

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, October 11, 2022

Patrick Williamson, Hilary Weeks, and Ben Gillett were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:41 p.m. The minutes of September 27, 2022 were accepted as submitted.

August 9th Minutes

In reference to the minutes of August 9, 2022, Patrick read both Dalila Almquist's original language and his own revision of the Board's commitments for the remaining \$57,000 of American Recovery Plan Act funds. Hilary moved to accept the revised version of the August 9th minutes. The motion, seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved. The approved language follows: On August 9, the Select Board agreed to reserve making commitments for spending \$57k remaining in ARPA funds while a broad-based community-led process is developed to solicit, evaluate, and prioritize proposals for funding from this money. The Select board reserved the power to use the ARPA funds to meet an unexpected emergency, should one arise before recommendations from this process have been presented. No project will be funded without explicit final approval by the Select Board. Ideas that come to the Select Board about uses for the ARPA funds will be referred to the community-led process, and the Steering Group will keep the Select Board updated as the process moves forward.

Emergency Management

Responsibilities of the Emergency Management Coordinator have been brought to the Board's attention. Those responsibilities include training and a state Certification Program which is not yet required. The existence of an Emergency Response Manual was referenced. David Alvord has agreed to act as Interim Emergency Response Coordinator and is also willing to meet with the Board on matters related to emergency response. Hilary moved to appoint David Alvord as Interim Emergency Response Coordinator. The motion, seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

Buildings Committee

Buildings Committee Chair Peter Lapointe updated the Board on plans for special article funds for the Highway Garage Roof, Town Hall Painting, Town Hall Fire

Escape, and Police Department Renovations. Because estimates to replace the Highway Garage roof were 3x the amount of appropriated funds, a membrane is being considered to address leaks. Repairs to the flue are also needed. The low bidder for painting the Town Hall was not willing to sign the agreement provided by the Town; another bidder has been found. The Town Hall fire escape is not able to be removed due to lead paint. The project requires an engineer's stamp on the drawings. Plans are to coordinate painting with fire escape work. An engineer's stamp is also required for police department renovations. Officer Tony Gibbs referenced legal and logistical issues with the police department offices. For security reasons computer screens should not be able to be seen by anyone entering the office. Tony stated the Town has the ability to book an arrest, but currently has to take the someone arrested to the Northampton barracks and from there to court. In answer to a question regarding the number of arrests, Tony said there are a number for reasons such as outstanding warrants and driving without a license. He also noted the use of the summons process to reduce the time spent going to and from Northampton.

Peter and Chief Litchfield have developed a plan for the renovations.

Other Business

Recreation Committee Chair Sandra Morann announced Halloween plans scheduled for October 31, 2022. Trick or Treating will take place from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. The annual parade will form in the Mister Tire parking lot at 6:00 p.m. and proceed to the area behind the Hallock Building where a bonfire will be lighted and refreshments served.

Correspondence

A refund check in the amount of \$29,448.75 was received from Energy Resources. The board received notice of the Massachusetts Municipal association breakfast meetings.

KP Law issued an eUpdate on the Crown Act legislation.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King, Administrative Secretary