

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, October 12, 2021

Hilary Weeks, Rebecca Coletta, and Patrick Williamson were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of Septemebr 28, 2021 were accepted as submitted.

### Highway Dept.

Superintendent Walter Jennings reported expansion joints on Rte. 116 will be cut on Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. He also noted the message boards on the project are not working and have been removed with billing suspended. The following adjustments to items within the MassWorks budget have been made: paving has been prorated, shoulders lowered, and berm in some areas has been removed.

Weather permitting paving is planned to start on Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Compaction tested at 99% on the northern end of the project and 98% on the southern portion. (Specifications require 96%.).

The new message boards purchased with ARPA funds have been delivered. The highway superintendent and the emergency manager will have access to the messaging system; a third designee has not been named at this time.

Claude Dupont expressed public safety concerns with the use of 2"x4"'s to alleviate drop off and access at the joints after the reclamation on the Rte. 116 project. He stated a board was flipped up by a vehicle in front of his almost hitting his windshield. He added aprons should have been applied to ease the transition from high to low.

Walter went on to explain, following Claude's exit, that reclamation was completed at 8:30 p.m. District 1 representative David Stokes who was on site, advised the use of the 2"x4"s to be laid temporarily overnight due to the lateness of the hour. The boards were removed and gravel was applied to the joints by 6:30 a.m. the next morning. Hilary expressed confidence in the handling of the issue while Rebecca asked if, in hindsight, whether something else might have been done.

Details of a school bus accident on the first day of paving was reported. Walter stated after failing to stop for Mert Taylor, Sr., project flag person, the bus driver hit a roller then swerved to the left hitting the guardrail on the opposite side of the road. No injuries were reported, authorities were called.

Reporting for Emergency Manager Mert Taylor, Jr., Walter informed the Board of

the need for a cord for the generator to provide emergency electrical service for the town offices in the event of an emergency. A credit application for Hamden Zimmerman's parent company will be completed, if necessary.

#### Building Commissioner

The Board received a letter from the assessors citing the lack of timely notification of building permits from the Building Commissioner. Hilary will follow up with him regarding his email address and other issues raised. The Energy Committee is seeking information for the Green Communities report. Peter Lapointe has indicated his willingness to serve as Local Inspector, but is required to take exams before serving. The possibility of administrative assistance from Peter was discussed. The commissioner will be asked to attend the first November meeting.

#### Other Business

The Board agreed to maintain membership in the PVPC IT Collaborative.

IT Grant: Novus has been onsite in efforts to complete the work for the WAN and other work related to the IT grant.

ARPA: MLP Manager Kimberly Longey submitted a plan for the use of ARPA funds for broadband. Hilary moved to reserve \$53,100 of ARPA funds for broadband. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved.

The Board received notice of BTE's Notice of Community Outreach Meeting about the company's plan to cultivate marijuana on their 129 Grant Street property. The meeting will take place on October 23, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the Town Hall.

The meeting notice will appear in the Daily Hampshire Gazette from October 8-15, 2021. Rebecca will ask Pleun Bouricius to post the meeting on the Everything Plainfield website.

Interest rate proposals for the one-year broadband loan are due on October 13, 2021.

#### Appointments/Resignation

Hilary moved to accept Anne Williamson's resignation from the Agricultural Commission with regret and appreciation for her service. The motion, seconded by Rebecca, was unanimously approved.

Hilary moved to appoint Erin Kelly-Dill to the Agricultural Commission to replace Anne Williamson. The motion, seconded by Patrick, was unanimously approved.

Hilary moved to appoint Lyla Rozelle to the Energy Committee through June 30, 2022. The motion, seconded by Patrick, was unanimously approved.

Hilary received a call from Rep. Natalie Blais notifying the Board that the report on redistricting will appear in the Daily Hampshire Gazette tomorrow. The 1<sup>st</sup> Franklin District is slated to lose all Hampshire County towns.

Correspondence

Notice of Entry-Level Drivers Training was received from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Information on the National Opioids Settlement was received.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary