

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, June 27, 2017

Howard Bronstein, Leslie Rule, and Winton Pitcoff were present. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The minutes of June 13, 2017 were accepted as submitted.

Assessors

Cathy Hall, Assistant Assessor, approached the Board with the software contract with Mass IT and Tyler Technologies. The document was signed by the chair. The Assessors have begun preparations for Cathy's retirement by meeting with consulting firms. Options include a part time person with fewer office hours in addition to a consultant for assessment purposes.

Waryjasz Property

Winton has been researching the status of the Waryjasz farm. He reported the state is attempting to go after APR properties that are not being farmed per APR agreements, but progress is slow. Chapter 61A land should be assessed at full value if it is not being farmed. It was noted the town could file to take the land by eminent domain stating it is in the town's best interest to sell it to an individual who will farm it.

Notice of Intent-Change of Use

Winton moved not to exercise the Town's right of first refusal for 29 Union Street. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved.

Community Compact

HCDC Executive Director Dave Christopolis has expressed interest in working with Plainfield towards regional services within the Community Compact Program.

Howard moved to adjourn for the proposed NEXAMP PILOT Informational Meeting at 7:00 p.m. and to reconvene following the Special Town Meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved.

The Select Board meeting reconvened at 7:52 p.m.

Highway Department

A Chapter 90 Project Request for line painting was signed.

Highway Superintendent Mert Taylor, Jr. has obtained three bids for a one-ton truck. The vehicle is to be purchased under the state contract. After reviewing the specifications, Mert, Jr. stated he prefers the Chevrolet model.

Mert, Jr. will have the departmental employees clean up the brush and tree limbs from South Union Street left by emergency crews when trees fell on the electrical wires this past winter.

Mert, Jr. will be on vacation the week of July 10th. Franklin Skaling will be in charge while he is away.

MLP Update

MLP Manager Kimberly Longey provided an update on broadband progress (notes attached). The grant contract with EOHCD was executed on May 22, 2017 followed by an inter-municipal agreement with Westfield Gas & Electric on June 7, 2017. State Grant funds of \$300,000 were requested and received. The grant funds will be utilized for the Pole Survey/Design and Engineering (\$81,000). Make Ready Applications (\$10,000 plus pole owner fees), Procurement (\$11,000), and Construction Oversight (\$57,000). These services will be provided by W. G. & E.

Options for Network Operations are being explored by MLP team members David Kramer and Lew Robbins, supported by Leslie Rule. A recommendation is anticipated by mid-September.

Plainfield's representatives to WiredWest are Leslie Rule and David Kramer who are working to ensure that information flows freely between WiredWest, Westfield Gas & Electric, and the MLP team.

MLP team members have clarified roles and responsibilities and hope to pivot towards marketing in the fall.

Kimberly stated communications among towns is being shared.

Winton asked if winter weather conditions might affect construction. Kimberly said, "It shouldn't."

Broadband will appear on every Select Board agenda in order to accommodate necessary decisions and updates.

27 Broom Street-Proposed Medical Marijuana

Leslie will recuse herself from contact with 27 Broom Street owners and from participating in matters relating to the proposed medical marijuana facility at the 27 Broom Street property. Winton will be the contact between the Board and the owners. The Board has been asked to send a non-binding letter of non-opposition

for the proposed project. Winton will seek information.

The owners of 27 Broom Street will be invited to attend the July 11, 2017 meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Other Business

Leslie moved to proceed with drafting a PILOT agreement with NEXAMP. The motion, seconded by Winton, was unanimously approved.

Winton moved to pay the Town's portion of KP Law invoice #112318. The motion was seconded by Leslie and was unanimously approved.

The Board supported Howard's letter to Rep. Daniel Cahill opposing House Bill #2252.

Winton moved to sign the race authorization for the Northampton Cycle Club July 29, 2017 Tour of the Hilltowns. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved. A check for five hours of police detail was received. All participants will be riding on Rte. 116 due to route changes because of construction on Rte. 9 in Goshen and Cummington.

The Board received a copy of the ZBA Special Permit as recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds for the 29 Union Street, LLC solar array. KP Law released an eUpdate entitled "Preparation of Public Records Guidelines-Deadline of July 1, 2017".

Additional mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary