

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, April 27, 2021

Hilary Weeks, Rebecca Coletta, and Patrick Williamson were present. 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. Also in attendance: Ellen Baer, Robert Persing, Ben Gillette, and Chief Justin Litchfield. The minutes of April 13, 2021 were accepted as amended: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

Whiting Street Fund

The two remaining Whiting Street Fund members, Ellen Baer and Robert Persing, approached the Board to request a legal opinion on the dissolution of the Whiting Street Fund. Mr. Street's will, written in 1875, provided funds for area municipalities for the "relief and comfort of the worthy poor". Interest on the investment of the principal was to be used for that purpose. Over the years with the decline in interest rates and distributions the fund balance has been reduced to the point where it would take years to become viable to maintain its original purpose. The Board granted permission to seek a legal opinion on the matter.

Police Chief

Chief Litchfield, sidelined with a positive COVID-19 test, has spent his quarantined time completing on-line training and handling phone calls. Throughout the month of April, the department has been doing state-funded on-line training for the INC program. The chief was asked if the INC program is the data recording system which he confirmed. The training, instructed by Cummington's Chief Perkins, presents no cost to the Town. Equipment such as tablets needed to utilize the program were previously purchased. Officers are also doing MPI training and preparing for the Bridge Program training.

NEXAMP Battery Storage

Dale Eddy, Senior Associate with NEXAMP's Energy Storage team, emailed the Board concerning NEXAMP's addition to existing PILOT agreement for the battery storage portion of the 29 Union Street solar array. In February the Board of Assessor's recommended the additional amount of \$2,800 per MW as the Town is being underpaid per MW in the original PILOT agreement. Patrick raised

questions about the battery storage method and how it works. He will delve into the NEXAMP file for the project history. Dale Eddy may be asked to attend a future meeting of the Board.

Resignation

Hilary moved to accept Sue Lococo's resignation from the Flag and Flower Committee with appreciation for her service. The motion, seconded by Patrick, was approved: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

Other Business

Hilary will sign the FY'21 Cultural Council contract.

IT Grant Update: Hilary and Brian spoke with Carl Fazzina, NOVUS, regarding the anticipated agreement for the planned municipal network which should be completed shortly.

FRCOG has asked the Board to designate someone to lock-in the FY'22 #2 fuel oil bid. Patrick moved to allow Paula to lock-in the fuel oil bid for FY'22. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was approved: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes. Paula said she would consult with the Buildings Committee before locking in. A member of the Select Board will sign the contract.

Information for individuals who may be eligible for FEMA COVID-19 funeral assistance will be posted in the outside kiosks, on the town website, and published in the Plainfield Post.

Correspondence

A copy of the certified appointment for the Inspector of Animals was received from MDAR.

Kate Nevins, ACO emailed the Board about a personal issue she is facing which she says will have no impact on her ACO responsibilities.

Franklin Land Trust hopes to host its annual D2R2 annual bike ride on August 21, 2021. The riders will traverse Plainfield as a part of the planned route and will be required to follow CDC, state, and town COVID-19 guidelines.

Eversource has sent letters to property owners who reside on or adjacent to the Eversource transmission Right-of-Way where upcoming vegetation work will occur.

Smith Vocational and Agricultural School tuition for the 2021-2022 school year has been set at \$18,679 per student.

Miscellaneous mail was reviewed.

A motion to adjourn was entertained at 7:51 p.m.: Hilary, yes; Rebecca, yes; Patrick, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary