

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, April 25, 2023

Patrick Williamson and Ben Gillett were present; Hilary Weeks was absent. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. The minutes of April 11, 2023 were accepted as submitted.

POST Training

Two officers are currently participating in POST. The FY23 Police Salary budget will cover the wages for both officers currently enrolled. FY23 expenses estimated at \$3,000 will result in an expense budget overdraft which must be provided for before June 30th. Training for a third officer is planned for FY24 at an estimated cost of \$7,000, estimated at \$4,000 for wages and \$3,000 for expenses. Patrick posed the question, "Will the Board approve the use of taxpayer funded Police Salary money for officers' POST training for FY23?" Required POST training costs are an eligible use of American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) and has been on the Board's radar since last summer. Discussion followed concerning funding POST (\$10,000) and the community engagement process in the works for proposed uses of the un-designated \$57,000. Reference was made to the Board's approval of a community engagement process for ARPA funded proposals barring any emergencies. A suggestion was made that POST be put on the list of proposed projects. The question of contracts with officers whose POST training is funded with ARPA or Town funds was raised.

The chair entertained a motion to support the use of the FY23 taxpayer funded salary appropriation to cover the FY23 costs for POST. The motion, moved by Ben and seconded by Patrick, was approved.

Hampshire County Retirement: COLA

Patrick Brock, Chairman of the Hampshire County Retirement Board, met with the Board to explain proposed COLA rates for retirees. He stated retirees have fixed pensions. The retirement system is in the process of converting from pay-as-you-go to a fully funded system by 2032. The past 10 years COLA increases have been funded below or at 3% increases. Chapter 269, Acts of 2022, provides for the establishment of COLA adjustment increase of not less than 3% and not greater than 5% of the base pension amount. Two thirds of the 18-member towns must approve the increase. The chair entertained a motion the Plainfield Select Board

approve Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022 - An Act Relative to Cost-of-Living Adjustments to Retirees, and further direct the Plainfield administration to notify the Hampshire County Retirement System in writing of this vote. The motion, moved by Ben and seconded by Patrick, was approved.

Other Business

Terminating appointees by the Select Board was discussed. The chair entertained a motion to draft a town by-law with procedures for terminating appointees. The motion, moved by Ben and seconded by Patrick, was approved. Hilary will be asked to draft wording.

Treasurer Amelia Dwyer has requested to attend the Treasurer and Collector Cape Cod Conference in June. Registration is \$150 with hotel expense to be determined. The chair entertained a motion to approve the use of Training/Seminar Expense for the treasurer to attend the Cape Cod Conference. The motion, moved by Ben and seconded by Patrick, was approved.

The Annual Town Meeting Warrant was signed and given to Constable Ed Morann for posting. The warrant articles submitted by the MTRSD School Committee proposing Regional Agreement changes were discussed. Patrick has contacted DESE with questions as to how foundation enrollments are calculated. Objections to supporting the changes include the lateness the final text of the regional agreement warrant articles, the length of the articles (13 pages), and how town assessments for capital and operating expenditures will be affected based on population and foundation enrollment. The consensus of the Board, members of the Finance Committee, and others in attendance centered on scheduling informational meetings and discussion on the matter so voters can make an informed choice on the proposed changes. Other district member towns have expressed non-support or not including the articles on their ATM warrants.

Correspondence

Franklin Land Trust sent notification of their annual D2R2 Bike Ride on August 19, 2023.

The Board received notice from Eversource of their 45 Day Yearly Operational Plan with MDAR's comment period. Maps are available at the Town Offices.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King, Administrative Secretary