

Approved: February 14, 2023

Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
February 7, 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; Lydia Szych, Town Clerk; Michael Dekoschak, Police Chief; Eliza Langhans, Library Director; Michael Wood, Superintendent; Christy Boudreau, Chair, School Committee; Diane Brzozowski, Chair, Members 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**

**PUBLIC FORUM** Lydia Szych, Town Clerk, announced that she will be retiring in May. If anyone is interested in running for Town Clerk, please contact her office.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of October 26, 2022; Chair Szynal seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of January 24, 2023; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

**POSTED BUSINESS**

**TOPIC 1** Resident Micki Sanderson presented before the Board asking for their support in a compression release engine brake prohibition for all of Hatfield. She asked the Board to send a letter to all commercial trucking companies in Town and request the discontinued use of engine brakes on all public roadways and for the company to notify their employees of the prohibition; DPW can place signage where appropriate notifying drivers that engine brakes are prohibited; and the police be given enforcement tools, using fines, if necessary. Selectman Jaworski suggested placing signage far enough away, so drivers begin to slow down without having to use the engine brake. Police Chief Dekoschak agreed the engine brakes are not necessarily needed but what can we legally do to rectify this problem? When it comes to the Police Department, we can't ban safety equipment on trucks. Whatever we do, we need to check with legal counsel.

**TOPIC 2** Barry Roberts, Center School Condominium Building: Barry Roberts presented before the Select Board requesting a change to the Center School Condominium building. The owner of Unit 5, second floor, would like to put windows in the south side of the building which match the north side. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the window change as presented by Barry; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no further discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 3      **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Surplus property for disposition (police cruiser):** Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator requested the Board declare the 2014 police cruiser as surplus upon the recommendation of the Police Chief. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to declare the 2014 Ford Explorer cruiser as surplus; Selectman Jaworski seconded based on the recommendation of the Police Chief; no further discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Competitive Edge Racing Event, April 8: Ms. Michonski informed the Board Competitive Edge would like to hold a road race on April 8, 2023, in Hatfield. The Board reminded Competitive Edge that the Town does not allow permanent markings on any street or sidewalk and any signs placed out for the event must be removed at the end of the event. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the Competitive Edge racing team event for April 8, 2023 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and to reiterate that spray paint is not to be used on our streets or sidewalks; Selectman Jaworski seconded along with the conditions as stated; no further discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 4      **Smith Academy Park Pavilion Contract for Design Services:** Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the contract as presented; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 5      **@6:00 p.m. Finance Committee: Joint meeting to discuss FY2024 Budget Reviews with Departments:**

Police: Mike Dekoschak, Police Chief presented his budget. The Police Department is looking to add 2 full time officers and to purchase a new cruiser.

Library: Eliza Langhans presented her FY24 budget which is level funded. She informed everyone that all library personnel are part-time and she would like health insurance for the part-time staff.

Recreation Committee: Level funded

School: Christy Boudreau, Chair, School Committee made a presentation of what the school would like to do over the next three years in preserving the number of students, attracting school choice students, and expanding the curriculum.

Town Administrator: HCTV: Level funded and there will be additional revenue from Comcast. There is an increase in telecommunications. Animal Inspector/Animal Control Officer: Level funded. Conservation Commission: Level funded. Town Hall Operations: Level funded. Audit: Increase for contractual general audit. General liability of property, public safety insurance: The 5% rate increase is due to a high number of worker's compensation claims in the

last two years. We are adding another building on Elm Court, and we are adding more vehicles every year. Legal: Level funded. Select Board: Added \$1,000.00 for advertising costs. Technology: There is a reduction this year because we are migrating to the cloud. Administrator & Staff: Slight increase for merit increases.

#### **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 at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully,  
Karen Brodeur  
Executive Assistant