

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting April 9th, 2024

Ben Gillett, Hilary Weeks, and Judy Cole were in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of March 26th, 2024 and April 1st, 2024 were accepted as submitted.

Finance Committee, Bob Baker:

-Discussion about nominating a Select Board member to serve on the Finance Committee: The Finance Committee asked for a recommendation to appoint a member of the Select Board as a member of the Finance Committee. Judy Cole was recommended by the Select Board to serve as a member of the Finance Committee. She will be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

-Discussion about Highway Budget: The Finance Committee suggested that the amount being requested by the Highway Department be reduced. It was suggested that it be level-funded to what we had for last year's budget due to a new hire, cost of living wage increases, etc. Starting a stabilization fund for the Police Cruiser was also discussed.

-Discussion about having a moratorium on stipends until a policy is drafted: The Finance Committee would like to have a moratorium placed on stipends until the town can look at them more closely and into the future. They would like to look more closely at how the town decided who gets what and how we got to where we are now with stipends as well as how other towns are deciding this. Current stipends would not be affected, though new ones would be placed on hold until the Finance Committee can gather more information.

Review list of Proposed Articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Board to vote to close the submission of Annual Town Meeting Articles: Ben Gillett read the list of new Proposed Articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Dave Alvord, Fire Chief, spoke about the article that the Fire Department would like to add to the warrant regarding the repair of the Safety Complex parking lot. David thanked Walter Jennings for his help. They have been looking into alternatives to repaving due to the cost. Hilary Weeks moved to vote to approve and to close the list of Proposed Articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, deleting the Highway Department Article and adding the Fire Department Article. The Board voted unanimously to close the warrant articles as presented.

Fire Chief, David Alvord: The Fire Department would like to increase the fee for permits from \$25 to \$50. Judy Cole moved that the Board vote to approve the recommendation

from the Fire Department that permit fees be raised from \$25 to \$50. The Select Board voted unanimously to increase the permit fee. David Alvord reminded everyone that the permit fees go into General Funds.

A Coalition for Rural Community Sustainability: Judy Cole: Select Board to vote to support and to sign letter to the MA House Chair of the Ways & Means Committee. Judy Cole spoke about A Coalition for Rural Community Sustainability, a new group that she has recently joined. The group is looking for representation from either or both the Finance Committee and the Select Board of each of the 8 towns in the MTRSD. A letter has been drafted asking for an increase in aid to rural school for the Select Board to sign. Judy asked the Select Board to vote to sign the letter and asked for support from the Town. Judy read the letter and moved that the Board vote to approve the initiative and agree to sign the letter as presented. The Select Board voted unanimously to sign the letter and to support the initiative.

KP Law Payment: Hillary moved that the Board vote to approve the payment of \$500.54 to KP Law. The Board voted unanimously to approve the payment.

Miscellaneous Mail and Meeting Notices:

-Letters from Eversource Energy informing of upcoming vegetation work on properties that are on or adjacent to the Eversource transmission Right-of-Way.

-Letter from Cabot Risk Strategies informing of their current Public Safety Accident insurance coverage rates

-Request from Joe Schneider to verify facts from the March 12th and March 26th Select Board meetings related to the conditions of West Street and Tina Schneider's flat tire. Hilary Weeks said that she spoke to Tina Schneider on the phone recently and that it has been resolved.

Warrants were signed.

A motion to adjourn was approved at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Dry

