

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, March 22, 2017

Howard Bronstein, Leslie Rule, and Winton Pitcoff were present. The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

ATM Warrant Articles

Petitions for three proposed non-binding resolutions for the May 6, 2017 ATM Warrant were submitted by “voter request”. Voters’ signatures were verified by the Town Clerk who is also a member of the Board of Registrars. The petitions address concerns regarding Carbon Fees and Dividends, the Protection of Pollinators and Pollinator Habitat, and The American Anti-Corruption Act. Other articles will be addressed at the March 28th meeting.

Energy Committee

The Energy Committee and the Buildings Committee are proposing the installation of LED lighting in Town buildings as the first Green Community energy saving measure.

The Town will receive four “Green Communities” signs. Setting two and reserving two was discussed. No action was taken on sign placement pending consultation with the Highway Superintendent.

Broadband/MLP

The Board reviewed a document discussing the administrative structure of an MLP. Leslie suggested the following: 1. An MLP Manager; 2. An Assistant MLP Manager; and 3. An MLP Advisory Panel, as opposed to an elected MLP Board. At this juncture the Broadband Committee has discussed a change an MLP manager (Kimberly Longey is willing to serve as such replacing Leslie so as to eliminate any possible conflict that Leslie may foresee a member of the Select Board.) Howard suggested appointing the MLP manager and addressing the assistant manager and MLP Advisory Board at a subsequent meeting; Winton suggested appointing an MLP manager and assistant manager at the same time. The information on the MLP administrative structure was referred to the Broadband Committee. Select Board action on the matter was taken under advisement.

FY'18 Budgets

The Select Board agreed to level fund the FY'18 Town Counsel Budget at \$6,000.00. The decision was reached following discussion of the potential call for legal advice for the MLP, other broadband issues, PILOT agreements, and other potential legal concerns in the ensuing fiscal year. The Training/Seminars Account request was increased to \$1,000.00 in order to provide for training not included in other budgets. (This account is used by Select Board approval prior to sign up.) The Town Report request was level funded at \$1,000.00. The Select Board Salary Account was level funded at \$5,000.00. The Tax Collector, Treasurer, Accountant, and Administrative Secretary salary account requests were computed at a 1.5% increase (1.5% is the Finance Committee's recommended salary increase.) The Board is also seeking a \$5,000.00 appropriation to update town office technology.

Other Business

Plans to schedule a fourth auction for the 345/347 Main Street property will be discussed at the March 28th meeting.

Howard plans to attend a meeting with Highland Ambulance member towns.

The NEXAMP ZBA Public Hearing was continued April 20, 2017 pending review of PVPC and consultants points. Tim Walter submitted his written views on Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). The Board is and has been seeking information on PILOT agreements from other towns.

Leslie stated the new owners of 27 Broom Street have decided to pursue a photovoltaic solar installation instead of the previously proposed marijuana facility at this time.

Leslie moved to reappoint Casey Dwyer as Inspector of Animals from May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018. The motion, seconded by Howard, was unanimously approved.

Small Town Summit meetings are seeking to address issues relative to rural schools and towns.

The updated Buy-Recycled Policy required by HRMC was signed.

The Town can expect recycling dividends in the amount of \$348.01.

The Board approved payment of KP Law invoice #111035 in the amount of \$127.24.

The Board agreed to the installation of a booster by the Plainfield Congregational Church, at no expense to the Town, to enable the church access to reliable internet. A request on behalf of the COA to place a bulletin board at the north end of the Town Hall dining room was denied due to the space being the official polling place. A bulletin board is available in the Town Hall vestibule.

One student application for Smith Vocational School has been received.

Notice of Sylvane Stockwell's appointment to the Finance Committee was received from the moderator. The Board will not appoint an alternate to the Broadband Committee.

In order to expedite efficiency at Select Board meetings, plans to make meeting materials available to Board members electronically are being addressed.

In addition to the March 28th meeting, the Board will meet at the Town Offices on March 29th at 11:30 a.m. to further discuss future goals.

Correspondence

Lynne Robbins expressed her interest in another term as Library Trustee. (This is an elected position.)

Ms. Heather Wasilewski has been hired as MassDEP's Municipal Assistance Coordinator for Western Massachusetts.

Notice of the 2017 Household Waste Collection Events was received.

Meeting Notices:

Eversource Emergency Response Plan meeting, March 29, 2017

Hampshire County Select Boards Association, March 30, 2017

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary