



TOWN OF HADLEY  
SELECT BOARD  
August 1, 2012  
Meeting Minutes

Meeting convened at 7:00 pm, Room 203, Hadley Town Hall

**Present:** Gloria DiFulvio, Chair; Joyce Chunglo, Daniel Dudkiewicz, David Moskin, Brian West

**Absent:** None

**Also in Attendance:** David Nixon (Town Administrator); Peg Jekanowski (Administrative Assistant); Richard Trueswell (TV-5); Michael Klimoski, Gary Girouard, (DPW); Linda Sanderson, Frank Aquadro, (Finance Committee); Joe Fitzgibbon, Edwin Matusyko, Andy Morris-Friedman, Paulette Kuzdeba (CPA); Ben Storrow, Daily Hampshire Gazette; Wilfred Danylieko (Electrical Inspector); Ed Sturtevant & Calvin Layton (WMECO); Peter Cook, Keith Rehbein, Stewart Clark, Shardool Parmar, Barbara Osgood, John Osgood, John Mieczkowski, Melissa Pietraskiewicz, Paula Cristoforo, Nancy Muraski, Stan Adams, Lisa Phakos, John Yusko, SR.

**Approval of Minutes:**

July 11, 2012 (Open Meeting & Executive Session)

July 17, 2012 (5-10 Year Planning Meeting with School & Finance)

July 18, 2012 (Open Meeting & Executive Session)

**Motion to Approve:** Joyce Chunglo

**Second:** Brian West

**Vote:** 4-0-0 (Approved)

(David Moskin not present at time of vote.)

**Approval of Warrants:** Payroll #9:

**Motion to Approve:** Joyce Chunglo

**Second:** Dan Dudkiewicz

**Vote:** 4-0-0 (Approved)

(David Moskin not present at time of vote.)

**Appointment**

**7:05 pm Community Preservation Committee**

1.) Discussion: Proposed Warrant Article – decrease CPA tax from 3% to 1%.

Select Board member Dan Dudkiewicz stated he wanted to discuss putting an article on the warrant for Special Town Meeting regarding decreasing the CPA tax from 3% to 1%. He stated that when the Town signed on with the Community Preservation Act the economy was better, but now people may be struggling to pay their bills. Second, at the time of sign on (to CPA) the state matched dollar for dollar, but the state match has now decreased. He stated that his opinion is to put this issue in front of voters at Fall Town Meeting to see if they wanted to stay in the program at 3% or decrease it to 1%. Discussion ensued as to the value of staying with CPA at 3%, including the fact that CPA funds could help with the preservation of Hadley buildings; and if we go down to 1%, the state match will be further reduced. Also, it was stated that there is a way for people to apply for an exemption if they have financial difficulty in paying their bill. **Dan Dudkiewicz made a motion to place an article on the warrant for Fall Town Meeting to reduce the CPA tax from 3% to 1%, motion seconded by Brian West.** Selectman Brian West said it makes little sense to remain in the program with a reduced surcharge, stating: “If you’re going from 3 percent down to 1 percent you might as well go to zero... you will miss out on additional funds.” **Motion defeated by a vote of 1-4-0.**

**2.) CPA Funding Request – renovate west portico of the Russell School building:**

The Select Board reviewed a project to renovate the West Portico of the Russell School. Total project cost amounted to \$164,730.00. Mr. Moskin stated that he felt the numbers were high. Mr. Nixon stated that he put the best budget together with building inspector Tim Neyhart. Possible CPA funding was discussed, and it was cautioned that language for a CPA application must be very specific. Mr. Nixon stated that this is a two part project, first design selection process, then construction has to be bid out-so there will be a significant amount of time. **Joyce Chunglo made a motion to apply for CPA funding for west portico of the Russell School building,**



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*motion seconded by David Moskin. Motion passed with a vote of 5-0-0.* Mr. Moskin and Mr. Nixon will attend CPA meeting on Monday, August 6, 2012 in order to reserve an article on Town Meeting Warrant.

**3.) Update on Legislative Changes to CPA:**

Andrew Morrison Friedman explained the following three changes to CPA:

- The state has approved an extra 25 million dollars that towns at 3% will be able to draw from.
- CPA funds can now be used to establish and restore recreational space
- Towns can now put extra money in CPA fund and get an extra 25% match

**Hearing**

**7:30 pm Discontinuation of Road Maintenance (MGL Chapter 82 Section 32A)**

The following roads were presented to the Select Board for the possibility of discontinuance of road maintenance: Lebanon Road, also known as Swamp Road, Ferry Road near French Street, Aqua Vita Road extension also known as Sandy Beach Road, and Spruce Hill Road extension. David Nixon explained that there are two ways to deal with roads in Town that are not in use. One is to discontinue the road entirely which requires vote at Town Meeting, and the property is divided among abutters according to statute. Another way to deal with the road not in use is to discontinue road maintenance which involves putting up signs stating the road will no longer be maintained by the town. This scenario requires only the vote of the Select Board and the decision is reversible. This will save the tax payers' dollars as the town has had to pay for washouts in the past.

Discussion ensued with abutters and other members of the public regarding issues if the various roads are not maintained, including concerns for public safety in terms of access to the Connecticut River, abutters having access to property, and liability questions if roads are not maintained. The Board considered each road separately as follows:

**Spruce Hill Road Extension:** Dan Dudkiewicz made a motion to discontinue road maintenance on Spruce Hill Road Extension, seconded by Brian West. Discussion ensued and the motion was withdrawn. *Joyce Chunglo made a motion to place an article on the warrant for Fall Town Meeting to discontinue Spruce Hill Road Extension; motion seconded by David Moskin, and passed unan. by a vote of 5-0-0.*

**Ferry Road:** (Note this is Ferry Road in North Hadley on the North Side of the Mill River by the S Curve in North Hadley Village): Part of this road is washed out. Mr. Nixon recommends posting discontinuance of road at minimum to the part that is washed out. It was suggested that jersey barriers be placed where wash out is and allow emergency vehicles access. *Brian West made a motion to post signs to discontinue road maintenance in front of washed out area west to the river, motion seconded by Joyce Chunglo. Motion passed by a vote of 3-2-0. (Dan Dudkiewicz and Gloria DiFulvio dissenting.)*

**Aqua Vita Road extension also known as Sandy Beach Road:** Since this road serves a public service function, we will not proceed with this road.

**Lebanon Road:** It was decided that this will be deferred until a review of all the cartographic maps are complete. Then the Town can see precisely where the boundaries lie and how it impacts properties. A concern was brought up that not all properties abutters were notified. (Mr. Nixon stated that the notice of hearing was sent based on assessors records,) and that there was a typo that reflected the Mass General Law Chapter as 182 instead of Chapter 82. Discussion ensued regarding the impact of discontinuing the road or discontinuing maintenance to roads that would give property owners no access to their property.

**Old Business**

1. **Sewer Impact Fees** – Mr. Shardool Parmar was present to clarify the agreement of payment terms of Sewer Impact Fee that was approved at the last Select Board meeting. It was stated that the first (of four) payments was due immediately, then every year after. Mr. Parmar stated that this really amounts to a three year



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payment plan, when a four year plan was agreed upon. The Board determined that Mr. Parmar and Mr. Nixon could meet together with the Town Treasurer to work out the specific terms of a fair payment plan. Also, Chair DiFulvio asked the Board to review the information from Tighe and Bond that the Select Board had received in their binders for discussion at a future meeting.

**New Business**

2. **WMECO tree service** (taken out of order) – Calvin Layton from Western Mass Electric Company was present to discuss enhanced tree trimming which would will begin in the Town of Hadley. He explained that this is an attempt to expand trimming and cut trees that pose risk for power outages. One concern is that there may be visual impact as these maybe be very old, large trees that have that may leave a “visual hole” when cut. They have met with Mike Klimoski, the tree warden for the town, and he is aware of town trees that are under consideration for trimming. Residents will be notified (by WMECO) of whether trees on their properties will be considered for trimming, and no tree is removed without permission of the owner. Regarding town trees, a tree hearing may be required. In some cases trees will be trimmed, in others it may require the entire tree coming down. Tree Warden Klimoski voiced concern with trimming trees on one side, leaving a lopsided look. The Town does have trees to replace any trees that need to be removed.

**Old Business**

**6. Reserve Fund Transfer – Board of Health**

The Budget for the Board of Health had funds in payroll to cover the expense of a contracted employee. In reality this should fall under expenses, not payroll. The funds are in the Board of Health Budget but “trapped” on the payroll side. The Board discussed asking for a reserve fund transfer to be able to pay for this contracted service. Members of the Finance Committee stated they would approve such a transfer if funds are returned to the Reserve Fund when they are released.

*Brian West made a motion to request a reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$5,432.00, motion seconded by Joyce Chunglo, with the understanding that Fall Town Meeting will include an article to remove funds in payroll side of Board of Health to the Reserve Fund. Motion passed with a vote of 5-0-0.* The Finance Committee approved the Reserve Fund Transfer request.

2. **Senior Center Rear Roof update** – Discussion of flat roof versus pitched roof on Senior Center. Mr. Nixon stated that due to the complexity of moving from a flat roof to a pitched roof, he has asked for a proposal from an architectural firm, but he does not have it yet. General consensus is that a flat roof does not work in New England. Ms. DiFulvio stated that the Historical Commission should be consulted. Discussion ensued regarding the priority of this project. Mr. Nixon stated that this was set forth at Town Meeting as a priority. Mr. Aquadro stated that life safety items were addressed by the Capital Committee, and the next priority they (Capital Planning) addressed was the Senior Center Roof. The pitched roof will help with some life safety issues such as leaks and potential mold, and also help with drainage. Direction was to explore what the costs will be, there is already funding in place.
3. **East Portico Update – Russell School Steps**  
We have a design and funding from rental proceeds: project is ready to go. The Board directed Mr. Nixon to proceed with sending this to the Historical Commission for review.
4. **Veterans’ Agent – open position**  
Chair DiFulvio thanked Mr. Paul Corbeil for his service to the Town of Hadley, and stated that position of Veterans Service Agent is now open. The Town can tap in to services of neighboring towns or stay within Town. Mr. Dudkiewicz stated he would like to look within Town. The position will be posted on TV-5 and Mr. Nixon will speak to the American Legion.
5. **Select Board Priorities**
  - a. Buildings – the Board discussed a possible walk through of Town Buildings on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 with the Select Board and Town Building Officials. A public meeting was scheduled for



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- the second Wednesday of next month, September 12, and the Board will reconvene their discussion on September 19<sup>th</sup> at which time decisions will be made.
- b. Fire Department – Job Descriptions-the Board discussed a committee to finalize a job description for the Fire Chief. It was decided that each Board Member should review the description, compile a list, and report back by August 15 for review. Board Members can also seek information from the Fire Study and input from Fire professionals.
  - c. Economic Development – no discussion.

**New Business**

1. **Vacancy – Board of Registrars** – There is an opening on the Board of Registrars. Interested parties can contact the Select Board to apply for appointment. Vacancy will be posted on TV-5.
3. **Town Administrator Evaluation** – The Board discussed filling out a form individually for review in the next 30 days. Mr. Moskin discussed using a different form utilizing goals and objectives that may be a more effective tool.
4. **Personnel - Fire Department Administrative Assistant** – the Board reviewed a job description as presented. *Brian West made a motion to post the position, motion seconded by Joyce Chunglo. Motion passed with a vote of 4-0-1. (Dan Dudkiewicz abstaining.)*
5. **US Pakistan Exchange Program** – David Nixon stated that there is a Pakistani community in Hadley who are very interested in this program, and the Town has an opportunity to participate in this exchange program. It will take place October through November. As this is an exchange program there is also an opportunity for US professionals to travel to Pakistan, this will be funded entirely by the Department of State (10 slots available). The deadline for applying is September 7, 2012.

**Announcements**

Dan Dudkiewicz congratulated Elizabeth Niedziela of East Street on completing Student Trooper Training Program.

Joyce Chunglo announced that the Hadley Council on Aging was sponsoring a polka concert featuring the Eddie Foreman Orchestra on August 15, 2012.

John Mieczkowski stated that there is a fund raiser for two children suffering with illness in Town. The event takes place at the Hadley Young Men's Club on Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am.

David Moskin made an announcement that the Kestrel Trust would like to have the Board consider the Town's acquisition of the dam and water rights at Lake Warner. Representatives will be at the September 5, 2012 meeting.

*Dan Dudkiewicz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Joyce Chunglo and passed unan. by a vote of 5-0-0.*

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret J. Jekanowski  
Administrative Assistant