

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, June 11, 2019

Howard Bronstein and Hilary Weeks were present; Winton Pitcoff was absent. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of May 28, 2019 were accepted as submitted.

7:02 p.m. VALHALLAMA INC d/b/a Pub 116 Public Hearing

The Public Hearing on VALHALLAMA INC d/b/a Pub 116's petition for an All Alcoholic Beverage License to be exercised on the 788 West main Street premises was convened at 7:02 p.m. Owners Thomas Burns and Kristen Terfry were present along with neighbors and other residents. Tom and Kristen are in the process of redecorating the inside of the bar/lounge area to reflect local favor. Their plans are for a family-oriented business serving lunch and dinners seven days a week. Discussion included hours of operation and a question about broadband sign-up.

There being no other questions the hearing was closed at 7:13 p.m.

After discussing the application, Howard moved to approve the application for an All Alcoholic Beverage License for VALHALLAMA INC d/b/a Pub 116 on the 788 West Main Street premises. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved by the two members present. Hours were established as follows: Monday - Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight, Friday and Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m., Sunday 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight, New Year's Eve to 2:00 a.m.

Howard also noted there were no restrictions on the height of a flag pole according to the Building Commissioner.

Common Space Group (notes attached)

Several residents approached the Board seeking a common space in which to meet citing the lack of space due to the growing use of the Town Hall. When asked about their quest, the explanation included an intimate space so that games such as checkers would not have to be picked up. Kitchen space is also desired. The group has met with the Buildings Committee about the possibility of utilizing the basement beneath the library addition. Building Committee concerns included the three required bathrooms below grade being connected to the septic system. Architect Tris Metcalf noted connections are in place. Grant funds to adapt the space may be available through the Age Friendly Communities Program. Kimberly Longey offered grant writing assistance in her capacity as grant writing official when Howard asked who would be expected to write a grant proposal. Both the Buildings Committee and the Board suggested meeting with the Library Trustees. Other Boards and Committees will be poled about possible uses and numbers of people who might utilize the space.

MLP Update (attached)

MLP Manager Kimberly Longey informed the Board that broadband construction will begin July 15th. She is still waiting for 50% of the Verizon pole licenses; 100% of the Eversource pole licenses have been received.

Action items requested: Howard moved to stop pre-subscriptions as of June 30, 2019 with a sign-up grace period beginning July 1 for as long as contractors are in town. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved. Howard will speak with Chief Dennis Thatcher in regard to a Blackboard Connect (robo-call) during the week of June 24th as a reminder of the June 30th deadline.

Other Business

Howard noted a new washer/extractor and dryer system has been installed at the Public Safety Building paid for with funds raised by the Plainfield Volunteer Firefighters Association.

Howard moved to approve the accountant's request for end of year appropriation transfers in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Sec. 33B. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved.

Howard moved to sign the notes borrowing \$175,000 from the Broadband authorization to repay temporary borrowing from the Stabilization Fund. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved. The notes were signed.

Howard has completed the public safety job descriptions.

Minor changes have been made to the MVP and HMP documents. Emily Slotnick, PVPC, is to review the practice grant application prepared by Howard.

Full time hours and additional benefit costs for the police chief position were discussed. Even though the police FY'20 Police Salary appropriation will accommodate 40 hours, provisions were not made for health insurance, medicare, and unemployment. Retirement costs will not change for FY'20, but will affect the FY'21 assessment. Howard will consult with Chief Litchfield. A decision will most likely not be made for July 1st.

The Board received notice of the appointment of Patricia Morey as Assessors' Clerk form the Board of Assessors.

Correspondence

The Board received notice of herbicide application along right-of-ways from Eversource. Notice of transmission line maintenance was also received.

Senator Hinds sent notice in regards to PILOT funding review for the FY'20 budget.

The Department of Housing & Community Development has announced the Housing Choice Small Town Grant Program.

Copies of Howard's e-mails to Senator Hinds, Representative Natalie Blais, and Patrick Carnevale concerning the responsibility and care of Rte. 116 were received.

Co-founder of Kopelman & Paige, Leonard Kopelman is now with the firm of Brooks & DeRensis, a firm with fully trained lawyers experienced in municipal law.

A copy of the Highland Ambulance/EMS quarterly report for the period ending

March 31, 2019 was received.

Notice of an informational and training session at the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District was received. Howard plans to attend.

Miscellaneous mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary