

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, December 8, 2020

Hilary Weeks, Rebecca Coletta, and Patrick Williamson were present. Also in attendance were Paula King, Paul Reisinger, Kimberly Longey, Tim Walter, Conrad Liebenow, Taylor Beckwith, and Matt Stowell. 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 24, 2020 were accepted as submitted, Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

Verizon Petition #1A4F9HE Hearing

Paul Reisinger, Verizon contractor, emailed Al Bessette, Verizon Right of Way Manager, with concerns from the November 24th hearing. Kimberly Longey extended her appreciation for the follow-up after November 24th. Kimberly is concerned with how to handle post-broadband-construction Eversource and Verizon pole hearing requests. Joe Parda, W.G.&E., will make contact with Verizon and Eversource to be sure new utility poles are sized to accommodate the 12" space required for Plainfield broadband cables. Kimberly requested continuation of the hearing to address other concerns. There being no other concerns, Hilary moved to continue the Verizon Petition #1A4F9HE to January 12, 2021. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes. Kimberly will follow-up with Joe Parda, Al Bessette, and Paula.

MLP Update

There are seventy-seven premises that have not yet signed up for broadband service or cold drops. In an effort to reach everyone, cards have been dropped off door to door. Kimberly noted there are twenty-three accessory apartments, barns, etc. and six dilapidated buildings that are not likely to be renovated.

Scheduling new requests for service or cold drops may be delayed due to W.G.&E.'s team moving on to construction in other towns.

Plainfield has 275 active subscribers, five cancellations two of which are seasonal and three who don't want service.

Kimberly added reconciling receivables requires information from the treasurer that hasn't been provided. Other concerns are accounts sixty days in arrears.

Patrick inquired about delinquencies to which Kimberly replied a collection system was set up in June. She is closely monitoring Governor Baker's \$100,000,000 funding and other funding options to help. Rebecca also expressed concerns with sixty-day delinquencies. Kimberly is trying to access the necessary data. She said the expense side of the equation is good.

Another concern is the frequent W.G.&E. planned outages for repairs (MBI also schedules work-related outages). There should be a switch to another service provider during those times as telephone service is "out" while work is in progress. Two-hour outages are too long. There are two scheduled in January.

EOHCD no longer requires monthly reports, but is holding \$17,000 in grant funds until the construction project is closed out. Closing the project and the town's borrowing was discussed.

Also noted: a one-time internet subsidy for subscribers is not eligible for CARES Act funding per ANF.

Appointment

Hilary moved to appoint Matt Stowell to the Energy Committee through June 30, 2021. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

2021 Alcoholic Beverage License Renewal

Hilary moved to approve and sign the 2021 Alcoholic Beverage License renewal for VAHALLAMA d/b/a Pub 116. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes. (Pertinent documentation has been received with the exception of a check for the Fire Inspection Certificate. Both the license and the certificate will be held until payment is received.)

Following discussion of the estimated population for ABCC, Hilary moved to estimate the population as of July 10, 2021 at 800. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

Green Mountain Variety & Liquor Inc. did not seek to renew the Package Store License for 2021 due to the sale of the property. There has been no request for a license transfer.

Other Business

Hilary moved to pay KP Law invoice #128543 in the amount of \$246.25. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

IT Grant: Brian Hawthorne emailed concerns about the cost of town emails with the NOVUS proposal to switch to Microsoft.

The MOU prepared by the Energy Committee for the Green Communities

Designation Grant will be addressed at the next meeting.
The Board will not meet December 22, 2020; the next meeting will be
January 12, 2021.

Correspondence

The Board received notice of the approval for 27 Broom Street LLC to commence
operations from the Cannabis Control Commission.

Aimee Henderson is the newly appointed Eversource Community Relations
Specialist.

Other mail was reviewed.

A motion to adjourn was entertained at 7:58 p.m. Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes;
Patrick, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary