

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, February 14, 2019

Howard Bronstein and Hilary Weeks were present; Winton Pitcoff was absent. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. The minutes of January 22, 2019 were accepted as submitted.

MLP/Special Town Meeting Articles

Proposed articles for the March 12, 2019 Special Town Meeting submitted by the Select Board and MLP were discussed. Articles include an additional \$400,000 borrowing to complete construction of the fiber optic network, to establish an enterprise fund for the construction and operation of a telecommunications system, to leave the care, operation, maintenance, and repair of the telecommunications system, including buildings or other structures, and the land surrounding them in the charge of the Select Board, to authorize the Select Board to grant a perpetual, non-exclusive easement to NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource for the purpose of maintaining, replacing, and operating an existing overhead electric line transmission line over the 44 North Central Street property owned by the Town. An article seeking the transfer of funds from the Stabilization Fund for the remainder of FY'19 will not appear on the warrant as a temporary loan is being processed by the treasurer.

After discussion of M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 10A, it was determined that a continuance date of March 14, 2019 will be noted on the STM warrant in the event of bad weather or emergency. Kimberly will consult with the moderator.

Planning Board

Planning Board Chair Brian Hawthorne and Peter Lapointe presented proposed revisions to the Zoning By-Law for the Annual Town Meeting. Revisions include change in responsibility for the special permit granting authority and site plan reviews from the ZBA to the Planning Board in addition to other revisions for signs, businesses, and the placement of definitions within the document (Planning Board memorandum attached). Hilary moved to send the proposed Zoning By-Law revisions back to the Planning Board so as to schedule an informational session and the required March 30th Public Hearing. The motion, seconded by Howard, was approved.

Other Business

The Board set April 3, 2019 at 12:00 noon as the closing date for the submission of articles for the May 4, 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Howard moved to approve the treasurer's request to borrow \$175,000 from the Stabilization Fund to supplement Broadband FY'19 expenses in advance of third party borrowing. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved. (Temporary borrowing from Stabilization must be repaid by June 30, 2019.)

Hilary moved to pay KP Law invoice #119292 in the amount of \$52.50. The motion, seconded by Howard, was approved.

Howard presented a copy of the e-mail response to M. Shippee's Public Records Request.

Howard moved to approve the 2019 Class II license for James Pugliese d/b/a Orchard View Farm. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved.

Howard had a great discussion with the Building Commissioner about the proposed job description and other matters.

A public listening session for the MVP Grant and HMP took place on February 13th.

Appointments/Resignations

Howard moved to accept Dario Coletta's resignation from the Historical Commission with regret. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved.

Howard moved to support the Treasurer Allan Kidston's appointment of Heather Davis as Assistant Treasurer and Tax Collector Heather Davis's appointment of Allan Kidston as Assistant Tax Collector. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved.

Correspondence

Notice of the June 15, 2019 NCC Tour of the Hilltowns was received. Copies were referred to Ellen Dupont, EMS and Justin Litchfield, Police Chief. A letter requesting prepayment of police detail for the event will be sent.

A copy of the Town's withdrawal from WiredWest was received.

The 4th quarter report from Highland Ambulance/EMS was received.

Verizon submitted the required notice of an accidental hydraulic fluid spill. It was noted Verizon closed River Road following the incident without notifying the Police Department.

The Select Board and the Board of Health received an e-mail from Kathleen Casey, HRMC, noting DEP requirements before repairing the compactor wall.

Notice of EV charging station opportunity for municipalities was received.

Notice of Healthy Hampshire's Walk-Friendly Communities Program was received.

Notice of the MA Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program has been forwarded the Highway Superintendent.

John O. Martin, Southampton, is the new western tier alternate MPO member.

Miscellaneous mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary