

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, November 24, 2020

Hilary Weeks, Rebecca Colleta, and Patrick Williamson were present. Also in attendance were Paula King, Paul Reisinger (Verizon), Joe Parda, (WG&E), Bob Mellstrom, Kimberly Longey, Brian Hawthorne, Mert Taylor, Jr., Justin Litchfield, Tim Walter, Conrad Liebenow, Matt Miazga, David Kramer, Bob Baker, Matt Stowell and Amy Segal. The meeting, held via conference call in accordance with Governor Baker's temporary modifications to the Open Meeting Law, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of November 10, 2020 were accepted as submitted: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

Pole Hearing on Verizon Petition #1A4F9HE, West Main Street

Paul, representing Verizon, explained the proposed 8 new mid-span poles on northerly side of West Main Street (Rte. 116), the first being approximately 323' easterly from the center line of Stetson Avenue, the last being approximately 3,518' easterly from the center line of Stetson Avenue. The purpose being to support new cables and equipment in order to improve customer reliability. Tree Warden Bob Mellstrom inquired whether any tree trimming or cutting is planned to which Paul replied, "There shouldn't be." The poles will be placed in the right of way. Brian Hawthorne, Assistant MLP Manager, would like to see existing poles on future petitions. In response to MLP Manager Kimberly Longey's and Joe Parda's, WG &E concerns about the effect of attaching Plainfield's fiber to the new poles Paul said space will be available on the poles, but new licensing for attachment would be required for the two third party attachments, Plainfield and MBI.

Kimberly expressed concerns about these and future attachment agreements; She doesn't want Plainfield to incur financial hardship for attachments to our newly constructed fiber optic network and seeks an agreement whereby the utility companies reimburse for attachment fees. Paul agreed to bring the concerns back to Verizon. When asked about the time frame of the project, Paul said he would get an answer to the question.

Hilary asked if there were any other questions. Kimberly suggested continuing the hearing. Hilary moved to continue the hearing on Verizon Petition #1A4F9HE to December 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved as follows: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

MassWorks Infrastructure Program Grant

Plainfield has been awarded a \$998,000 MassWorks STRAP Grant for improvements to 1.7 miles of Rte. 116. The funds will be used for the two worst sections: from the Highway Garage to the Ashfield line and the section below the church to Prospect Street. The project will include reclamation and re-paving. Mert was congratulated for his efforts by the Board and Kimberly. Kimberly offered her assistance with grant requirements.

Police Department

According to Chief Litchfield, PPD has been busy with accidents involving deer, several active cases, and off-duty detail.

A group of people have approached Justin about a Christmas Horse Parade in December, the purpose being to spread cheer during difficult times (COVID-19 Pandemic). Hilary will make inquiries.

Justin read a letter of support for the Police Department from Jim Markham who also sent a donation to the PPD.

In reference to the 183 service calls reported for October, Rebecca asked about the number of calls to Swift River to which Justin replied 19.

In an effort to facilitate the FY'22 Police Department budget process, Patrick suggested a group to include Finance Committee members David Kramer and Bob Baker. Kimberly Longey, Chief Litchfield, and Sgt. Matt Miazga will work with the Finance Committee with Rebecca Coletta as liaison.

Energy Committee

Tim Walter and Conrad Liebenow acknowledged Matt Stowell as the newest member of the Energy Committee and expressed thanks to Steve Bushway for his years of service.

There is over \$115,000 in the Green Communities Designation Grant to spend on solar energy for the Town. Possible projects include solar panels on the Alden Pavilion which would require structural improvements estimated at \$35,000-\$42,000, solar panels on Hathaway Hall to power an electric charger (paid for by Eversource) to power an electric cruiser, heat pumps for the Hallock Building, 70% paid for by Eversource estimated at \$66,000. The remainder of the funds would be retained for the required conservation measures. Hilary asked if towns funds would be needed. Other than cash flow, no. An MOU seeking permission to hold off on conservation measures will be drafted by the Energy Committee for signature by the Select Board chair.

Other Business

Hilary moved to sign Detectoguard's proposal in the amount of \$2,248.00 to

upgrade town building alarm systems. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved as follows: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes. The upgrades are necessary in order to transfer the town's telephones to the fiber optic network.

MLP Update: Business is flowing as usual.

IT Grant Update: Hilary and Paula took part in a conference call with NOVUS. The tenant environment has been created. Once the proper licensing has been obtained NOVUS will move us over. Brian Hawthorne will be contacted for email information. NOVUS will look into Open Meeting Law requirements in order get the lowest cost for Microsoft Team.

Chapter 90 reimbursement requests for West Street Paving and Line Painting have been submitted to District 1 and have been in turn submitted to Boston.

The FY'21 tax rate of \$19.24 has been approved by Mary Jane Handy, DLS Director of Accounts.

Correspondence

MTRSD Excess and Deficiency has been certified at \$524,555.00.

The Board is in receipt of the Animal Control Officer's October report.

Chapter 30B Emergency Procurement Authority information was received from DLS.

KP Law issued an eUpdate entitled "Updates on COVID-19 Related Orders and Deadlines.

Other Mail was reviewed.

There being no further business Hilary moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. The motion, seconded by Patrick, was approved: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary