

Approved: November 29, 2022

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 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; Stan Pitchko, James Lavallee and Scott McCoy, Board of Assessors; Jennifer Polverari, Assistant Assessor; Phil Genovese, DPW Director; Denise Allard, Mark Cappadona and Joseph Cappadona, Colonial Power Group

CALL TO ORDER Chair Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Chair Szynal announced the \$1.5 million MassWorks Grant Funding from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development for the Route 5 water and sewer project due to an unexpected high-water table and poor soil conditions that interrupted the project. Assistance for a supplemental funding request was led by State Senator Jo Comerford with support from Lindsay Sabadosa. The Board gave their thanks to our State Representatives and EOHED for their efforts. Selectman Moriarty thanked Ms. Michonski and Mr. Genovese for their hard work on the grant process. Chair Szynal congratulated the boys and girls soccer teams advancing to the state tournaments. Selectman Jaworski reminded everyone of the service on November 11 at 11:00 at Town Hall honoring the veterans; a breakfast for the Veterans at the Council on Aging, Thursday, November 10; and Saturday at the Legion.

PUBLIC FORUM Martha Szych, 51 Elm Street asked the Board about the possibility of putting up a sign in Smith Academy Park listing events for the month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of October 25, 2022; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 1 Tax Classification Hearing @ 5:30 pm; Joint meeting with Board of Assessors: Stan Pitchko James Lavallee and Scott McCoy, Board of Assessors and Jennifer Polverari, Assistant Assessor presented the tax classification for FY2023. Selectman Moriarty made a motion that the Select Board accept the Board of Assessors recommendation that a factor of 1.0000 be adopted for FY2023; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Selectman Moriarty made a motion that the Select Board accept the recommendation of the Board of Assessors that no open space discount be granted for FY2023; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Selectman Moriarty made a motion that the Select Board accept the recommendation of the Board of Assessors that no residential exemption be granted for FY2023; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Selectman Moriarty made a motion that the Select Board accept the recommendation of the Board of Assessors that no small commercial exemption be granted for FY2023; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 2 Colonial Power Group: Discuss and review Hatfield Electricity Aggregation Program: Denise Allard, Mark Cappadona and Joseph Cappadona from Colonial Power Group presented the Select Board with the electricity rates. In November the rate will go to 22.157. Once Colonial Power obtains the rate from Eversource they will send a post card to every resident who has opted in with Colonial Power so that they can see the rate difference and select which company best serves them. The current rate with Colonial Power is locked in until December 2023. Colonial Power informed the Board that should the rates drop, the Town will have to enter into a new agreement.

TOPIC 3 Appointments/Resignations: Selectman Jaworski made a motion to appoint John Pease the Agricultural Advisory Commission representative to Community Preservation Committee; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. The Agricultural committee needs 3 new members. Anyone interested can contact John Pease or Ms. Michonski.

TOPIC 4 Sewer Abatement: Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the sewer abatement of \$4,203.00 at 7 Nolan Circle due to a leaky pipe; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

DPW REPORT: Paving, North Hatfield Rd: Residents of North Hatfield Road have been complaining about the recent paving job. Bobby Betsold of Allstate Materials Group gave a brief overview of what was done. What has been done is not new, this is a shim or level coat. This is the preliminary course and then next spring paving will begin. The reasoning for doing this shim coat now is the section done was the worst; there were a lot of issues there. Because of deterioration that could happen, by placing the shim or level coat, it would be easier to maintain and avoid costly repairs over the winter. North Hatfield Road needed to be built up so that water does not pool and freeze in the winter. This is the first step to get through the winter.

Mr. Genovese updated the Board on the Route 5 project: Geeleher finished final paving, the road striped and tree belts done. Ms. Michonski suggested an onsite meeting with the engineers, a Board member, Mike Ohl, Mr. Genovese, and Ms. Michonski to address the final issues once and for all. The Board realizes that there must be a compromise.

TOPIC 5 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Employee Personnel Forms: Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the Rate Adjustment Request for the administrative assistant Gerard Bueno; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the wage and salary requests from the Council on Aging; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

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 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully,
Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant