

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, April 25, 2017

Howard Bronstein, Leslie Rule, and Winton Pitcoff were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of April 11, 2017 were accepted as amended.

### Property Auction

Howard entertained a motion to appoint the Select Board as Tax Title Custodian for the purpose of this meeting. The motion, moved by Leslie and seconded by Winton, was unanimously approved. The Board received three sealed bids for the 345/347 Main Street property: Sarah Stull \$3,000.00, Rob Skelton \$3,162.00, Todd Gerry \$1,002.00. Howard entertained a motion to accept the bid of \$3,162.00 submitted by Rob Skelton. The motion was moved by Leslie, seconded by Winton, and was unanimously approved. Winton moved to accept the \$3,000.00 bid submitted by Sarah Stull if Mr. Skelton fails to close on the property. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved.

The following officials addressed the Board in regards to the FY'18 budget and other matters:

### Police Chief

Police Chief Stacey Hudson is willing to accept the Finance Committee's budget recommendation reducing the FY'18 salary account and went on to explain that plans to have an officer provide "community policing" have not worked out. Payment for this service was anticipated from the salary appropriation to augment the dwindling Community Policing Grant funds.

The need for an additional officer was discussed which would affect both the salary and expense accounts. Costs of police academy training, uniforms, and equipment were discussed. Chief Hudson also spoke about training requirements, 40 hours for officers and 80 hours for the chief. To date departmental personnel are not compensated for training hours.

Updated radios cost \$7,524.00. One radio will be purchased in FY'17 and one in FY'18. A new pager (\$405.00) and hand held calibrated radar unit (\$600.00) are also needed. A solar powered speed limit sign is on the list.(The possibility of renting from another town was discussed.) A generator to open the garage doors

was also mentioned.

Chief Hudson stated the Town has never had to purchase a cruiser; they have been obtained by gifts and grants. Grants have also been utilized for radios.

The Western Massachusetts Law Enforcement Mutual Aid agreement was discussed. Plainfield is the only town that hasn't signed the agreement. Leslie cited the previous Board's reasoning for not signing as not being comfortable with an officer from another town having the authority to stop vehicles in Plainfield.

Winton moved to sign the Western Massachusetts Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved.

#### Highway Superintendent

Highway Superintendent Mert Taylor, Jr. agreed with the Finance Committee's recommendation to reduce the overtime/extra help portion of the FY'18 Highway Salaries appropriation by \$5,000.00 suggesting adding \$2,500.00 each to Machinery Upkeep and General Highway. In addition to backhoe repairs, Mert, Jr. noted the need for a new York rake and a spare plow estimated at \$7,000.00 each. Renting a small excavator and brush chipper was also mentioned.

#### Town Clerk

Town Clerk Ruth Osgood was unable to attend and authorized Paula King to speak on her behalf. Ruth accepts the Finance Committee's recommendation of \$5,000.00 for the Town Clerk FY'18 expense appropriation. (She will, however, ask for \$6,000.00 for FY'19 due to mid-term state elections.) Early voting requirements and the \$1,500.00 cost of programming the voting machine were noted. Ruth also wanted the Board and the Finance Committee to understand the Town Clerk's job entails more than her scheduled office hours.

Finance Committee Chair Lew Robbins will inform the Finance Committee of the above FY'18 budget recommendations/revisions on April 26<sup>th</sup> prior to the scheduled informational budget hearing. The Finance Committee's recommendations are based on 2 3/4 years actual spending.

#### Annual Town Meeting and Election Warrants

Winton moved to sign the ATM and Election warrants. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved. The warrants were signed and given to Constable Ed Morann for posting.

#### Resignation/Appointment

The Board accepted Kimberly Longey's resignation as Alternate WiredWest Delegate with appreciation.

Leslie moved to appoint David Kramer as Alternate WiredWest Delegate through June 30, 2017. The motion, seconded by Winton, was unanimously approved. Per recommendation of Planning Board Chair Brian Hawthorne, Leslie moved to appoint Robert Silberberg as Alternate PVPC Commissioner through June 30, 2017. The motion was seconded by Howard and was unanimously approved.

Appointments to the Cultural Council were taken under advisement pending research on the status of current members. Cultural Council appointments are made in September.

#### Other Business

Laurie Israel, ZBA, addressed the Board on the proposed 29 Union Street solar array. The Public Hearing which began on March 16, 2017 was continued to April 20, 2017 at which time the ZBA and NEXAMP were able to go over the draft of 55 conditions with PVPC and consultants. The Public Hearing was continued to May 15, 2017. Fifty-five conditions and a decommissioning plan with a cash bond to be held by the Town were noted.

Speaking in her capacity as moderator, Laurie plans to allow the Energy Committee to present the Green Communities cardboard check, metal signs, and a framed plaque with Town Meeting approval. A three minute broadband update and two minutes for each of the four resolutions on the ATM Warrant are also planned.

Speaking as a citizen, Laurie Israel expressed concerns about the Select Board's lack of due diligence in regards to Real Estate and Personal Property taxes on the proposed 29 Union Street solar project. The Board is seeking Town Meeting authorization to enter into a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with NEXAMP. After heated discussion, it was stated Real Estate (land) and Personal Property (equipment) are valued by the Board of Assessors. A PILOT agreement is one option. Laurie asked, "What will the tax be without a PILOT agreement?" The Board plans to consult with the Assessors in determining the best option for the Town. Assistant Assessor Cathy Hall has registered to attend a Berkshire County Assessors' Association meeting on May 11, 2017 at which George Sansoucy, P.E. will present a workshop on solar & utility valuation.

A letter will be sent to the Northampton Cycle Club concerning the 2017 Tour of the Hilltowns scheduled for July 29<sup>th</sup> after the Police Chief determines the cost of police detail for the event.

#### Correspondence

The Board received a letter from James Pugliese asking to have the upper section of Jones Avenue resurfaced. Howard will consult Mert, Jr. about the matter.

An e-mail from Brian Noyes, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Director of Research and Communications, wrote that Axia continues to operate the MassBroadband 123 network under contract with MassTech, MBI parent company.

Correspondence from the Department of Revenue regarding the settlement affecting Verizon New England Inc. central valuation litigation for FY2010 through FY2017 and Verizon's central valuations for FY2018 through FY2022 was received.

Additional mail and meeting notices were reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary