

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, September 8, 2020

Howard Bronstein, Hilary Weeks, and Rebecca Coletta were in attendance. Also, present: Paula King, D.J. Clary, Matt Stowell, Todd Sienkiewicz, Mike Rosenberg, Melissa Hancock, Carla Trosino-Laramy, Kimberly Longey, Patrick Williamson, Sean Sheridan, Ellen Dupont, Jerry Little, Bonnie Pierce, Peter Lapointe. The meeting, held via conference call in accordance with Governor Baker's temporary modifications to the Open Meeting Law, was called to order at 7:01 p.m. The minutes of August 25, 2020 were accepted as submitted: Howard, yes; Hilary, yes, Rebecca, yes.

West Main Street, North Central Street, and East Main Street Pole Hearings  
7:16 p.m. West Main Street: Eversource Petition #6A030785 seeks permission to install 8 jointly owned mid-span poles to support a voltage conversion project starting at P23/153M, 31 feet north of the centerline of West Main Street and 367' east of the centerline of Stetson Avenue. Kimberly Longey, MLP Manager, expressed concerns that poles be of a height and class to support the Town's fiber optic wires and that the Town not have to pay for attaching fiber to new poles. She also acknowledged appreciation for Eversource follow-up. Mike Rosenberg, Eversource, will work with Kimberly on future projects. He stated the installation of mid-span poles lessen the distance to 200' between poles and will support the new conductor. Howard moved to approve Eversource Petition #6A030785. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved as follows: Howard, yes; Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes.

The North Central Street hearing, Petition #6A030911, reconvened at 7:24 p.m. requesting permission to install 5 new poles along North Central Street. Melissa Hancock, Eversource, supports reliable electric service and noted the importance of increased reliability the project will provide. The Plainfield substation on North Central Street supplies service from Hawley to Huntington, 230 miles. In order to re-mediate and mitigate reliability a split circuit from North Central Street and East Main Street to Rte. 116 is planned. The new cable will sustain tree branches better. Mike Rosenberg spoke with D.J. Clary and Todd Sienkiewicz last week to work out solutions to their concerns. He also noted the importance of keeping essential services running at the Public Safety Building. Hilary added the project appears to be straight forward as long as the solutions with landowners are acceptable. Mike

tries to work with landowners. Matt Stowell expressed concerns about trucks traveling along North Central Street. Mike, unable to speak for transmission, said distribution crews work will most likely work from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., normal business hours. Bucket trucks and auger trucks will be used. Rebecca asked about the project duration to which Mike answered by Christmas. Kimberly added both the Broadband Hub and the Public Safety Building have their own generators for power interruptions, but asked about protocol should there be a problem. Eversource will work with Public Safety to ensure that electrical service is maintained in the event of an outage.

D.J. Clary was given contact information for and plans to meet with a tree person Thursday regarding trees on his property close to the road and wires. He is optimistic. Mike noted the additional circuit makes future development and opportunities viable. Although it will look like single phase, the new circuit is for three phase power.

Howard moved to approve Eversource Petition #6A030911. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved as follows: Howard, yes; Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes. The East Main Street hearing, Petition #6A031034, reconvened immediately following the North Central Street hearing. Mike Rosenburg met with Todd Sienkiewicz regarding Todd's concerns about the equipment to be placed on the new East Main Street pole. The new pole is still needed to finalize three phase service, however, the proposed transmission equipment to Rte. 116 keeping out of the right-of way on the Sienkiewicz property. Todd had a good conversation with Mike about the solution. Howard moved to approve Eversource Petition #6A031034. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved as follows: Howard, yes; Hilary, yes, Rebecca, yes.

#### Host Community Agreement

Sean Sheridan approached the Board about growing and delivering cannabis. His plans include a growing footprint mimicking that of 27 Broom Street. He referenced rules for recreational cannabis regarding production and selling wholesale. A new type of license allows cannabis to be delivered to homes. There is sales tax revenue potential for home delivery. (Plainfield adopted the 3% sales tax on 7/24/2018.) Howard and Hilary are in favor of a Host Community Agreement with Sean Sheridan; Rebecca has no objection even though she noted her limited knowledge on the matter. Howard agreed to work with Sean Sheridan to draft said agreement, a requisite to apply for the state license. He also referred Sean to the Planning Board in regard to the Special Permitting process. Paula asked whether Sean currently owns property in Plainfield or plans to lease. Sean has not yet specifically identified a property. Kimberly noted the importance of location. Sean is not talking about dispensing, but growing, storing, and delivering.

Howard and Sean will review the existing Host Community Agreement with 27 Broom Street and adapt it for Sean's plans.

#### Resignations/Appointments

The Board accepted Claude Dupont's resignation from the Buildings Committee and the Planning Board with thanks and appreciation to Claude for his service and dedication to the Town.

Howard moved to appoint Judith Cole to the Planning Board through June 30, 2021 per request of the Planning Board. The motion, seconded by Hilary, was approved as follows: Howard, yes; Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes.

#### Opening the Town Hall for Meetings

Planning Board and Buildings Committee member Peter Lapointe asked the Board to consider opening the Town Hall for safe socially distanced meetings due to shorter days. The downstairs meeting room measures 16' x 37' equaling 592 square feet which limits the space to five people in accordance with Governor Baker's August 7<sup>th</sup> letter (8 people per 1000 square feet). The Board previously agreed to revisit reopening the building after the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election. Members of the Select Board will not meet in person at the Town Hall. Ellen questioned the space asking "how schools are opening". The upstairs is larger and will accommodate more people. She also noted difficulties encountered with Board of Health meetings.

Peter agreed it doesn't make sense to open until after early voting and the election. The acquisition of cleaning supplies and sanitizing products was discussed. Ellen questioned early voting and the election if meeting in person isn't allowed. Howard issued the reminder that the right to vote can't be infringed upon. Hybrid meetings are an option with a protocol established. Rebecca added gatherings of people are the problem, not cleaning and sanitizing products. She said we have worked hard for six months and have done a good job. Meeting indoors with no ventilation isn't a good idea. Ellen agreed we should continue to do what we have been doing.

#### Other Business

MLP: Crews are finishing installation. Police detail is needed for one installation. Everyone is current with payments at this time. Plans to establish reserves for insurance, etc. will be discussed with finance working group.

Kimberly agreed to work with Rebecca to research the cost of adding WI-FI to the Alden Pavilion. A good booster added to a pole was offered as a solution by Mike Rosenburg, Eversource. There may be funds in the MLP budget to cover the cost of adding WI-FI to the pavilion.

MVP Action Grant: Howard has submitted the 2<sup>nd</sup> bimonthly report. The final

deliverable for the culvert study is anticipated shortly. The Bow Street culvert will be replaced next week.

IT Grant: Contact will be made with NOVUS to start the project.

Job Descriptions: The Board will meet September 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss job descriptions and members contacts with employees.

Howard moved to pay KP Law invoice #127386 in the amount of \$418.83. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved as follows: Howard, yes; Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes.

#### Correspondence

The Board received Kimberly Longey's follow up to the 8/25/20 pole hearings. The Animal Control Officer's August report was received.

Other mail was reviewed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m. as follows: Howard, yes; Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary