursuant to M.G.L. c.41, §11. Candidate Allison Church, 117 Depot Road withdrew. The Library Trustees recommend Kathy Sheehan of 36 Chestnut Street for the position. Chair Gaudet made a motion that Kathy Sheehan join the Library Trustees, all in favor: Gaudet - aye; Marshall -aye; no discussion; motion approved. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to appointment Kathy Sheehan to Library Trustees, Moriarty – aye; Jaworski – aye; Szynal- aye; no discussion; motion approved.

TOPIC 2 DPW Report: Sewer Abatement 28 Elm Street: Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the sewer abatement for 28 Elm Street; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Sewer abatement 9 Scotland Road: Selectman Jaworski made a motion to abate 9 Scotland Road sewer; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Selectman Moriarty asked Phil Genovese, DPW Director about the water ban. Mr. Genovese said the ban has been lifted and thanked residents for cooperating with the ban and conserving water in case of a fire.

TOPIC 3 Holiday Schedule: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator, asked the Board to grant Town employees the day after Thanksgiving as a paid holiday. The Board could not see a circumstance where they would not give the day off and would like to see this put in the handbook. Selectman Moriarty made a motion that the day after Thanksgiving become a permanent paid holiday for all eligible employees from this day forward; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Selectman Moriarty announced that luminarium will be December 17, 2022. The Board also stated that Town Hall will be closed on December 26 and January 2.

Personnel/employee form from Fire Department: The Board acknowledged the hiring of Sara Forsaith as a per-diem firefighter/paramedic.

Open Space Committee and Recreation Commission plan update: Ms. Michonski updated the Board regarding the Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022 forum on October 19, 2022. Regarding the survey, Open Space had around 250 responses. If anyone is interested in the results, please contact Ms. Michonski. Ms. Michonski informed the Board that she would like to apply to Community Preservation for the Day Pond project with the Board's approval. The Board gave approval of the project.

Gift Donation (Trees for Smith Academy Park): Joan and Peter Cocks would like to make a donation for trees for Smith Academy Park in memory of a resident. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to accept the gift donation for the trees for Smith Academy Park; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. The donation is \$1,000.00.

TOPIC 4 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM meet with West Street residents Route 5 water and sewer construction: The residents from West Street came before the Board stating the issues they have been dealing with since the Route 5 water and sewer project began. Many residents complained about the noise from the road all hours of the day and night; equipment remaining on their property; one resident told the Board there was a small sink hole in the front of her yard. Residents told Michael Carmasine of CEI Engineers that when they ask workers questions about the project, the residents have been continually lied to and the residents are fed up with being mistreated, not heard and just expected to endure with the noise and being mistreated day in and

day out for two years and beyond. Mr. Carmasine told the residents that permanent paving was to begin earlier in October but that the paving company was called out to other jobs. He could not answer with certainty that the permanent paving would be complete this year. Chair Szynal asked Mr. Carmasine if equipment is supposed to be left on resident's property over the winter and he said no. Residents also asked Mr. Carmasine when the sewage pumping station was to be installed and he replied in November. The residents also stated that they have been lied to over and over, treated rudely and the guys doing the work are arrogant. Craig Stevens reminded the Board that we ALL are paying money for this, and the residents are given a forum to air their complaints but, in the end, the residents are lied to and nothing is done by the engineers. Chair Szynal voiced her disgust with this.

Mr. Routhier spoke about not being paid for the easement by the Town. Ms. Michonski reminded him that in 2021 letters were sent to the residents about payment for the easement but only one owner responded to that letter. Mr. Routhier asked if the letters could be resent.

There was discussion about what was going on with the markings next to 32 West Street. Lou Routhier is very concerned about steel plating being put in the ground close to the gas lines which is next to a utility pole with a transformer on it. Mr. Routhier feels this is a disaster in the making.

The Board instructed Phil Genovese, DPW Director to get in touch with the gas company, electric company, Mr. Routhier and the engineers immediately to discuss meet at the site and discuss the steel plating placement and report back to the Board.

CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURN

Selectman Jaworski made a motion to adjourn; Selectman Moriarty seconded, no discussion, all in favor – aye; meeting ended 7:00 PM.

Respectfully,
Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant