

## Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, July 11, 2023

Ben Gillett, Hilary Weeks, and Judy Cole were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. The minutes of June 27, 2023 were accepted as submitted.

Hilary moved to appoint Ben Gillett as Chair for the ensuing year. The motion, seconded by Judy, was unanimously approved. Hilary will serve as Clerk and Judy as Procurement Officer. The list of Board liaisons to departments, committees, and other boards was accepted as updated by Hilary and will be attached to the official version of the minutes. The Board will not meet on July 25<sup>th</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### FY24 Appointments

After a review of the appointment list, Hilary moved to appoint/reappoint board and committee members pursuant to the Town Clerk's list. The motion, seconded by Judy, was unanimously approved.

### Highway Superintendent

Rte. 116 was closed last Monday between Rte. 8A and West Street due to an overflow of water from the beaver pond. The decision to close the road was made in concurrence with Superintendent Walter Jennings, Hilary Weeks, and MassDOT officials. On Tuesday, the highway department opened the catch basin with a power washer and hydraulic hose provided by MassDOT

A meeting with Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa, MassDOT, members of the Select Board, and DCR officials has been scheduled for August 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m. The group will meet at the Highway Garage and proceed to the site on Rte. 116.

The loader mounted boom mower approved at the May 6<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting is on order. The New Holland tractor/mower failed in an effort to begin mowing process and had to be towed back to the garage. Repairs to the electronics have been quoted at \$5,000; the Town of Leverett is willing to purchase the tractor/ mower for \$4,000 for parts.

### One Plainfield

An overview of One Plainfield's beginning and processes seeking ideas for the remaining \$57,000 of American Recovery Act Plan (ARPA) funds was presented by Dalila Almquist. The community-based group, welcoming everyone, met

remotely and in-person during the past year to discuss proposed projects culminating in a ballot poll in which the public was asked to select two projects from a list of nine; 142 ballots were cast. The final list has been publicized. One Plainfield asks that the Board fund the projects at the top of the list. The Select Board will discuss and determine the projects to be funded at the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. ARPA funds must be allocated by December 31, 2024 with projects completed by December 31, 2026. Appreciation was expressed to everyone for their participation in this community led process.

The Energy Committee expressed support for the addition of solar on the police department roof with the added note the Town would have to re-shingle the upper portion of the south-facing roof.

#### Other Business

Loan documents submitted by the Treasurer for the mid-size plow truck approved at the annual town meeting were signed. The five-year loan was awarded to Easthampton Savings Bank at an interest rate of 5.25%.

Judy Cole moved to accept the VFIS proposal with increases to the weekly benefit (\$900) and medical coverages (\$500,000). The motion, seconded by Hilary, was unanimously approved. The policy total is \$21,889.00. Judy would have liked to have quotes for coverages at levels between the \$150,000 and \$500,000 range.

Two resumes have been received for the Executive Assistant position. Discussion followed on advertising. A publication entitled Jobs in the Valley was one suggestion. Secondly, a suggestion was made that a group be formed to include one member of the Board for initial closed interviews and submitting finalists to the Select Board for final interviews.

Judy Cole and Kimberly Longey agreed to work on the Massachusetts Office on Disability grant proposal. Judy suggested an All Boards Meeting with boards and committees. The need for increased IT funding was noted.

Hilary moved to pay KP Law invoice #143328 in the amount of \$26.91. The motion, seconded by Judy, was unanimously approved.

#### Correspondence

The Board received notice of Eversource's planned vegetation work and a copy of the letter sent to abutters.

An update from the Cannabis Control Commission entitled Policies & Procedures for Host Communities was received.

Other mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

A motion to adjourn was approved at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King