

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, April 14, 2020

Howard Bronstein, Winton Pitcoff, and Hilary Weeks were present. Police Chief Justin Litchfield, Highway Superintendent Merton Taylor, Jr., Board of Health Chair Ellen Dupont, Duane Meehan, James Meehan, Judy Williams, Pleun Bouricius, and Matt Stowell were also in attendance.

The meeting, held via conference call consistent with Gov. Baker's temporary modifications to the Open Meeting Law, was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### Essential Services/Town Business

Work is being done. Hilary noted it is going smoothly. When asked Duane Meehan stated the highway crew normally works in a tight group patching potholes and cutting brush. He added though masks and coveralls are provided their use would be too hot when applying hot patch. Mert, Jr. stated the department would meet Wednesday morning to discuss plans. He is open to ideas to come up with a process by which departmental tasks can be done while maintaining social distancing.

Winton moved to keep Town Buildings closed until Gov. Baker lifts assemblage restrictions. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved as follows: Howard, yes; Winton, yes; Hilary, yes.

### Tax Deadline

Howard has been in contact with Tax Collector Heather Davis and Treasurer Allan Kidston in regard to the May 1, 2020 Real Estate and Personal Property due date. Winton asked if extending the due date to June 1<sup>st</sup> would pose a financial burden. Paula will consult with the treasurer. Internal borrowing is a possibility. Howard moved to extend the Real Estate and Personal Property due date from May 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved as follows: Howard, yes; Winton, yes; Hilary, yes.

### Caucus and Town Meeting Dates

The following dates were proposed: May 19<sup>th</sup> Caucus Posting, May 27<sup>th</sup> Caucus, June 20<sup>th</sup> Election and Town Meeting. Howard moved to postpone the May 2, 2020 Town Meeting and Election and accept the dates as listed above for Caucus and Annual Town Meeting. The motion, seconded by Winton, was unanimously

approved as follows: Howard, yes; Hilary, yes; Winton, yes.

Board of Health Chair Ellen Dupont said everything is calm. Howard noted that Ellen is doing an excellent job along with the members of the Board of Health.

#### Proposed Town By-Law Changes

The previously discussed by-law changes in regard to fines will appear on the ATM Warrant. The Public Hearing for the proposed changes will take place in conjunction with the Finance Committee's FY21 Budget Hearing.

Proposed by-laws put forth by the Conservation Commission and the Historical Commission were postponed due to the complicated nature and length of the proposed by-laws.

Howard move to close the ATM Warrant to the submission of articles. The motion, seconded by Winton, was unanimously approved as follows: Howard, yes; Winton, yes; Hilary, yes.

#### Resignation

Winton moved to accept Lina Bernstein's resignation from the COA with regret. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved as follows: Howard, yes; Winton, yes; Hilary, yes.

#### Other Business

The Police Department has applied for a USDA Grant for a police cruiser. The grant will cover \$28,212.91 (55%) of the cost with a \$23,083.29 (45%) match from the Town.

The Police Chief has appointed Kate Nevins as a Special Officer through June 30, 2020.

Paula reported a change in the listing of police officers for VFIS FY21 renewal due to the number of hours worked.

The position of Animal Control Officer will be discussed at the next meeting. Kate Nevins has expressed an interest in the position. Howard will approach Cummington to see if there is still interest in sharing an Animal Control Officer.

MVP Action Grant: Howard moved to pay invoice #0311373 for grant related culvert mapping in the amount of \$1,300. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved as follows: Howard, yes; Hilary, yes; Winton, yes.

Work has been halted due to COVID-19. There has been no word on an extension of the June 30, 2020 grant completion deadline.

MLP: Temporary broadband hook-ups have been devised for customers until in home installation can be resumed. Saturday's broadband outage was due to a problem with WG&E and the MBI middle mile connection.

IT Grant: Winton and Paula are reviewing the Novus proposal.  
Brent Steele has donated an additional \$1,884.74 for traffic signs.  
Northampton Cycle Club will be notified the Board won't approve the  
2020 race until Gov. Baker has lifted the restrictions on social interaction.  
Room tax for the December-February period is \$2,345.62.  
HCDC has asked for a letter of support from the Board to accompany a Housing  
Preservation Grant application.

Various memos and updates from KP Law and the DLS were received.

Other mail was reviewed.

The next meeting will be held by conference call on April 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary