

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, August 24, 2021

Hilary Weeks, Rebecca Coletta, and Patrick Williamson were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of August 10, 2021 were accepted as submitted.

Police Department

Chief Litchfield and Howard Bronstein addressed the Board concerning a grant that would provide body cams for two full-time officers. Grant terms require a 50% match from the town for up to \$4,000 and would pay for hardware only. At this time body camera film is not admissible in court. Patrick, while acknowledging the required match, asked if the Town could decline the grant should it be accepted to which the chief replied, "Yes". Justin added he was looking for guidance as the grant application is due August 31st. Since the Hatfield PD has body cams it was suggested the cost of software and its maintenance be researched. Patrick suggested the application be submitted with the thought the Town doesn't accept the grant if local funds are not available.

Noise from air canons in use at Wolf Tree Farm to deter bears from eating the squash crop during the night was discussed. Grant Street residents have expressed displeasure with the noise. Justin has been in contact with both residents and the farmer. Plainfield has a Right to Farm by-law.

Both the Highway Department and the PPD worked as team responding to calls during storm Henri.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Walter Jennings suggested the purchase of two mini portable message boards with ARPA funds as eleven other communities have done. The signs can be used to disseminate information to residents for COVID-19 and other emergencies in addition to highway road projects. The cost for two signs, battery chargers, and 100 cones is \$36,300.00. (The town has received \$34,592.96 and \$64,195.75 in ARPA funds to date.) Hilary moved to purchase two portable mini message signs, battery chargers and 100 cones with ARPA funds. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved.

After being contacted by Walter, Palmer Paving black-topped 47 drainage structures on the Rte. 116 MassWorks project on Saturday morning prior to storm

Henri's arrival. Highway department crew members dug out the 47 structures so black-top could be applied.

Signs for the Rte. 116 MassWorks should be in place within two weeks.

Reclamation is planned for the period of September 13th through September 24th. 10" of material will be removed, re-mixed with 1 ½ gallons of liquid asphalt per cubic yard before being reapplied. MassDOT regulations require the dirt base to be driven on for up to two weeks or an acceptable core testing before binder and top can be applied. Berm has to be applied and structures will be raised.

The mini excavator has passed through customs and is now in East Longmeadow where it is being converted for the use of environmentally friendly oils, etc.

Storm Henri toppled two large trees and seven large limbs.

Board of Health

Board of Health Chair Ellen Dupont cited a resident's concerns about masking up in public buildings. Ellen has no concerns at this time; anyone can wear a mask if it makes them comfortable and said she will come before the Board if there is a need.

Gold Headed Cane

Thelma Pilgrim updated the Board about the gold headed cane which will be displayed in the library along with a framed document listing the recipients of the cane. Future recipients will receive a certificate of the award instead of the actual cane.

ARPA

Required POST training for police officers is an eligible expense for ARPA funds.

Appointment

Keith Patenaude expressed interest in serving on the MTRSD School Committee by email. Hilary moved to appoint Keith Patenaude to the MTRSD School Committee to fill the vacancy due to Dudley Williams resignation. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved.

HCA

Hilary is ready to approve the BTE HCA with revisions provided by KP Law Attorney David Doneski and to use the document as the Town's template for future HCA proposals. The Board hasn't heard from BTE's attorney regarding Attorney Doneski's modifications. Patrick referenced the disparity between the BTE HCA and the first two agreements. Hilary moved to make the BTE HCA Plainfield's standard template for future wholesale cultivation Host Community Agreements.

The motion, seconded by Patrick, was unanimously approved.
Kurt Thibault of Wolf Tree Farm has expressed interest in marijuana cultivation.

Rebecca noted Chris Stockman's email concerning announcements on the website.

Miscellaneous mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary