

Approved September 19, 2023

Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
September 5, 2023 at 5:30 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; Robert Flaherty, Fire Chief; Gary Savard; Risley Dudley, Food Bank of Western Massachusetts; Daniel and Alfiya Tarnovskiy, Old Stage Road; Daria Zartseva; and Attorney Vitaly Yusenko

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Chair Szynal reminded everyone of the presentation meeting for the consultant's report on EMS services in Town on September 27, 2023 at 6:30 at the Hatfield Elementary School. The report is on the website or feel free to reach out to Town Hall for a copy. I hope people will come and participate. Chair Szynal reminded everyone that school started so watch out for kids walking, riding bikes and school buses.

**PUBLIC FORUM** No one.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of August 22, 2023; Selectman Gagnon seconded; no discussion; all in favor –aye; motion approved.

**POSTED BUSINESS**

The Select Board took a topic out of order.

**TOPIC 5** Fire Chief Flaherty: Discuss Fire Detail Hourly Rate and Ambulance Abatement: Robert Flaherty, Fire Chief informed the Select Board the mini pumper will be ready in August, 2024.

Fire Chief Flaherty is requesting approval for \$27,856.90 in abatements for accounts which are uncollectable. FFR Collections made attempts to collect these accounts, but they are not likely to be collected. Coastal Medical Billing makes 3 attempts to collect then sends it to FFR Collections. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to abate \$27,856.90 for the Fire Department's billing of Coastal Medical Billing and FFR Collections; Selectman Gagnon seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

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Fire Chief Flaherty is requesting approval of the fire detail hourly rates. In reviewing the fees, Selectman Jaworski asked about the dumpster fee - how do residents know if they get a dumpster, they are required to pay a fee? Chief Flaherty answered that some of the companies instruct the homeowner. Chief Flaherty said there is an added permit for solar/energy storage system (ESS). Chair Szynal made a motion to approve the detail rates as presented; Selectman Gagnon seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Chair Szynal made a proposal that we accept the new fee schedule that adds the solar/energy storage system line; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

**TOPIC 1      Hatfield Main Street Market – Transfer of All Alcoholic License formal vote:**

Chair Szynal called the hearing to order at 5:45 p.m. and reminded the Board the transfer was done previously but it is required to be advertised in the local newspaper but wasn't. No one was present for the hearing. Selectman Gagnon made a motion to rescind the June 13, 2023 vote on the application to transfer an off premises all alcoholic beverages license from Hatfield Center Store, Inc. to Hatfield Variety, Inc.; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Gagnon made a motion to approve the transfer of an off premises all alcoholic beverages license from Hatfield Center Store, Inc. to Hatfield Variety, Inc.; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

**TOPIC 2      One Day Liquor License for Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, September 24, 2023 Cycling Event, 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Hatfield Lion's Club Pavilion:**

Risley Dudley of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts presented before the Select Board seeking a one-day liquor license for their cycling event on September 24, 2023. After reviewing the documentation, Selectman Gagnon made a motion to approve the one-day liquor license for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, September 24, 2023 cycling event, 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Hatfield Lion's Club Pavilion; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Chair Szynal reminded Ms. Dudley that there are to be no markings on the roadways with paint. Chair Szynal asked Ms. Dudley if she would send over the cycling route so that it can be put on social media for residents to be aware.

**TOPIC 3      Daniel and Alfiya Tarnovskiy, Old Stage Road: Discuss conservation restriction abutting land and removing town signage (unmaintained area of road):**

Daniel and Alfiya Tarnovskiy presented before the Select Board along with their attorney, Vitaly Yusenko. Ms. Tarnovskiy stated there is a DPW sign up there she would like moved. The sign states the Town will not maintain the road. Since the Tarnovskiy's made improvements to the road, the sign needs to be moved. Mr. Genovese told the Tarnovskiy's he would move the sign. Ms. Tarnovskiy wants to be sure Old Stage Road will be plowed and maintained and Mr. Genovese informed her it will be. The biggest issue is the widening of a gravel road leading to their property. Attorney Yusenko informed the Town that the gravel road would need to be paved over along with being widened to 20 feet wide. Ms. Michonski asked Ms. Tarnovskiy to explain why you wouldn't put a driveway directly off Old Stage Road instead of going through the gravel road. Attorney Yusenko stated there is no physical road leading to their lot, the only access is the gravel road. Mr. Genovese stated the gravel road goes through a conservation

restriction and we cannot touch that. Ms. Michonski informed the Tarnovskiy's there are questions about what can be done on the gravel road. Chair Szynal stated she would like to look at it before anything is done. Ms. Tarnovskiy informed the Board they reached out to Kestrel for permission to widen, they said the plot of plan is owned by Hatfield and permission would have to come from the Select Board. Kestrel does not oppose the right of way. The right of way has to be widened to 20' in order to comply with what the Fire Chief told the Tarnovskiy's. Chair Szynal asked if the property doesn't have frontage on a town road, so how did you get a permit? Ms. Tarnovskiy stated they were told if they did certain things there would be no problem. Mr. Tarnovskiy also stated we need to find out what we have to do to widen the gravel road, it's a right of way off Old Stage Road. Selectman Jaworski stated this is a piece of land over a conservation restriction, so we need to get something from Kestrel. Kestrel cannot give permission as the land is owned by the Town of Hatfield. Chair Szynal reiterated that she wants to look at this. Attorney Yussenko stated they were told they had to make improvements to be able to build. Chair Szynal asked are you looking for the Town to maintain it? Mr. Genovese said yes, we agreed to this but not to maintain the right of way. The Select Board agreed we need to hear from Conservation, Kestrel, Fire Chief, and the Building Inspector. Selectman Jaworski stated the easement may have to go before Town meeting. Selectman Jaworski said if we don't go through the process the correct way, you run the risk of being shut down which could give more issues. Ms. Michonski stated the Conservation Commission is only concerned about the wetlands, not this issue. The Tarnovskiy's were informed the next meeting is September 19<sup>th</sup> if we have more information from the Fire Chief, Conservation Commission, and the Building Inspector. Selectman Jaworski suggested getting everyone in the room and it's easier to work out.

TOPIC 4      G&S Industrial Class I License: Rescind vote of July 11, 2023 approving transfer of license to Harrison Diesel Solutions, vote to abate license fee to Harrison Diesel Solutions, LLC: Gary Savard presented before the Select Board informing them that a supplier of G&S Industrial is requiring the party purchasing the business to have a least a year of experience in truck sales before transferring the Class I license. Therefore, Mr. Savard is requesting that the Board rescind their vote transferring the Class I license and to reinstate his license. Selectman Jaworski made a motion to rescind the vote of July 11, 2023 approving transfer of the license to Harrison Diesel Solutions and abate the license fee; Chair Szynal seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the Class I license application of G&S Industrial; Chair Szynal seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

TOPIC 6      Appointments/Resignations: The Select Board reviewed the resignation of Ed Lesko from the Historical Commission and with regret, Selectman Gagnon made a motion to accept the resignation of Ed Lesko from the Historical Commission; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

The Select Board reviewed the resignation of Ed Lesko from the Emergency Management Commission and with regret, Selectman Gagnon made a motion to accept the resignation of Ed Lesko from the Emergency Management Commission; Selectman Jaworski seconded with regret; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

The Select Board reviewed the applications of Amy Novak and Frederick Martin to the Historical Commission. Chair Szynal made a motion to appoint Amy Novak and Frederick Martin to the Historical Commission; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved. Selectman Jaworski thanked Amy Novak and Rick Martin for stepping up.

**TOPIC 7      DPW Report: Employee Personnel Form/Recommendation for rate increase:**  
Phil Genovese, DPW Director presented before the Select Board requesting a rate increase for the assistant water superintendent. Selectman Jaworski did not feel the job responsibilities or duties warranted such an increase. Mr. Genovese stated the employee holds several licenses required by DEP and that he has DPW experience and can operate the DPW equipment. Chair Szynal supports this increase stating the licenses alone warrant an increase. Mr. Genovese stated this employee checks the wells daily and knows quite a bit regarding testing. Chair Szynal stated Brandon is qualified for that position and along with all the licenses he holds, it would be difficult to fill that position and potentially would cost more to hire someone else. We are talking about a good employee with great licenses. Selectman Jaworski asked do we need two people and Chair Szynal replied we need people with licenses. Mr. Genovese stated Brandon could do anything, he plows and he's an equipment operator and the money for this increase is in the DPW budget. Chair Szynal stated I think it's a job worth investing in. Selectman Jaworski stated even though I'm hesitant, I will move forward with the agreement based on Mr. Genovese' recommendation. Chair Szynal made a motion that we grant this pay increase as presented; Selectman Jaworski seconded based on Phil's recommendation; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

Mr. Genovese informed the Board tomorrow they are supposed to be laying pipe on Route 5 and dewatering should only be 3 to 4 days, not a week like they thought.

Mr. Genovese informed the Board Chestnut Street will hopefully be paved by next week. Selectman Jaworski congratulated Mr. Genovese on using the Chapter 90 funds wisely.

**TOPIC 8      TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Massworks Grant Update:** Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator, updated the Select Board regarding the Massworks grant – reimbursement of \$31,756.20 which has been received.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant Update: Ms. Michonski updated the Select Board of the MVP grant - reimbursement of \$148,345.00 has been received.

## **CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS**

**TOPIC 9      Social Media and Dress Code Policies:** Ms. Michonski prepared a social media and dress code policy to be included in the Employee Handbook. Chair Szynal asked if the Town is managing the social media site and is it being managed properly to which Ms. Michonski replied yes. Chair Szynal requested that Ms. Michonski review the policy to be sure the paragraph numbers referenced within other paragraphs are correctly numbered. Chair Szynal stated to be sure content being posted is consistent as employees are not immune from defamation actions and further, she sees things employees post against departments or other employees and it makes my blood boil. Chair Szynal went on if employees say they are a Town employee on their Facebook page and then make derogatory statements against other employees or departments - this is unprofessional and unacceptable. Ms. Michonski informed the Select Board the social media policy has been reviewed by Town counsel and Selectman Gagnon said that he would like to have Town counsel review the dress code policy as well. Chair Szynal made a motion that we approve the social media as presented just with the caveat that those paragraphs numbers may be changed; Selectman Jaworski seconded; no discussion; all in favor – aye; motion approved.

## **CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS**

Selectman Jaworski brought up that he would like to discuss the topic of the second floor. Selectman Jaworski stated we need to know what equipment John Novak needs to have.

## **UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURN** Selectman Jaworski made a motion to adjourn; Selectman Gagnon seconded; meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully,

Karen Brodeur  
Executive Assistant