

Select Board Meeting
January 12, 2024, 4:00 pm
Conference Room, Memorial Town Hall

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

Also in attendance: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator; TreeWorks, LLC, MacKae Freeland, Tim Kane.

Chairwoman Szynal opened the meeting at 4:01 pm for the purpose of discussions with TreeWorks LLC regarding a Host Community Settlement Agreement ("HCA") settlement agreement

Ms. Szynal highlighted discussions with Mr. Freeland.

- \$40,000 over quarterly payments with renewal of HCA extension with payments; Use of some of the funds for capital related projects at the Schools;
- Press Release; and
- Enter into a new HCA for a longer term

Mr. Freeland proposes a new agreement with a five (5) year term. TreeWorks attorney would draft the agreement.

Mr. Jaworski expressed that he is trying to understand why the Board had to do an agreement and why it could not be honored. Mr. Freeland explained that HCA's are more extensive, that the agreement is not legal. Mr. Freeland feels that they should have put more forethought into it and they have been looking at other issues municipalities are experiencing. TreeWorks recognizes it agreed to offer money and hopes the current offer satisfies the town.

Given that the contract has not been followed and now the demands made by TreeWorks, Mr. Gagnon is not comfortable with it. Mr. Freeland offered that volunteer hours were fulfilled pursuant to the HCA.

Discussion around initial agreement that included an education drug prevention piece at the School, Mr. Jaworski feels that grades 9 through 12 would benefit adding not so much about marijuana use but use of fentanyl.

Select Board is in agreement that the situation was not handled well, and townspeople are disappointed, they do not want to hurt the business.

Summarizing the settlement, Ms. Szynal suggested

- putting money toward purchase to replace the freezer at the Elementary School which is on the capital plan;
- vote HCA Extension to February 4;
- Agreeable to \$40,000

Mr. Gagnon feels how the money is spent should be a decision of the Select Board. Mr. Jaworski suggesting that there may be capital items or other options for Recreation, Police and Fire.

Motion made by Mr. Jaworski to extend the HCA to February 4, 2024 as presented to the Select Board. Motion seconded by Mr. Gagnon. Unanimous Vote.

Mr. Freeland presented the town with the first payment and suggested pushing off press release to February. Not until the Town sees actual agreement will check be processed.

In harmony with his board members, he does not want to hurt the business, however, he can't get past that an agreement was signed. Mr. Freeland welcomes the effort to have open communication and extends to the Board an invitation to tour their facility.

4:35 pm With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Gagnon and seconded by Mr. Jaworski. Unanimous.

Respectfully,
Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator