

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, July 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 July 11, 2017 were accepted as amended.

Zoning Board of Appeals

ZBA Chair Peg Keller updated the Board on the activities of the ZBA, an ever-changing and complex process. In conjunction with the recent application for a photovoltaic solar array, Peg reported sessions with Larry Smith, PVPC, through the technical assistant grant were helpful and resulted in new information sheets, etc. The ability to hire consultants at an applicant's expense is also helpful. Larry Smith also met with the applicant, police and fire officials, and the building commissioner for municipal and peer review technical assistance prior to the public hearing on the solar application. (ZBA members were not permitted at this meeting.)

It was also noted with the upcoming application regarding medical marijuana growing facility, the building commissioner in his role as zoning enforcement officer is in possession of a complete manual for marijuana facilities and is responsible for holding said facility to prescribed standards. The zoning enforcement officer makes the call concerning the process after reviewing the initial application.

The ZBA, a three-member board with two alternates, meets monthly and is working to "tighten up" the application process. Approval of a Special Permit or variance must be approved by all three members seated at the required public hearing for any application before the ZBA.

Appointments

Winton moved to reappoint Peter Lapointe as PVPC Commissioner and Robert Silberberg as PVPC Alternate Commissioner through June 30, 2018. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved.

The Board received a copy of the Police Chief Stacey Hudson's FY'18 appointments.

Strategic Planning Update

The Select Board is in the process of updating and/or creating job descriptions for town employees while the Finance Committee is working on the salary side of the equation. Winton has gathered job descriptions from other towns which will be helpful in the process. Finance Committee Lew Robbins stated we can work through this ourselves or hire a consultant. After discussing the matter, it was determined that information extracted from the job descriptions provided by the Select Board will help in assessing salaries. Lew said the Finance Committee would be comfortable doing an analysis, but not recommending salaries. Both Leslie and Lew are in favor of hiring a consultant to extract information from job descriptions to recommend salaries. Employee benefits should also be considered in the process. Winton suggested sharing the cost of a consultant with one or more towns and expressed his opinion on being able to go forward with a process to manage salary increases and benefits without a consultant every year thereafter. (A copy of the Worthington agreement with the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management was received.)

Medi-Spa. Inc. Community Host Agreement

The Board reviewed the proposed Community Host Agreement provided by Medi-Spa, Inc. agreeing to Winton's proposed process. After discussion of proposed changes and resulting questions Howard and Winton approved submitting the agreement to KP Law for review and comment. An informational meeting on the proposal is planned for late September.

NEXAMP PILOT Agreement

Dave Doneski, KP Law, has reviewed the NEXAMP PILOT agreement. Two changes to the document include adding the assessor's map and lot numbers to the property description and a re-written version of paragraph 15. Winton moved to accept the changes suggested by KP Law and to submit the red line document to Chris Clark at NEXAMP. The motion, seconded by Leslie, was unanimously approved.

Other Business

Winton, Judy Williams, and Jack Nelson walked the Waryjasz property locating the dump site used by the owners. If the property should be sold in a cash sale there would be no obligation for a new owner to clean up the dump site. However, should the property be purchased with a USDA loan, a new owner would be required to clean up the dump site. In the event of foreclosure by USDA, the dump site would be assessed and clean-up costs determined. It was noted Franklin Land Trust has had inquiries from farmers interested in farming the Waryjasz property.

MLP: The pole survey is underway.

Trees slated for removal have been marked by the Eversource arborist.

Leslie provided a brief update on MTRSD School Committee happenings. The committee has entertained lengthy discussion on heterogeneous classrooms noting some parents are questioning whether or not learning goals are being met in this type of classroom situation.

Due to road construction on Rte. 112 in Ashfield, the Northampton Cycle Club has cancelled the 2017 Tour of the Hilltowns previously planned for July 28th.

Notice of FY'18 state revenue in the amount of \$122,044.00 and assessments of \$1,561.00 were received.

The following payments were approved: HCOG 1st Quarter assessment of \$100.57; MMA dues of \$500.00.

The Board agreed with language drafted by the Vocational Education Advisory Committee to update the MTRSD Regional Agreement.

It was also noted boards and committees are to seek Select Board approval prior to contacting town counsel.

Mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary