



Thursday, April 27, 2023
Select Board Meeting Agenda

Present were: Jane Nevinsmith, Chair; Joyce Chunglo, Clerk; Randy Izer, Member; Amy Parsons, Member; and Molly Keegan, Member.

Also present were Carolyn Brennan, Town Administrator; Jennifer Sanders James, Licensing Coordinator; Greg Pollock, Resident; Linda Sanderson, Town Treasurer; Amy Fyden, Finance Committee; Alex Lamarche, Hadley Media; Dan Zdonek, Town Assessor; William Dwyer, Planning Board; Jim Maksimoski, Planning Board; Diana West, Hadley Historical Commission; Mike Spanknebel, Fire Chief; Mary Thayer, CPA Committee; Alan Weinberg, Hadley Historic Commission; and Diana West, Hadley Historic Commission.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Call to order

The Select Board will convene a meeting on Wednesday, April 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Center at 46 Middle Street, Hadley, MA 01035 and using remote participation there and then to act on the following agenda.

The public may access the meeting remotely by using a computer or telephone and follow the instructions below:

Zoom Meeting Information

Topic: Select Board Public Forum

Time: Apr 27, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83781907260?pwd=QVdIVC93eUtOV3VwVWFZcHNJYTZhQT09>

2. Public Forum on the Annual Town Meeting

2.1 Public Forum on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The Select Board held a public forum on the contents of the Annual Town Meeting warrant. The purpose of the Public Forum was informational only, to explain each warrant article, and to provide the public with an opportunity to ask questions. The Public Forum was not intended to be a debate, to advocate for or against any matter, or to take a position. There will ample opportunity for advocacy at the Annual Town Meeting.

Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 4, 2023 at Hopkins Academy.

Once the meeting was called to order, Greg Pollock spoke to the role of the Moderator at the Town Meeting, suggesting that he might switch things up a little to improve voter engagement. Mr. Pollock also stated that the Select Board meeting with the Moderator 30 minutes right before the Town Meeting might be a little too late.

Molly Keegan stated that Carolyn Brennan, Town Administrator, has already been in contact with the Town Moderator well in advance of the Town Meeting.

Carolyn Brennan proceeded to walk through a deck of slides to aid in the sharing of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Carolyn Brennan also reiterated that the purpose of the forum was to be informational and not to provide an opportunity for debate nor would any votes be taken pro or con regarding any article on the warrant.

Article 1 is a listing of the Town positions to be filled by election on May 16.

Carolyn Brennan did provide an overview of each individual article within the Consent Agenda, noting that the Moderator may choose to remove any article from the consent agenda in response to any Town Meeting participant's question or issue. The Consent Agenda included Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, and 14.

Carolyn Brennan stated that Article 2 authorizes the Select Board to apply for Federal and State grants.

Carolyn Brennan stated that Article 3 relates to asking the Town to appropriate Chapter 90 funds.

Carolyn Brennan stated that Article 4 relates to the Town authorizing the Town Treasurer to borrow money with Select Board approval.

Carolyn Brennan stated that Article 5 relates to the Town transferring \$50,000 Water Reserves to the Water Plant Filtration Stabilization Fund.

Carolyn Brennan stated that Article 6 authorizes the Town Administrator or Select Board to solicit and award contracts in excess of 3 years.

Carolyn Brennan stated that Article 7 asks the Town to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$8506.50 to cover costs from the FY 2022 budget.

Article 8 asks the Town to vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds for the maintenance and operation of the Town during FY 2024.

Carolyn Brennan stated that Article 9 asks the Town to vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds for expenses and debt for the Wastewater Division Enterprise Fund, the Water Division Enterprise Fund, and the Hadley Media Enterprise Fund.

Amy Fyden of the Finance Committee added commentary regarding Enterprise Funds and Stabilization Funds starting with the balances in each fund. Amy Fyden further explained what was in Free Cash. Additionally, the FY 2024 budget will be slightly more than \$50 million.

Carolyn Brennan stated that Article 10 asks the Town to appropriate \$402,307 from Free Cash as an initial investment to be able to receive fees from Town Ambulance services. Molly Keegan provided historical context regarding lost calls that typically require mutual aid from other towns equating to lost revenue opportunities for the Town. Chief Spanknebel stated that response times will decrease from 14 minutes to 4 to 6 minutes with Hadley's own ambulance. Chief Spanknebel made it clear that it is all about patient response time and care. The staffing change would require 2 additional staff to be shared by Fire and EMS according to Chief Spanknebel starting July 1.

Carolyn Brennan stated that Article 11 asks the Town to appropriate total expenditures for Revolving Accounts during FY 2024.

Mary Thayer spoke to the subject of the Community Preservation Act Fund which included Articles 12 through 18. As of March 31, 2023, the CPA Fund had \$3,459,859 in it with \$2,065,532 not currently committed.

Regarding Articles 12 through 14, Mary Thayer stated further that:

Article 12 asks the Town to reserve for later appropriation estimated annual revenues for Open Space Preservation, \$50,000, Historic Preservation, \$50,000, and Housing Resources, \$50,000 as well as \$10,000 for expenses for the Community Preservation Committee.

Article 13 asks the Town to extend the deadlines by one year for project completion of the Congregational Church clock repairs, and the Goodwin Library study.

Article 14 asks the Town to vote to transfer prior CPA balances to their original funding sources.

Alan Weinberg stated that Article 15 asks the Town to vote to transfer \$18,000 from the CPA Historic Fund to the Hadley Historical Society for the restoration and preservation of 10 needlepoint samplers.

Mary Thayer continued explaining that Article 16 asks the Town to transfer \$20,700 from the CPA Open Space Fund to the Friends of Lake Warner for a study to develop a long-range management plan.

Diana West explained that Article 17 asks the Town to transfer and appropriate \$15,000 from the CPA Historic Fund to the Hadley Historic Commission for four signs with historical information and image, an update to the West Street Walking Tour, and a new audio driving tour.

Carolyn Brennan explained that Article 18 requests the Town to appropriate \$40,000 from the Community Preservation Set Aside Fund for the Select Board to engage a firm to undertake a

reuse feasibility study for the Russell School. Carolyn Brennan added that the timeline for completion of the feasibility study is hopefully before Fall Town Meeting, but not guaranteed. Jennifer Sanders James explained the procurement/bid process with outside firms which spans at least 30 days building up to bid reviews by the Select Board. Joyce Chunglo added that bidders must submit proposals that reflect the Request for Proposal (RFP) issued.

Amy Fyden explained that Article 19 asks the Town to vote to transfer up to \$50,000 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Carolyn Brennan explained that Article 20 asks the Town to appropriate \$10,000 from Free Cash to a special purpose Compensated Time Fund for the payment of unused sick or vacation time for when employees leave Town employment.

Dan Zdonek explained that Article 21 asks the Town to increase the interest rate that accrues on property taxes deferred by eligible seniors from 4% to 8%.

Jim Maksimoski explained Article 22 relating to a Zoning Bylaw amendment regarding food trucks. The Select Board would be empowered to allow food trucks in all zones except for Residential Only for sales to the public. Article 22 also defines what a food truck is.

3. Adjournment

3.1 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Izer Second: Parsons

Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Lore