



Wednesday, May 3, 2023
Select Board Meeting Agenda

Hadley Senior Center at 46 Middle St., Hadley MA, 01035 at 6:00 pm

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; Alex Lamarche, Hadley Media; Dan Zdonek, Town Assessor; Mike Spanknebel, Fire Chief; Mike Mason, Police Chief; Barbara Kellogg, Resident; Mark Britton, Resident; and Brenda Fydenkevez, Resident;

1. Call to Order

1.1 Call to order

The Select Board will convene a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hadley Senior Center at 46 Middle Street, Hadley, MA 01035 and on Zoom Meeting ID: there and then to act on the following agenda

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88099517823?pwd=d0hCc0hkTXE1cld3eXBXaW9weHcvQT09>

Meeting ID: 880 9951 7823

Passcode: 647193

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,88099517823#,,,,*647193# US (Chicago)

+16469313860,,88099517823#,,,,*647193# US

2. Public Comments

2.1 Public Comments

The public comment period is a time for the public to bring their concerns before the Select Board. The Board will hear public comments for 15 minutes. Please limit your comments to 3 minutes so that other members of the public may have an opportunity to speak.

In general, the Board will take all items and issues raised under advisement. Requests that can be addressed administratively will be referred to the appropriate department head for action. Requests for public documents will be handled according to law.

If the Chair of the Select Board calls for public comments, and after all public comments are heard, and if there is still time available, the Chair may close that portion of the meeting agenda and move to other items on the agenda.

Brenda Fydenkiewicz expressed concerns regarding the current safety conditions on Rocky Hill Road. Brenda Fydenkiewicz stated that Rocky Hill Road is now frequently used as an alternate route to Route 9, resulting in large commercial vehicles and buses now traveling on Rocky Hill Road.

3. Cable Public Forum

3.1 Cable Public Forum

Alex Lamarche, Hadley Media Director presented the recently completed Charter Spectrum Survey results to the Select Board and Residents. Results were gathered via Google Forms and distributed via the Town website, Town e-blast, and Facebook. There were also paper copies of the survey available in Town buildings.

Alex Lamarche further stated that:

1. Only 54% of the 2200 Hadley households subscribe to Charter's cable service, not including the internet.
2. Hadley Media relies on revenue from Charter Spectrum cable to operate.
3. Most of Hadley can utilize Charter internet while some parts of Hadley do not have any internet service available.
4. According to a survey of 10,000 workers nationwide with WFH Research, IT AM, Stanford University, and The University of Chicago, 27% of workers continue to work remotely in early 2023.
5. According to the CDC and the NHCS, 37% of adults were using telehealth medicine in 2021.
6. There is a significant use of telehealth medicine when it comes to behavioral health.

Alex Lamarche stated that 93% of survey respondents own their homes. Alex Lamarche also shared that 72% of the respondents stated that they currently receive cable service.

Alex Lamarche stated that responses leaned towards unsatisfactory cable service currently. The majority of respondents reported that they are somewhat satisfied with their internet service. The majority of respondents are somewhat satisfied with the picture quality on Charter channels.

Alex Lamarche continued by stating that the majority of survey respondents are somewhat satisfied with the quality of closed captions.

Alex Lamarche also reported that the majority of respondents have had a Charter technician come to their home. The quality of the most recent in-home service was satisfactory according to the majority of respondents.

Alex Lamarche reported that most Charter cable customers are not paying for a premium package. However, 77% of respondents are paying for an internet streaming platform.

Alex Lamarche also reported that 65% of respondents plan to or already have discontinued their cable service, mostly due to high cost and that most programming can be streamed online. With this said, Hadley could lose between 3 to 6% of Charter cable subscribers annually starting in 2023.

Alex Lamarche stated that the demographics show that the 65+ population is by far utilizing Charter cable, thus funding Hadley Media.

Alex Lamarche further stated that respondents continue to be dissatisfied with Charter/Spectrum for poor TV reception and service.

Alex Lamarche stated that respondents complained about Charter's prices increasing but service does not improve. The overall feeling is that the cost of cable and internet is "extremely high", including equipment and service, while serving up a seemingly small band of channel choices.

On the subject of Internet Service Provider (ISP), Alex Lamarche shared some of the negative commentary from survey respondents. There were some proponents for Municipal Internet Service.

Alex Lamarche stated that the current contract with Charter expires in March, 2024.

Randy Izer expressed his interest in learning more about the concept of Municipal Internet Service.

Joyce Chunglo stated that Hadley residents should be able to choose their services.

Barbara Kellogg stated that where she and her family live on Moody Bridge Road she has never been able to connect to the internet and does not subscribe to cable TV. Barbara Kellogg further stated that having no internet connectivity has negatively

impacted their lives. Barbara Kellogg would like to have her home connected with whatever option the Town decides in 2024.

Mark Britton stated that four years ago he tried to have Charter extend their service down Cemetery Road and Honey Pot Road. Mark Britton researched potential solutions beyond Verizon DSL, finding that cable providers have received Federal grant money to provide service to more rural/sparsely populated areas. Mark Britton stated that a petition signed by residents of Honey Pot Road and Cemetery Road was presented to Charter requesting that internet and cable TV be made available, only to have the request denied.

Brenda Fydenkiewicz stated that DISH TV "is much worse" than DirecTV.

Alex Lamarche concluded with the next steps:

1. Develop options for Select Board consideration on May 17.
2. The Town must send out a Request for Proposal (RFP) no later than June 15 for selection no later than July 18.
3. Once a provider is selected, the renewal process can begin.

Carolyn Brennan stated that the cable/internet vendor selection and/or renewal process needs to be run by Town Counsel.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Consent Agenda

Warrants	AP2343, AP2343S, PR2321
Minutes	None.
One Day Alcohol License	V-1 Vodka May 20, 2023; June 17, 2023; October 28, 2023
DPW Resignation	Stacy Sullivan
By- Law Committee Resignation	Ann Hudson
Ambulance Committee Resignation	Barbara O' Connor
Contract Extension Transfer Station	Solid Waste Solutions
Contract Extension Accountant	Marcum, LLC.

DPW Administrative Assistant	Barbara Nichols
Use of the Town Commons and Banner Requests	NEPM updated the Common Use Form and permission to hang banners on either side of Route 9 and in front of Russell School.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion: Chunglo Second: Keegan

Approved 5-0-0

5. Old Business

None.

6. New Business

6.1 Notice of Retirement - John Waskiewicz

Jane Nevinsmith stated that John Waskiewicz was retiring on June 2, 2023, after 40 years as a Town employee.

Motion to accept the retirement of John Waskiewicz.

Motion: Keegan Second: Izer

Approved 5-0-0

6.2 Fire Department Internal Promotion Updates

Chief Spanknebel informed the Select Board about internal departmental promotions:

Captain Nick Mckenna, Captain Brian Waskiewicz, Lieutenant Dan Gasol, Lieutenant Jeff Moriarty, Nick Wojtowicz, and Lieutenant Austen Inglehart. These officers will be pinned at the Town Meeting on May 4.

6.3 Grass is Greener Event at the Young Men's Club

Carolyn Brennan provided the Select Board with an update of the recent events at the Young Men's Club, including resident concerns, and the impact on Town departments and resources.

Carolyn Brennan summarized that the Grass is Greener event had a significant impact including departmental meetings prior to the event with concerns that were voiced by Town government to the event coordinator. Carolyn Brennan further stated that many of the conditions and pre-event concerns were not adequately addressed by the event coordinator.

Molly Keegan suggested that Carolyn Brennan summarize with highlights for the Board the impact of Town departments.

Carolyn Brennan stated that broken fencing at the Young Men's Club was addressed with inadequate repairs, potentially affecting compliance with the alcohol license.

Carolyn Brennan added that there were several generators at the venue which were not allowed.

Carolyn Brennan also reported that there were over 20 vehicles and campers for event patrons to stay overnight (for both days of the event) when this was not allowed and communicated as such to the venue in advance.

Carolyn Brennan also reported that the Building Inspector found that the constructed stage was not disassembled in a timely fashion following the event.

Carolyn Brennan stated that the Board of Health was satisfied with the inspections of permitted food trucks, finding no violations.

Carolyn Brennan stated that even though the venue provided some security detail, it cost the Town an additional \$3000 to cover other parts of the Town during the duration of the two-day event.

Carolyn Brennan shared that complaints were registered by Hadley residents related to sound volumes and lighting.

Carolyn Brennan stated that local dispensaries were onsite handing out flyers to the event patrons. However, there were other vendors who were selling regulated products, which doing so is non-compliant.

Carolyn Brennan stated that several residents had complained about the event. One resident came to the Town Hall to report that they left their home temporarily because the music was so loud. Overall, the residents have shared their complaints.

Jennifer Sanders James stated that the Young Men's Club has a "club" liquor license. For the *Grass is Greener* event, the club was operating outside of what is permissible under the club liquor license as far as serving non-Young Men's Club members along with inadequate fencing of the service area contiguous with the parking area. Violations were reported by the Building Inspector and the Fire Chief.

Jennifer Sanders James further stated that the Young Men's Club has been recently operating outside the original nature and scope of the club's mission.

Chief Mason reported that one event patron was transported to the hospital via ambulance.

Molly Keegan asked the Board to consider a path to move forward with the Young Men's Club.

Carolyn Brennan stated that nearby residents also brought up the noise associated with other events at the Young Men's Club including the antique auto shows.

Chief Mason stated that the Town does have a 24-hour day noise bylaw. The bylaw allows for "reasonable" sound levels for events sanctioned by the Town. Chief Mason added that most events at the Young Men's Club end at 5:00 PM, whereas the *Grass is Greener* and *Country in the Country* events go beyond 6:00 PM to nearly 10:00 PM. Chief Mason shared that the Police dispatcher received upwards of 30 inbound calls from residents regarding the *Grass is Greener* event while the event was happening. According to Chief Mason, some residents also sent emails and videos.

Molly Keegan stated that Town Counsel has recommended that a public hearing be conducted with the management of the Young Men's Club.

Regarding the liquor license for the Young Men's Club, Jennifer Sanders James stated that a license can be revoked or suspended. Chief Mason stated that he was not advocating for the revocation or suspension of the Young Men's Club liquor license. Rather, Chief Mason is looking for much better communication and cooperation.

Randy Izer questioned the cost justification by the Town for these large events. Chief Mason suggested that much of the Police detail and related overtime costs could be

avoided with better communication and cooperation with the Young Men's Club in the future.

Molly Keegan asked how any public hearing with the Young Men's Club might be structured.

Jennifer Sanders James stated that a public hearing would have to be advertised well in advance and that Town Counsel be present at such a hearing.

Joyce Chunglo described the types of events that the Young Men's Club had traditionally hosted perhaps 20 years ago. According to Joyce Chunglo, what has changed recently or in the past few years is the large events that have taken place.

Randy Izer stated that even with better communication and cooperation, some thought needs to be given to the size of events based on input from Town departments. Chief Mason reiterated that Town Counsel has stated that it is up to the Select Board to place stipulations on licenses and events.

Amy Parsons asked for clarification about the purpose of a public hearing with the Young Men's Club. Chief Mason responded by stating that the hearing would be related to the liquor license for the Young Men's Club.

Jennifer Sanders James stated that the Young Men's Club also has an entertainment license. With this said, Jennifer Sanders James recommended that if needed a separate hearing could/should be held regarding the entertainment license.

A public hearing regarding the liquor license for the Young Men's Club will be tentatively scheduled for June 7 contingent upon the availability of the Town Counsel.

7. Other Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance

8. Town Administrator Report

Carolyn Brennan stated that members of the DPW Building Feasibility Study Committee went on a "field trip" to view four recently constructed DPW buildings in the Worcester area.

Carolyn Brennan stated that on May 17 Senator Jo Comerford will be visiting and providing some updates while soliciting any local concerns.

Carolyn Brennan stated that Housing Rehab and Housing Aging in Place self-assessment is underway for the purpose of a block grant with the help from an employee at the PVPC. There would be money available for people looking to update their homes up to \$40,000. Carolyn Brennan that there will be an improved outreach effort making people aware of the money available.

Carolyn Brennan stated that bids were solicited (via RFP) for general contractor and electrical contractor work for the Goodwin Library. No bids were received. Carolyn Brennan that bids will be solicited again.

Carolyn Brennan stated that MassDOT will be milling and paving portions of Route 9 in the middle of May.

9. Select Board Members Items for Future Discussion

10. Select Board Members Liaison Report

Amy Parsons stated that there is a site on the web wherein one can view the inside and outside of Russell School in its current state.

11. Adjournment

11.1 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Chunglo

Second: Keegan

Approved 5-0 -0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Lore and Jennifer Sanders James