

Approved June 15, 2021

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2021, 5:30 pm
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA
Virtual GoToMeeting

Present: Board of Selectmen Chair Diana Szynal, Edmund Jaworski and Brian Moriarty. Also in attendance: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator; Claudia Sarti, COVID Coordinator; Robert Osley, Chair and Jeff Zgrodnik, Member Board of Health; Charles Kaniecki, Health Agent; Sharon Strzegowski, Treasurer/Collector; Brenna Duquette, Executive Director and John Wilkes, Member of the Housing Authority; Michael Paszek, 350th Steering Committee, Christopher Smith and Susan Berry.

CALL TO ORDER Chairperson Szynal called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Michael Paszek informed the Board about the 350th parade which will be held on May 30, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. and that it is a rolling parade, no one will be marching. At 1:00 p.m. when the jets fly over Main Street, the parade will begin moving. There will be no parking along the parade route. Streets will begin closing down at 12:00 p.m. so if residents are having family and friends over, be sure that everyone is in place by 12:00 p.m. when the streets along the parade route start to close. Residents should pay attention to street signs, the Town website, Facebook and robocalls for further information.

Selectman Moriarty stated this week is national EMS week. He wanted to give a shout out to all the EMS personnel for their hard work not just this week but for their work during the pandemic. These men and women have not only worked hard during the pandemic but that many times EMS personnel were unaware of what they would be walking into when answering a call. Selectman Jaworski reminded everyone that with the warmer weather there are more children outside and people need to be aware of this when driving.

PUBLIC FORUM Christopher Smith inquired why voting information was not put online as he was wondering when and where local elections would occur.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Selectman Jaworski made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2021; April 26, 2021 and May 4, 2021. Selectman Moriarty seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

POSTED BUSINESS COVID-19 Update: Claudia Sarti, COVID Coordinator informed the Board that in the last two weeks there has only been one positive case of COVID. State wide – case numbers are dropping. Charlie Kaniecki informed the Board that the playing field changed today with the Governor's reopening plan and that by May 29th there will be no restrictions.

Tenant Appointment to Housing Authority Board: John Wilkes and Brenna Duquette informed the Board that it was their recommendation that the Selectmen appoint Judy Schell to the position. Selectmen Moriarty made a motion to appoint Judy Schell to the position available at the Hatfield Housing Authority, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Municipality Option to Opt Out of Mosquito Spraying and Application for an Alternative Mosquito Management Plan: Marlene Michonski advised the Board that there is a minimum \$5,000.00 cost to join and that the Board of Health does not recommend entering the program and that the Board of Selectmen is required to vote to opt out. Charlie Kaniecki, Health Agent informed the Board that there are two parts to this, opting out of spraying and then informing the State of what the Town's plan is. Bob Osley, Chair, Board of Health informed the Board of Selectmen that they decided not to join or to encourage spraying. Jeff Zgrodnik, Member Board of Health stressed that people need to protect themselves. Bob Osley, Chair, Board of Health informed the Board of Selectmen that the Board of Health has a written alternative plan which will be included in the paperwork to the State. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to opt of all spraying or only certain spray activities, such as aerial spraying, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Listening Session: Marlene Michonski informed the Board of Selectmen that the Town has received a grant to prepare a municipality vulnerability preparedness plan and that there is a public listening session on May 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. and everyone is encouraged to join in.

Water Abatement: The Board of Selectmen were informed that the water meter at this property was faulty and had to be changed out. Selectmen Moriarty made a motion to approve the water abatement at 114 Prospect Street, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Melanson FY22 Outsources Accounting Contract: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator presented the Melanson Professional Municipal Accounting Outsources Services Agreement and recommended the Board accept it. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to approve the contract with Melanson, Selectman Jaworski seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Town Health Insurance Contribution for Retirees: Sharon Strzegowski, Treasurer/Collection informed the Board that when the vote was taken for an increase of the Town's portion of health insurance, the retirees were not included in that vote. The Board needs to vote to include the retirees. Selectman Moriarty made a motion to reiterate the Town's contribution will be 55% rather than 50% which it has been for years for retirees; all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator updated the Board that the mitigation plan will expire at the end of this year. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has begun working on this.

Selectman Moriarty made a motion to go into 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 seconded, all in favor aye, regular session meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully,
Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant