

Approved December 13, 2022

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA

Present: Select Board Diana Szynal, Chair, Member Edmund Jaworski; Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator, Dave Prickett, Phil Genovese, DPW Director; Diane Brzozowski, Chair, Darryl Williams, Kim Baker, Sean Barry, John Wilkes, Jr., Finance Committee

CALL TO ORDER Chair Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 1 Selectman Moriarty made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of MGL, Ch. 30A, §21(a)#3. 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 to return to regular session; Selectman Jaworski seconded: Jaworski– aye; Moriarty – aye; Szynal– aye.

Chair Szynal called the meeting back to order at 5:34 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Marlene Michonski announced the Community Preservation Coalition will be matching CPA funding for the coming year for a total of \$185,461.00.

Chair Szynal announced the Fire Chief was able to purchase all the AED's requested through bulk pricing and grant awards. The Fire Chief will be returning \$1,777.10 of unused ARPA funds back to the Town.

Chair Szynal announced annual luminarium is on Saturday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Please keep checking the Town's website and Facebook for events.

Chair Szynal read the letter to the residents from the Select Board regarding recent social media postings about the Hatfield ambulance service. Chair Szynal wanted residents to know the Select Board is not making any decision - one way or the other - regarding the ambulance service. Selectman Jaworski stated that there has been too much misinformation on social media. Unfortunately, those social media comments panic people.

John Wilkes of CPA want residents to know that project signs have been put up around Town by Michael Bartlett.

TOPIC 2 Hearing @5:45pm all alcoholic beverages liquor license application of The Heritage Tavern, LLC dba The Heritage Tavern, 127 Elm Street, Hatfield, Massachusetts.
Selectman Moriarty made a motion to grant an all-alcoholic beverages liquor license to The

Heritage Tavern, 127 Elm Street, Hatfield, Massachusetts, Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Moriarty made a motion for Mark Pinkham to be the liquor license manager; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of November 9, 2022; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

PUBLIC FORUM

TOPIC 3 Public Forum: Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increases: discussion and review of proposed rate increases; consider imposing rate increases: Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the FY23, FY24 increases as presented; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 4 Recreation Committee – Discussion of a proposed pickleball court; proposal for community preservation funds: Danielle Stanisewski and Julie Pokela presented before the Select Board with their proposal for a pickleball court. Ms. Pokela asked for the Board's support. The Board supports this project but there are further details to be ironed out.

TOPIC 5 Appointments/Resignations: Selectman Moriarty made a motion to appoint Ellen Abbott to the Council on Aging Board for a two-year term; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to appoint Pearl Judd to the Council on Aging Board for a term of three years; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 6 Water Abatement: Selectman Moriarty made a motion to abate \$559.74 at 58 West Street due to a faulty meter; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 7 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Billings Way proposal for land use: Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the lease to Harrison Bardwell, Bardwell Farms for the Billings Way property; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Little Meadow Road, Hatfield: Ms. Michonski asked if the Board would be interested in selling this property. Selectman Moriarty said we need more information on this.

Opioid Crises Funding Update: Ms. Michonski updated the Board that Hatfield received a total of \$27,741.80 from the opioid crisis funding. The Police Chief and Board of Health have an interest in using some of those funds to educate the public.

TOPIC 8 Proposed CT River Bike Way: Ms. Michonski asked the Board to take a position either for or against the bike way. Selectman Moriarty suggested the Board not take a vote but let Northampton take it up with the residents and ultimately, the residents make the decision.

TOPIC 9 @ 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee: Joint meeting to discuss FY2024 financial forecast and guidance and Fire/Ambulance Department operating costs/potential increase: Both the Select Board and Finance Committee are asking department heads for level services budgets for FY24 and if they could find savings within their budgets. Department heads will be asked to complete their budgets by December as budget meetings will begin in early January.

Robert Flaherty, Fire Chief, informed the Board and Committee that moving forward with FY23 he needs to hire two full-time basic ambulance personnel but the two people he is looking to hire for ambulance are also firefighters. The Select Board supported the Fire Chief in hiring the two full time personnel.

TOPIC 10 Selectman Moriarty made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of MGL, Ch. 30A, §21a #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 8:19 p.m.

CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS

Respectfully,
Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant