

Approved June 14, 2023

Select Board
Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA

Present: Select Board: Diana Szynal, Chair, Members Edmund Jaworski and Greg Gagnon

Also in attendance: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator; Phil Genovese, DPW Director; Patricia Cotton, Treasurer; Hannah Zahn, Firefighters Association

CALL TO ORDER Chair Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

TOPIC 1 EXECUTIVE SESSSION 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. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to move into executive session under 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; Chair Szynal seconded: Gagnon – aye; Jaworski – aye; Szynal– aye.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Chair Szynal congratulated the winners of the recent election: Greg Gagnon, Timothy Menz, Robert Betsold and Alaina Wilcox. Thank you to the Town for turning out. Thank you to the department heads and financial team for all your hard work. Chair Szynal and Selectman Jaworski welcomed their new colleague, Greg Gagnon.

Selectman Jaworski announced the Memorial Day Parade will be on Sunday, May 29, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. beginning at the Legion Club. At 10:00 a.m., the Honor Guard will visit Bridge Street and then at 12:30 the parade will kick off from the Legion Club to Main Street. After the parade there will be a public barbeque. The cost is \$12.00 per adult and \$5.00 for kids. Thank you to all Veterans and their families. Legion members have tickets for sale to the barbeque.

Chair Szynal thanked the Celebration Committee for the recent concert. Chair Szynal informed the public that a survey was taken on election day for luminarium. Seems people favored Saturday for luminarium festivities.

Chair Szynal congratulated the 2023 Smith Academy graduation class. They will be graduating next week and we wish you the best of luck.

PUBLIC FORUM Hannah Zahn, Firefighter and EMT, came before the Board on behalf of the Fire Association. The Fire Association would like to hold a car wash on June 17 from 9:00 to 12:00 in the parking lot between Town Hall and the EMS building. Selectman Jaworski stated that since Ms. Zahn came under public forum, the Select Board cannot vote on this matter but did not see a problem with the event.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of April 25, 2023; Chair Szynal seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the executive session Minutes of April 25, 2023; Chair Szynal seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of April 28, 2023; Chair Szynal seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Jaworski stated he was not present at the May 2, 2023 meeting but because Selectman Moriarty is no longer on the Board, made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of May 2, 2023; Chair Szynal seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Gagnon abstained from voting on the minutes.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 2 Reorganization of Select Board: Selectman Jaworski made a motion to designate Diana Szynal Chair of the Hatfield Select Board, Selectman Gagnon seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Department liaisons are: Building Inspector – Greg Gagnon; Council on Aging – Diana Szynal; DPW – Edmund Jaworski; Fire/Ambulance – Edmund Jaworski; Police – Diana Szynal; Schools – Greg Gagnon; Town Administrator – Greg Gagnon; Treasurer/Collector – Greg Gagnon; Capital Improvement Planning Committee – Diana Szynal; Franklin Regional Transportation Authority (FRTA) – Greg Gagnon; and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Edmund Jaworski.

TOPIC 3 Community Gardens: Discussion with Water Department and Agricultural Commission re: Access and use of water: Topic removed as the matter has been resolved.

TOPIC 4 Resignation(s): Robert Betsold, Celebration Committee: After reviewing Robert Betsold's letter of resignation from the Celebration Committee, Selectman Jaworski made a motion to accept the resignation of Robert Betsold from the Celebration Committee; Selectman Gagnon seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Ms. Michonski informed the Board the Town Clerk's office received an appointment request from Kristy Dyer who wants to fill that vacancy. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to appoint Kristy Dyer to the Celebration Committee; Selectman Gagnon seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 5 **DPW REPORT Transfer of 2010 Van from Public School to DPW Fleet:** Phil Genovese, DPW Director informed the Board that the school would like to transfer the 2010 van to the DPW. The van will be used for seasonal help. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to accept the transfer of the 2010 van from the public school to DPW; Selectman Gagnon seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Jaworski asked about line painting. Mr. Genovese informed the Board he is having problems with booking. Mr. Genovese informed the Board he met with Eversource about a program to put charging stations in Town Hall parking lot for electric vehicles. Mr. Genovese informed the Board the Town would have to pay \$500.00 per year but all monies collected from the EV units would go to the Town. It was

suggested that the Treasurer/Collector's office maintain collection of monies from the units. The public will have access to the units. Ms. Michonski stated we need to look at this closely and she asked who would get charged for the electricity used and Mr. Genovese stated the Town but then the Town would keep the profits from those using the charging station. Selectman Jaworski asked Mr. Genovese to look into the solar system at the school. The Board would like to see electric bills from before and after the project to see what the savings are. Selectman Jaworski asked about the Route 5 project and why work has not begun yet. Mr. Genovese said there is an issue with the dewatering but Geeleher is looking to start work on June 1st.

TOPIC 6 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Special Municipal Employee Designation – Town Moderator: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator informed the Board she received a request from Robert Betsold to ask the Board to accept M.G.L. c.268A, designating the Town Moderator as special municipal employee. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to designate the position of Town Moderator "special municipal employee", pursuant to M.G.L. c.268A; Selectman Gagnon seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Accounting Services Agreement – Fiscal Year 2024: Ms. Michonski informed the Select Board of the Accounting Services Agreement with Marcum LLP for FY2024. This is a one-year contract and fees increased. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to accept the agreement for accounting services with Marcum LLP for the fiscal year 2024; Selectman Gagnon seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Chapter Land 61B: Straits Road, Notification to Town of intent to sell land; Town Right of First Refusal: Ms. Michonski informed the Board of the notification from Sarah M. Wanczyk, Trustee of the Belden Family Trust and William A. Belden to the Town. If the Board is interested in the land, a hearing must be scheduled. Ms. Michonski informed the Board the Trust has an agreement to sell the land and the land will remain in 61B. Chair Szynal would like to hear back from the other Boards before a final decision is made.

CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS

TOPIC 7 Comprehensive Plan Update / Town Grant Match: Ms. Michonski informed the Board the Comprehensive Committee will meeting May 24. On June 10th there is an in-person event from 8:30-12:00. Ms. Michonski said anyone can go to the comprehensive plan website which contains a lot of information. In conjunction with the Committee's work, the Elementary and Smith Academy School Students collaborated with Cooler Communities a program that receives funding through the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation which provides schools with grants up to \$5,000. At an earlier meeting a request to fund the Town's grant match from ARPA funds was discussed. The Town's obligation is \$43,875.00 (25% match). This is a result of an amended scope and budget to EOEEA to adjust funding. Adjustments included moving \$15,000 earmarked for diversity, equity and inclusion training. The ARPA funds balance is

\$418,671.00. The total grant from the state is \$283,900.00 and in-kind match is \$47,750.00; and the total cash match from the Town is \$46,875.00 for 2 years; for a grand total of \$378,525.00. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to use \$43,875.00 from ARPA funds for the Comprehensive Plan Update; Selectman Gagnon seconded; no discussion; all in favor -aye; motion approved. Chair Szynal asked if anyone has heard anything further about the federal government's claw back on ARPA funds but no one knows what the federal government will do.

Rt. 5 Water and Sewer Infrastructure Improvements Project Update/Grant Funds: Ms. Michonski stated the topic was mentioned earlier. Ms. Michonski updated the Board stating that the quarterly report has been filed with the Massworks program and construction is to begin on June 1st. Chair Szynal asked Mr. Genovese if residents have been notified. Mr. Genovese stated the date is not certain.

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS

Selectman Gagnon left the room. Ms. Michonski informed the Board she received a disclosure regarding special municipal employee for Selectman Gagnon. He consulted with the State Ethics Commission. Selectman Gagnon performs traffic control and is hired by the Police Department on occasions. Ethics advised him as a member of the Select Board to file the disclosure with the Select Board so he is designated as a special employee with financial benefits. Chair Szynal asked if it limits him on the Select Board. Chair Szynal went on if he is paid from revolving funds, it is not Town funds. If he works on, for example, the Route 5/10 project, Geeleher pays for traffic detail, so he is not paid by the Town. Chair Szynal stated we need a clear written decision stating that no public funds are being used. We should accept this as is but we need further clarification. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to accept the disclosure by Gregory Gagnon in our handout; Chair Szynal seconded but stated we need clarification on the financial stream; no further discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 8 EXECUTIVE SESSION MGL. Ch. 30A, §21a, 3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to move into executive session under MGL, Ch. 30A, §21a #3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares and not to return to regular session; Chair Szynal seconded; Jaworski – aye; Szynal – aye; Gagnon – aye. The meeting adjourned 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully,
Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant