

Approved: January 10, 2023

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
December 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, Phil Genovese, DPW Director; Rich Abbott, Open Space Committee; Kyle Scott, Building Inspector; Tim Paciorek, Electrical Inspector; Kerry Flaherty, Fire Association

CALL TO ORDER Chair Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM Kerry Flaherty, Vice President of the Hatfield Firefighter Association presented the Select Board with a donation of \$1,500.00 for the Celebration Committee. She informed the Board that through the monies raised at the bonfire, the Association has been able to make donations of \$1,000.00 to the Friends of the Council on Aging and \$2,500.00 to the Smith Academy Athletic Club for dug outs. The Select Board thanked the Firefighter's Association for their hard work, dedication, and donations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Selectman Jaworski spoke of the passing of Gerry Clark. The Board agreed Gerry Clark was a good man who did good work; he will be very missed. The Board gave their condolences to the family. Selectman Jaworski said luminarium is this Saturday. The Board wished Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Chair Szynal suggested changes to the minutes of October 26 and November 29 and approval will be tabled. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 29, 2022 regular session and November 29, 2022 executive session meeting at 8:22 p.m.; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 1 Open Space Committee Chair, Rich Abbott – Smith Academy Park Pavilion Design: Rich Abbott informed the Board that the original plans for the Smith Academy Park pavilion didn't work well so they are looking for a new design – timber frame. The cost is significantly less than the original design. Mr. Abbott is looking for the Select Board to approve the Additional Architectural Services Authorization Change Order #2. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve this; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 2 Agreement Between Town of Hatfield and Teamsters Union Local No. 404, Unit A (Laborers): Ms. Michonski informed the Board they do not need to vote, just sign the agreement as presented.

TOPIC 3 Electric Permit Fee Schedule: Tim Paciorek presented the Board with an updated Electric Permit Fee Schedule citing the fees have not changed in 10 to 15 years. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the Town of Hatfield Electric Permit Fee Schedule as presented effective January 1, 2023; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 4 MassWorks Grant Funding from Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development Contract, Rte. 5 Water and Sewer Infrastructure Project: Selectman Moriarty made a motion to accept the MassWorks Grant Funding from Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development Contract, Rte 5 Water and Sewer Infrastructure Project; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 5 DPW REPORT: New Hire for Wastewater Operations: Phil Genovese, DPW informed the Board in order to not be penalized by Massachusetts DEP, wastewater needs to have an employee who is at least a grade 4 and Eric Meals has agreed to be that person. DEP requires that person work 8-10 hours per week, Mr. Meals will work 8 hours a week. It will take about 4 months for the current employee to get to a grade 4 license. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to accept this part time hire until certification is received and deemed appropriate; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Ms. Michonski informed the Board that Kyle Scott, Building Inspector gave a proposal for an online permitting. Residents and contractors could go online to make out their permits. This will streamline the process. If there are outstanding taxes, the permit will not go through until all taxes are paid. Mr. Scott would like to consider starting it now if funds are available; the cost is approximately \$12,000.00 to get it set up; the annual fee is \$4,700.00; and ARPA funds could be used for this. Chair Szynal made a motion to approve this with the annual fee prorated, if possible, through June 30th for an amount up to \$10,000.00 and paid for by ARPA funding, Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 6 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: 2023 Annual License Renewals: Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the liquor, Class I, II, III, entertainment, and automatic devices license for the year 2023; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 7 Climate-Smart Comprehensive Plan Tasks and Update: Ms. Michonski updated the Board the Comprehensive Committee kicked off their first meeting last Thursday. One task outlined in the plan is to provide equity and diversity training for Town employees. Ms. Michonski suggested 6 hours of training, spread over two to three months, the training would be in-person and employees would be asked to stay after hours to complete such training and would

be a condition of employment. Selectman Moriarty would like to know what the cost of this training before going forward.

TOPIC 8 Selectman Moriarty made a motion to go into executive session under MGL 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 and not return to regular session; Selectman Jaworski seconded: Jaworski–aye; Moriarty – aye; Szynal– aye. Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS

Respectfully,
Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant