



Wednesday, September 13, 2017
 Select Board Meeting Minutes
 Town Hall Meeting Room 203– 7:00 pm

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Select Board was held at 7:00 p.m. in the in Room 203, Town Hall, 100 Middle Street, Town of Hadley.

Present were: Joyce Chunglo, Clerk; Donald Pipczynski, Member, Gerald Devine, Member Absent -John Waskiewicz, Member ; Molly Keegan, Chair arrived at 6:53 pm

Also present: David Nixon, Town Administrator; Todd Ford, HCOG Director; Linda Sanderson, Treasurer; Lydia King, HCOG; Sinead Coleman, HCOG; Michael Sarynski, Resident; Ellen Batchelder, HCOG; Lindsay Bennett- Jacobs, HCOG; Catherine Welker, HCOG; Tom Pitta, Fin Com; Jane Nevinsmith, COA; Andy Klepacki, P&R Com; Diane Kieras-Ciolkos, P&R Com; Michael Spanknebel, Fire Chief; Steve Higgins, Resident; Peter Wells, Berkshire Design;

1. Call to Order

1.1 Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Joyce Chunglo, Clerk at 7pm.

2. Consent Agenda

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Warrants	
One Day Liquor	Kestrel 5k for Farmland
Council on Aging	Program Coordinator resignation - Renee Freedman

Motion to accept consent agenda

Motion: Devine Second: Pipczynski for discussion

Pipczynski asked if Kestrel is paying the fee and why is Renee Freedman leaving?

David Nixon states yes they are paying the fee.

Jane Nevinsmith states that Renee does not feel that she does not need to work anymore.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion to waive the fee for Kestrel Trust

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Devine

Vote:3-1-0

3. Public Comments: 7:00 - 7:15 pm

3.1 Public Comments

4. Town Administrator Report

4.1 Town Administrator Report

David Nixon states that it is all Town Meeting all the time and we will sign the warrant next week. We are sending the warrant to Town Counsel this week.

Finance Committee is meeting tomorrow night. We are also working on MS-4, but it has been put on hold, we are however still working on this.

5. Appointments

5.1 7:15 p.m. Hampshire Council of Governments



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Todd Ford introduces the staff at HCOG.

Donald Pipczynski states that he invited HCOG to come in to address the rumors going around and this allow them to address these matters.

Todd Ford explains the HGG and the changes that are happening. We have changed our name. We have been focused on bringing in the revenue, but we are now trying to focus on working with our communities to provide them with what they need.

Lindsay states that we have been working with the Senior volunteering program since 1994 and we have 31 volunteers who volunteer at the Senior Center. We provide 3 classes to Senior Center, with 6 volunteers who we trained. We also have provided some staffing support while Suzanne has been out, they have been working in the office, helped with meals, newsletter, the COA board, the Friends of the COA, one member on the building committee and a volunteer with website design, who has been really helpful. We also provide mileage assistance for any volunteer who needs help. We have also provided help with the BOH with their tobacco regulations, and the Housing Authority and Golden Court going totally smoke free.

Ellen Ba speaks about the purchasing and the bids they have to help the towns save money, time. We are the only full service purchasing cooperative in Western Massachusetts, meaning we offer bids in highway, schools and a wide array of bids. We are up 7.2% this fiscal year. Hadley has participated in the bids and we have several Hadley companies who are local vendors. Our new initiatives is a tree service and exploring offering custodial supplies and lawn care supplies. There is a new collaboration with the cafeterias for fresh flash frozen local produce from the Franklin CDC. Hampshire IT is a program that Hadley has been a member since the beginning with Paragus. The process is that the more towns participate then the rate goes down. We understand the town is exploring other options, but we hope that the IT program will continue to grow.

Shanay states that we are the only non-profit energy provider in Western Mass, we work to negotiate fixed prices. We have been working with Hadley since 2007 and we have 51 business accounts. She further discusses renewable energy sources.

Todd Ford then discusses changes, and we are in net profit for this year. Further discussion of the changes in the name, the website, an HR program and other programs.

Joyce Chunglo inquiries about the Human Resources.

Todd Ford states that we are working with South Hadley and will be meeting again in next week to craft the scope. Then we will need to write a community compact grant and send out the RFP.

David Nixon states that we are with Hampshire IT and our experience has been checkered.

Todd Ford states that we have spoken with Paragus team about expectation levels.

David Nixon states that it is somewhat better but we are looking at other options.

Further discussion of the HR program and the sharing of information.

5.2 7:45 p.m. Joint Meeting with Park and Recreation Commission

Joyce Chunglo states that we have communicated with our counsel that it is in your purvey of who you hire, on the other hand we do control the financial aspect. We will need to come to agreement on that.

Gerald Devine states that he moves to accept the recommendation of the Park and Rec to appoint Steve Higgins to the open commissioner vacancy.



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Motion to appoint Steve Higgins to vacant Park and Recreation Commissioner position

Motion: Devine Second: Pipczynski

Roll Call Vote: Klepacki- Aye; Kieras-Ciolkos - Aye; Pipczynski - Aye, Devine - Aye; Chunglo - Aye; Waskiewicz - Aye

Gerald Devine congratulates Steve and thanks him.

Joyce Chunglo states to the matter of hiring your director. That is a matter in your purvey however we would like you to stay within our guidelines for rates.

Diane Kieras- Ciolkos states that the question was can we hire within our operating budget. We were just told that we could. We do have a candidate based on the interviews that we conducted.

Donald Pipczynski asks David Nixon to speak about the position and the rates.

David Nixon states that he and Andy Klepacki did meet to discuss the position and the range of salary. We did need to find out who does the hiring and we have now found out the answer.

Diane Kieras-Ciolkos states that we have not offered the position because we are waiting for the answer.

Andy Klepacki states that the recommendation that we are hearing is Step 1, with an upgrade recommended. It is not a position we share, we feel that the candidates qualifications justifies more than the base.

Gerald Devine states that it is still my opinion that you are elected officials and you decide whom you hire, but we ask that you make intelligent choices that benefit the entire community. Also, that there are ramifications that affect other people who have been hired.

Diane Kieras- Ciolkos ask if the town has official conditions for making the offer.

David Nixon states that you need to fill out a personnel action form in the Treasurer's office. There also seems to be some confusion over the hours, the position has been budgeted for 30 hours and any overtime has to be cleared with us first.

Andy Klepacki states that is clear.

David Nixon also states that an employee handbook needs to be provided.

David Nixon states that Peter Wells, from Berkshire Design has a recommended change order for Zatyрка Park.

Andy Klepacki states that there has been a change in the slope and removing of the stumps has caused a loss in the topsoil. There is a product that will provide some stabilization and there is money in the budget thanks to the rebid.

The revised budget of the P&R is reduced by 15 -16%, that we were not aware of the reduction.

David Nixon states that there is an assistant position that you are not hiring, so we can reduce without impacting your employee or the rest of your budget.

Andy Klepacki states that we need to straighten that out.

David Nixon states that we reduced the director positon because we are paying a lower rate so that is 7,448 and 13,637 for the assistant position, for a total reduction of 21,085.

Molly Keegan states that is just off by a few thousand.

David Nixon states that we are trying to provide for the fire safety of the town, so if we have position that we are not going to fill there is no reason to pay for that position, and if we are bringing in a



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director who is not at the top of grade there is also savings there. This is my recommendation and you do not have to accept it.

Joyce Chunglo asks them to discuss it with their candidate and come back next week.

6. Old Business

6.1 Hoynoski - Ch. 61A

The Hoynoski property was voted on at Town meeting.

David Nixon states that you need to vote and to vote exercise your right of first refusal because we have to record this by Friday.

Motion to accept the Hoynoski property and exercise our right of first refusal.

Motion: Devine Second: Pipczynski

Friendly amendment to sign all necessary paperwork associated with the Hoynoski property

Vote: 5-0-0

Donald Pipczynski states that there were neighbors who wanted to purchase some to help prevent encroachment on their property and I would like to ask the other board members their opinion.

According to David, we do not need to go out to bid for up to \$35,000 dollars.

Joyce Chunglo states that she would like to wait on that matter, to see what our needs are before we start parceling off the property.

Donald Pipczynski asks if the Town of Amherst has an easement on that property, can we build on that and what does the mean for us.

David Nixon states that it is drainage for Amherst and it goes through in 2 places in Hadley and it is very deep. Easement is not ownership and if they need to reach that they must return our property to original state.

6.2 STM Warrant

David Nixon states there have been many changes and we are now on draft #7. We are down to 14 articles from 22 articles. Three articles will go on the consent agenda. Article 1 is a contingent appropriation, this allows us to set the tax rate, and it allows for us not call additional town meeting.

This will allow for a modest COLA for non-union employees and fund the firefighters, and returns the money for the OPEB. It will also preserve the OPEB contribution and the firefighters in FY19. We will decrease Park and Recreation. This will provide us with a balance budget.

Further information about Article 1 and the contingent appropriation.

John Waskiewicz raises the concern for residents on fixed incomes not being able to pay the higher tax rates.

Gerald Devine states that is why the budget and the increases should be presented to the voters and allow them to decide.

Molly Keegan states that she agrees with the Finance Committee and that we should provide the voters with a plan b in case they decide not to fund the increases for the firefighters. We need to make sure that the voters understand the consequences of not voting for the firefighter.



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Joyce Chunglo states that we (SB and Fin Com) are in support of the firefighters and the town is in serious trouble if we do not increase the fire department.

Linda Sanderson states that the Fin Com has stated that they do not want the firefighter increase in the contingent line on the warrant. They want to make sure that the Fire department is funded no matter what and towards that end, they have been looking for other cuts in the budget to support that end. They do not feel that they have been supported in this by anyone.

Donald Pipczynski expresses his concern over the override vote and the future impact on the FY19 budget.

Further discussion of the Town Meeting articles.

Motion to put the contingent appropriation forward

Motion: Pipczynski

No one seconded the motion

Discussion continued over funding the fire department.

7. New Business 7.1 Fire Chief: Self-Evaluation Presentation

Chief Spanknebel presents his self-evaluation to the Select Board. I know that everyone is working to support the fire department and our staffing and I thank you all for it. I am committed to the Town of Hadley and it is my home.

My number one priority is operations, there were 2 of us and we added 1 position on September 5th. Our inspections are off the chart and I have included the number of inspections from last year and the new ones for this year. We are doing propane inspections for all of the new development. All of this is done in coordination with the other departments, we are working on streamlining this. Our new software will allow us to finally report more to the state, this will be the first time since I joined the first, before we only reported the required reports. I am constantly looking for ways to streamline. The call force is responding as much as they can, but they cannot put the fire department as their full time. They have full time jobs and the amount of training makes it difficult. Over 75% of our calls come during the day, the new staff on will make a big difference and will make it easier for the call force to respond in the evening.

Further presentation of the Fire Chief Self-Evaluation.

8. Other

8.1 Sunderland 300th Parade Committee

Joyce Chunglo states that we have been invited to participate in the Sunderland 300th Parade, on June 16, 2018.

We should form a parade committee to participate.

Gerald Devine states that we should tell them that we would participate and then form a committee.

Chief Spanknebel states that we are participating and I told them I would share information with them from our committee.

Motion to send a yes response

Motion: Devine Second: Keegan

Vote:5-0-0



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9. Announcements

Michael Spanknebel announces the Hadley Fireman's Chicken Bar-b-que on Friday, there are limited tickets less.

Joyce Chunglo offers condolences to the family of Donald Jersen, a long time Hadley resident and UMASS professor and to the family of Jerry Mileur, a retired professor from UMASS.

Donald Pipczynski announces that the class of 1967 is planning a reunion at the Summit View in Holyoke on October 13.

10. Executive Session

11. Adjournment

11.1 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Motion: Devine Second: Waskiewicz
Vote: 5-0-0

Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Sanders James

APPROVED