

Approved May 23, 2023

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA

Present: Select Board: Members Brian Moriarty and Edmund Jaworski

Also in attendance: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator; Phil Genovese, DPW Director

CALL TO ORDER Selectman Moriarty called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

TOPIC 1 Approve May 9, 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant: Ms. Michonski informed the Select Board that she removed the Capital article to fund wiring, mini-splits, etc. for second floor and Finance recommendations were inserted. She consulted with CPC and spoke with the Chair, John Wilkes, about the Select Board's request to delete the words "Town center" in Article 25 of the draft Warrant. Community Preservation Committee decided to let Town Meeting decide on the Article. Selectman Moriarty, as I asked at the last meeting, does the meaning tie the \$400,00.00 for the pickleball and tennis courts to the center of Town? Ms. Michonski answered yes. Selectman Moriarty it may sound good to the residents at Town Meeting but if the Select Board does not want it in Town center, CPC tied their hands by not changing "Town center." Ms. Michonski stated the Select Board supports the project and Selectman Moriarty stated we don't know if we support the location because no one has come before the Select Board about this. They came about the possibly of putting it around the elementary school and then nothing. Ms. Michonski discussed this matter with Town counsel and asked if the location were to change, does that mean funds cannot be used for the relocation? Tom Mullen answered this is specific to the center of Town. Selectman Jaworski, even if at Town meeting it passes, the Select Board may not sign off on it. Selectman Moriarty CPC, the Recreation Committee and citizens cannot force the Select Board hands and I believe they are forcing this. They are asking us to approve something we don't know anything about. Selectman Moriarty, I don't think every other committee had a conversation on this. This is up to the School Committee. Selectman Moriarty believes this belongs on school property. They are trying to get more students and they could have a tennis club. Maybe a resident will make a motion to change the language of the article at Town Meeting. Selectman Moriarty went on bottom line for me, it seems that the CPC tied the money to a specific location, and I don't know why they did it. This is \$400,000.00 of our tax money so I'm not sure why they did it this way. Selectman Jaworski said that after school some kids have to wait to be picked up. While they are waiting, they could play pickleball or tennis. The ideal location would be Smith Academy as there is a parking lot. Selectman Moriarty went on there is a lot more that needs to be thought out before it is placed; we need parking for this; they need to have a conversation. Selectman Moriarty believes this is being jammed down our throats to build it back there. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the May 9, 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant as presented; Selectman Moriarty seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 2 DPW REPORT: Water and sewer abatement 115 Elm Street, #3B: Phil Genovese, DPW Director presented before the Select Board and informed the Board that the abatement is due to a faulty meter. Selectman Moriarty questioned if there may be a bad batch of meters that were installed. Mr. Genovese said sometimes a meter will flip a number. If there is a huge discrepancy the meter is taken out and sent out for inspection. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to abate 115 Elm Street, #3B, Beatrice Moulton \$124.80 for water and \$304.00 for sewer for a total of \$429.79 usage based on a faulty meter; Selectman Moriarty seconded; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURN Selectman Moriarty made a motion to adjourn; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; meeting ended at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully,
Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant