

Approved March 21, 2023

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
February 28, 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; David Keir, Capital Improvement Planning Committee; Kyle Scott, Building Inspector; Patricia Cotton, Treasurer; Diane Brzozowski, Chair, Kim Baker, Sean Barry, John Wilkes, Jr., Finance Committee

CALL TO ORDER Chair Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Chair Szynal thanked the DPW for the job they have been doing in clearing snow and ice from the recent storms. Last Tuesday Chair Szynal went to South County Ambulance and met with their governing body. South County wanted to explain how their system works, how it got started, were honest about it being a tough road for a while, and how the structure might work if they were to cover Hatfield. The governing body for South County Ambulance consists of Selectboard members from different towns. It was a good meeting and there was a lot of information.

PUBLIC FORUM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Chair Szynal made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of February 2, 2023; Selectman Jaworski seconded; Selectman Moriarty abstained; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of February 14, 2023; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 1 The Heritage Tavern application for Entertainment and Auto Amusement License: Teri Anderson, owner of the Heritage Tavern appeared before the Select Board requesting licenses for entertainment and auto amusement devices. Selectman Jaworski asked if the jukebox will be inside and it will be. Selectman Jaworski asked if karaoke is planned for outside and Ms. Anderson said karaoke will be inside only. Selectman Jaworski asked if bands are planned for outside. Ms. Anderson replied that Heritage Tavern will be looking for outside bands as the weather gets better. Selectman Moriarty suggested we approve what we have in front of us and when Heritage Tavern is wanting to hold music outside, we notify the neighbors. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the Application for Entertainment for live music/one man band indoors and karoake until 10:00 p.m weekdays and 11:00 p.m. weekends; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor –aye; motion approved. Selectman

Moriarty made a motion to approve the Auto Amusement license for a jukebox and karaoke; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 2 Hatfield Cultural Council: Request for Approval to hold music event in Smith Academy Park on June 2, 2023, 6:00-8:30 p.m.: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator informed the Board Hatfield Cultural Council would like to hold a concert in Smith Academy Park on June 2, 2023. The band is Harvest & Rust doing Neil Young music. Chair Szynal pointed out that Smith Academy graduation is on the same night, and she is concerned that parking may be an issue. The church parking lot has always been used for Smith Academy graduation parking overflow. The Select Board asked David Keir his thought and he suggested Cultural Council should rethink this with the two events on the same night. Selectman Moriarty suggested approving this but telling Cultural Council about Smith Academy graduation. Chair Szynal suggested priority parking in the church lot should be for the graduation and questioned who would be in charge of monitoring that. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the Hatfield Cultural Council use of Smith Academy Park on June 2, 2023 from 6:00-8:30 p.m.; Chair Szynal mentioned graduation starts later than 6:00 p.m. so there may be a problem with parking. Chair Szynal suggested holding off on approving this until we know there is a plan in place. Selectman Jaworski agreed with holding this until the next meeting. Selectman Moriarty withdrew his motion, Selectman Jaworski seconded the withdrawal, motion withdrawn.

TOPIC 3 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Comprehensive Plan Update/Farmers' Roundtable Discussion: Ms. Michonski updated the Select Board the Committee meets once a month and there is low attendance at these meetings. Ms. Michonski stated we almost didn't have a quorum. If someone has a conflict, maybe they could find someone else to fill their spot. Ms. Michonski advised the Board the Ag Advisory Commission is holding a farmers' roundtable discussion on March 2nd and people are encouraged to join.

Comcast License Renewal Update: Ms. Michonski informed the Board she and John Novak had a conference call with Attorney Solomon and he is working out the small details with Comcast. Ms. Michonski sent updated recommendations to Attorney Solomon and he is communicating them to the Comcast representative.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement: Ms. Michonski informed the Board that Shawn Robinson is on the Comprehensive Plan Committee and food has been ordered from Prospect Meadow Farm for those meetings. Mr. Robinson felt the Board should be aware as he does not want a conflict of interest. Chair Szynal said we are not dealing with Shawn Robinson individually and this does not affect Shawn's budget. Ms. Michonski further informed the Board Shawn Robinson does not have a financial interest in this - he just wanted the Board to be aware.

TOPIC 4 Capital Improvement Planning Committee: Review 5-year plan and recommend FY24 projects: Presentation to Select Board: David Keir informed the Board we have a great Committee, and he was elected Chair again. There is an open seat on the Committee. The requests this year are nominal, we know it will be a tight year on the budget. If there is a

consideration for an override, there are things on this plan that should be considered to be included in the override. David Keir presented the entire plan for Townspeople.

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

Assessors: Level funded.

Building Inspector: Kyle Scott presented the FY24 budget for Building Inspector. The increase he is seeking is for the online permitting software. This program helps when people are in tax default. Electrical fees increased as of the first of the year. The inspectors now have tablets for the online permitting.

Collector/Treasurer: Patricia Cotton, Treasurer presented the FY24 budget for Collector/Treasurer. She informed the Select Board and Finance Committee that the health insurance will be increasing 6% this year. Most of the budget is level funded.

Accountant: Ms. Michonski informed the Select Board and Finance Committee the accountant will be at Town Hall for a meeting later this week. They are proposing an increase, but Ms. Michonski does not know what that is. Ms. Michonski informed the Board since Marcum has purchased Melanson, we will have to look at the contract they will be proposing. Ms. Michonski suggested looking for an in-house accountant. Selectman Moriarty reiterated the problem is this is such a unique type of Town in the past there is a small pool of candidates. It was agreed that Ms. Michonski would place an ad for an in-house accountant to see what may be out there.

CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURN Selectman Moriarty made a motion to adjourn; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; meeting ended at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully,
Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant