



Wednesday, January 18, 2017
All Board - Select Board Meeting Minutes
Hopkins Academy Cafeteria - 7:00 pm

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Select Board and All Boards was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Hopkins Academy Cafeteria.

Present were: Molly Keegan, Chair; Joyce Chunglo, Clerk; Gerald Devine, Member; Donald Pipczynski, Member

Absent: John Waskiewicz, Member

Also present were the following town employees and committee members: Michael Mason, Michael Spanknebel, Linda Sanderson, Joan Zuzgo, Bill Dwyer, Linda Dunlavy, Anne McKenzie, Susan Glowatsky, Jessica Spanknebel, Jennifer Sanders James, David Nixon, Marlo Warner, Dan Zdonek, Tim Neyhart, Jim Maksimoski, Suzanne Travisano, Cathy Zatycka, Kane Kiera-Ciolkos, Caryn Perley, Andy Klepacki, John Mieczkowski, Mark Klepacki, David Tudryn, David Waskiewicz

1. Call to Order

1.1 Call to order

The Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Molly Keegan.

Molly Keegan states that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the budget process and give people an opportunity to offer feedback on the budget. We also would like a status report on the growth that we can anticipate on the Rt. 9 corridor and an update on our buildings. Then we would like to discuss the Fire Department, specifically the staffing needs and a check in with the departments about their needs. There have been 2 specific needs that have been discussed – for a HR position and a Finance Director.

2. Consent Agenda

2.1 Consent Agenda

Motion to pass the Consent Agenda

Motion: Devine Second: Chunglo

Vote: 4-0-0

3. Appointments

3.1 All Boards Meeting

Molly Keegan opens the discussion with new growth and ask the Planning Board to begin.

Bill Dwyer states that there is not of residential new growth there is a lot of inventory of approved but unbuilt lots. Commercially on Rt.9 there are new but unbuilt developments such as Pride, 2 new multi- use facilities, Happy Valley Marijuana is in litigation with an abutter. As well as several other properties, that are under construction at this time.

Tim Neyhart then discusses the obstacles that we are facing towards new growth. He states that the biggest stumbling block is the natural gas moratorium. Restaurants are dead they cannot come in because of the natural gas issue. The other issue is hotels are the best for revenue, but there have been inquires for additional hotel. However most hotel chains now days want 4 stories, we don't have 4 stories buildings. The major reason is that we don't have the fire apparatus for them and on our zoning. He then suggests that we make to look at our zoning in the future. The Pyramid mall is working on massive renovations and they are trying to bring in new advantageous businesses. The gas moratorium is really the hold back.

Molly Keegan states that is worth everyone's while to encourage our legislative leaders to stay on top of the gas moratorium.

Further discussion of the 4 story zoning by law and the gas moratorium.

Molly Keegan then invites Dan Zdonek to speak about new growth for the Assessor's Office

Dan Zdonek states that the growth in residential is the 600,000 – 900,000 dollar range they are going to be bringing in a lot in taxes. In commercial most of the growth will not take effect until FY20, the projects that are happening now are going into existing space and that is not going to generate a lot of new taxes. Solar has been really good for us, they do not use any of our resources – schools, police, fire.

The evaluation process has been stable.

David Waskiewicz speaks to the need for a walkable center for the town and he feels that this is something that Hadley is missing. Speaking for the MBC, David states that they are ready to support the Senior Center and the Fire Substation in any way they can. In addition, they have been actively working on the up keep of the buildings and they are working on the budget for the town buildings.



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Further discussion of the town buildings.

Chief Spanknebel states that we did lose the Safer Grant, but so did most of the other towns in the area. This was because there were so many other towns that are in worse shape than us. The Fire Department can no longer handle the load as we are now – the fires, car accidents, inspections and outreach. We have requested part time staffing for 4 full time firefighters and they would work 6 am – 6 pm. The majority of our calls are during these hours.

Further discussion of the Fire Department and their departmental needs.

Molly Keegan asked David to speak about the IT needs for the town.

David Nixon states that we received money at the Fall Town Meeting for a new server and we are working to get that bid out the door. We have a contract with Paragus and we are going to reach out to HCOG to find out if it is possible to contract with another company for services and ending our contract with them in June.

The town and the school will discuss sharing the IT function for the town and will reopen that discussion again.

Molly Keegan states that we have discussed the HR function for the town and we cannot afford this at this time so we are looking to perhaps outsourcing this or sharing this with other municipalities.

Gerald Devine states that our COG needs to be as active as the Franklin COG. We need our COG to be active and help with putting together shared resources. Other small towns in the area must have the same problems as we do and we should be sharing with other towns.

Linda Sanderson states that she would like to speak about the HR position. There is not a department here that has not had a human resources issue in the last 2 years. HR is shared between David, and the Treasurer's Office. This position would serve all departments and allow the chiefs and chairs to focus on their other functions instead of being bogged down in HR.

Drew Hutchinson introduces himself to the boards and committees and states that he thanks Richard for all of his hard work. They are changing not only name, but how we do things. He wants to make this a more community involved program. They would like to offer community programming and really introduce the committees, departments, and boards to the community and really explain what we do here in the town of Hadley.

Molly Keegan thanks everyone for attending, and ask for feedback from the meeting.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

5.1 7:15 p.m. Public Hearing: Mobilitie Pole Hearing

This agenda item was administratively postponed until January 25, 2017.

6. Other

7. Announcements

8. Executive Session

9. Adjournment

9.1 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Sanders James