



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes March 11, 2024

Quorum present: Select Board Members; Kathleen Keresey (Remotely attended), Chair, Andrew Krouss, Andrew Potter, and Town Administrator Marie Ryan.

Kathleen opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter to approve the minutes from February 21 and February 26, 2024.

Roll call Vote:

Kathleen	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

Minute approved.

Zucchini Festival Date- Marge Powell

Marge Powell requested that the Board approve the date of August 10, 2024 for the Zucchini Festival to be held in Town. She will come before the Board in the next few months to request the permits and licensing that will be required once this date is set.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to allow the Zucchini Festival to take place on August 10, 2024.

All were in Favor.
Motion passed.

Police Detail Rate to Change:

Kathleen stated that through several executive session discussions, the Board has agreed to allow a change in the Police Union Contract to change the rate of pay for traffic details from \$50 per hour to \$60 per hour.

Kathleen made the motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to adjust the Police Union Contract to change the rate of pay for traffic details from \$50 per hour to \$60 per hour.

All were in Favor.
Motion passed.

Adopt MGL Chapter 44 – Rules for Hiring Outside Consultant:

Kathleen explained that the Board would like to hire an outside consultant to assist with reviewing the Odor Mitigation plans submitted by Wiseacre Farm. Town Counsel has requested that the Board adopt Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44 to hire the consultant and to submit an agreement to Wiseacre Farm in regard to paying for the consultant.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss to adopt Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44 and to submit the agreement to Wiseacre Farms for review with his attorney and his signature.

All were in favor.
Motion passed.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Approval:

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss to approve the Town Meeting Warrant.

All were in favor.
Motion passed.

Police Department Update: Police Chief Marc Portieri

Chief Portieri updated the Board in regard to the different type of calls the Department has received that have increased this past year. The calls of note were, Assist Citizen went from 140 up to 205 calls this year and Motor Vehicle Stops went from 264 up to 498 this year.

Andy Potter asked what type of violations were included in the motor vehicle stops. Marc explained that they have been primarily speeding which many have led to other violations stopped such as drug possession. Kathleen inquired if the portable speed signs save data. Marc said the one on Great Barrington Road is able to have data uploaded to his computer. He will be applying for a grant to purchase a few more of those types of flashing speed signs.

The Police are now using their new radios which were purchased last year. The officers are able to get transmission from as far away as Springfield and the sound comes through extremely clear and helps with communication with the State Troopers.

Marc informed the Board that training has started up again. He was informed by the MPTC (Massachusetts Police Training Council) that they will no longer allow for online training and all officers will need to travel to be in person for training this year. Marc stated this will lead to more overtime hours due to travel.

All of our officers have now completed and passed the Bridge Training. The State will send the Town a check for \$3000 per Officer as reimbursement for the training.

The Department has been reviewing the use of body cameras. They had a representative from one company come in and give a presentation on using the cameras. Marc will search

and apply for any grant money he can find to pay for the body camera equipment.

The Board thanked Marc for his update.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Krouss stated that Robert Ireland from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will be meeting with him and Marie to try to set up focus groups to work on improved broadband in Town. He will keep the Board updated.

Andy Potter mentioned that the Town Caucus is on Thursday, March 21st at 6 PM. He would like to see residents get involved.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to adjourn open session and enter into executive session and not to return to open session.

Anticipated executive session in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A Paragraph 21 (a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, as meeting in open session would have a detrimental impact on the Board's negotiating position (Police Chief Contract and Director of Public Works Contract)

Roll Call vote to enter into executive session and not return into Open Session.

Kathleen Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Andy Krouss Yes

Open Meeting Adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

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Town Administrator