

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, February 14, 2023

Patrick Williamson, Hilary Weeks, and Ben Gillett were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of January 24, 2023 were accepted as submitted.

### Highway Department

Summit Street ruts will be repaired after Eversource work in the area is complete according to Highway Superintendent Walter Jennings.

Highway and police department employees have been asking for direct deposit. In reference to the One Stop Grant process, Finance Committee Chair Bob Baker set up an account which Walter then expanded to meet the required criteria for \$250,000 which includes a complete redo of the basketball court and updates/replacement of playground equipment. Bob Baker asked that the Recreation Committee be consulted throughout the processes should a grant be awarded. The Highway Superintendent has granted permission to JS Rae and Pantermehl Land Clearing to directional drill across Rte. 116 in the area of the East Main Street pond. The landowner plans to install a pump for the crop irrigation. All work will be completed in accordance with MassDOT approved practices and materials with any damages to East Main Street to be the responsibility of the contractors. Walter also noted that grants are available for Bridge training, bulletproof vests, etc. for police officers.

### MLP Update

MLP Manager Lucas Suarez-Orozco reported on progress related to the Whip City Fiber contract renewal process. Three options (three, six, and ten-year terms) are available.

Patrick asked that the FY24 MLP budget request be discussed with the Board. He also noted the Broadband Stabilization Fund should reach its funding goal at the end of the year. The anticipated Federal CAFII distributions were discussed. Lucas stated the funds should start coming in by mid-year.

### Bow Street

Jack Nelson inquired about progress on the Bow Street matter. Patrick pointed out Superior Court is not going ahead with eviction until the required inspections have

taken place. KP Law is arranging the court-ordered inspections. If said inspections are not allowed within 16 days of notification, then the matter will go back to Superior Court.

#### One Plainfield Update

Dalila Almquist and Judy Cole provided an update on One Plainfield's community led process in regard to the use of un-designated American Recovery Act Funds in the amount of \$57,000. The group met on December 10<sup>th</sup> in person with a follow-up meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. Outreach formats include an email newsletter, Plainfield Post, and other forms of communication. Goals include bringing people together and keeping them informed. A late March meeting is in the works with plans to make selections during May and June. Patrick noted the eligibility of POST training for police officers. Walter Jennings added that any work at Plainfield Pond would be expensive referencing prevailing wage. (Document attached)

#### Appointment

The Chair entertained a motion to appoint Charlie Carden as alternate member of the Agricultural Commission through June 30, 2023. The motion, moved by Hilary and seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

#### Other Business

Hilary moved to pay KP Law invoice #140495 in the amount of \$3,267.35. The motion, seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

In reference to the appeal of the Planning Board's decision of December 21, 2022, it was noted the applicant, through their attorney, takes the lead and formulates a response to the complaint.

FY24 budget figures to be submitted by the Board were reviewed. After discussion of current legal matters, Hilary moved to amend the Town Counsel request to \$15,000.00. The motion, seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved.

After the accountant and Buildings Committee Chair peter Lapointe submitted the text for STM articles per the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Chair entertained a motion to schedule a Special Town meeting for March 14, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. The motion, seconded by Hilary and seconded by Ben, was unanimously approved. The warrant will be signed on February 28<sup>th</sup> and posted by a constable.

#### Correspondence

A copy of the December PPD call log was received.

Senator Paul Mark provided contact information for himself and his staff along with a schedule of office hours in Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Hampshire

counties.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

A motion to adjourn was approved at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King  
Administrative Secretary