

Approved: January 24, 2023

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2023 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; Michael Dekoschak, Police Chief; Brenna Duquette, Executive Director of Hatfield Housing Authority; Robert Flaherty, Fire Chief; 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 5:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Chair Szynal - Happy New Year to all. A big thank you to the people who worked on luminarium, it was a wonderful night. I hope everyone had nice holidays and here we are in 2023.

PUBLIC FORUM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Chair Szynal tabled the October 26, 2022 meeting Minutes; Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of November 29, 2022; regular session Minutes of December 13, 2022 and Executive Session Minutes of December 13, 2022; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 5 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** Approve and sign Billings Way Property License Agreement: Selectman Moriarty made a motion to accept the Billings Way Property License Agreement to Harrison Bardwell; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Revisit Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Training: Ms. Michonski revisited the equity, diversity and inclusion training with the Board. After discussion, the Board requested Ms. Michonski obtain further information.

Approve 2:00 AM closing time for The Heritage Tavern LLC: Selectman Moriarty made a motion to deny 2:00 AM closing time for The Heritage Tavern LLC; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 1 Hearing @5:45pm all alcoholic beverages liquor license application of Garage 2 Tavern, 2-4 Prospect Court, Hatfield, Massachusetts. Chair Szynal opened the hearing at 5:45

pm. Attorney Jennifer Sharrow and Selina Fournier appeared before the Board and advised the Board that they are taking over the former Mill River Tavern and part of the process is the transfer of the liquor license. The hearing closed at 5:52 pm; Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the all-alcoholic beverages liquor license to Garage 2 Tavern, 2-4 Prospect Court, Hatfield, Massachusetts; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 2 Hatfield Housing Authority: Review (Housing Authority) draft Emergency Plan: Brenna Duquette presented the final draft of the Emergency Plan to the Select Board. The Housing Authority wanted to present their emergency plan to the Select Board and - with the Select Board's approval - the Housing Authority would take their vote. Chair Szynal said the plan looked good, and Selectman Moriarty thanked the folks who worked toward this end. Chair Szynal asked where the emergency sights are Council on Aging; the schools; 10 West Street; and the congregational church. The Select Board gave their approval for the emergency plan.

TOPIC 3 Appointment(s): Veterans' Services Officer: Chris Demars, Upper Pioneer Valley Services District, Steve Connor, Director of Hampshire Central Services and Joseph Letourneau presented before the Board. Selectman Jaworski suggested Mr. Letourneau take the position and pay Northampton to help Mr. Letourneau for the next couple of months. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to appoint Joseph C. Letourneau, CPT, US Army (retired) as the Veterans' Services Officer with the condition to pay the monthly stipend to Northampton until June 30th ; Selectman Moriarty seconded and Joseph Letourneau to keep track of hours regarding the stipend to a legitimate stipend along with payment of \$1,225.00 Northampton; no further discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 4 **DPW REPORT: FY23 Snow and Ice Budget Deficit:** Selectman Moriarty made a motion to authorize deficit spending pursuant to MGL Ch. 44. S. 31D; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Award Contract for Elm Court Storage Building Supplies: Selectman Moriarty made a motion to award the contract for the Elm Court Storage Building Supplies to Metal Building in the amount of \$45,899.00; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

FRCOG FY24 Budget Notice and Signatory Authorization Form: Selectman Jaworski made a motion to authorize Phil Genovese, DPW Director for the FY24 collective highway bids for the FRCOG; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Mr. Genovese updated the Board on the shared streets grant for \$56,641.00 – all lights are up and working well except for one set and the DPW is working with the Police Chief to move the crosswalk in front of Town Hall. The Daily Hampshire Gazette will be doing an article on the safety of crosswalks in Hatfield.

Selectman Jaworski suggested scheduling a meeting with residents of West Street prior to the project restarting in the spring – sometime in March. Selectman Moriarty received phone calls from residents complaining about potholes on the Elm Street bridge over Rte. 91. The DPW went out and filled the potholes.

TOPIC 6 Ambulance Services Assessment Update: Selectman Jaworski reminded the Board that originally, we agreed to fund this to June 30th but since the report will not be available until August, the Board will extend the positions until August. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to accept the agreement for services with Municipal Resources, Inc.; Selectman Jaworski seconded and to extend the services. The last thing we want to do is to decrease in June the services. We need to fight for the services we have today; no further discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 7 @7:00 p.m. Finance Committee: Joint meeting to discuss FY2024 financial forecast and guidance; Fire and Police Departments operating costs/potential increases: Chair Szynal stated we are here to begin the budget process. In the previous year we had extra funds which are not available going forward. We made decisions on how to guide departments in putting their budgets together. We need funds for the police and fire departments. Chief Dekoschak informed the Board and Committee he is asking for a \$209,000.00 increase. The Chief is needing two full time officers and a new cruiser. Because of new laws, the department cannot hire part time officers and with low recruitment, he is now forced to hire only full-time trained officers.

Chief Flaherty presented before the Board and Committee. Chair Szynal informed the Finance Committee the Select Board approved the contract with the consultant, but the work will not be done in time for the fiscal year. Chair Szynal mentioned we need to figure out how to fund Chief Flaherty's department \$183,000.00 more. Selectman Moriarty said we need all departments to work together with no infighting.

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: Jaworski– aye; Moriarty – aye; Szynal– aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS

Respectfully,
Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant