



# Select Board

21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge, Mass. 01266

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## Select Board Hybrid Meeting 21 State Line Rd., West Stockbridge, MA

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

6:00 PM

### Open Meeting

1. Discussion/Vote of Select Board Chair, Clerk & Secretary and Reorganization
2. Approve minutes from April 24, 2023
3. Citizen Speak Time
4. Discussion/Business/Action items:
  - Discussion/Vote to approve Tess McGovern to hold two appointed positions;  
as Library Assistant and as a Program Consultant per MGL c.268A
  - Discussion of USDA Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program  
– Andy Potter
5. Select Board Speak
6. Adjourn

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: May 10, 2023 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: SB Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88981067608?pwd=SnVldmkrclgzV2w4RmdDcDAzWk9mZz09>

Telephone: 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Webinar ID: 889 8106 7608 Passcode: 463531



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## Select Board Meeting Minutes April 24, 2023

**Quorum present:** Select Board Members Kathleen Keresey, Chair, Andrew Krouss, Andrew Potter and Town Administrator Marie Ryan.

**Others Present:** Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works, Marc Portieri, Police Chief and Steve Traver, Fire Chief.

Kathleen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

### **Fire Department Update:**

Fire Chief Steve Traver informed the Board that the Fire Department has recently added three new members. The Department will complete the testing of the fire hoses in June. Several fire hydrants have been repaired in the past few months. He stressed the need for more volunteers and encouraged people to apply to be a member of the Fire Department and as an EMT.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to approve the minutes from April 3, 2023.

Kathleen and Andy Krouss were in favor, Andy Potter abstained.  
Minutes approved.

### **Citizen Speak:**

Peter Thorne thanked everyone who assisted in the very successful Earth Day Clean-up around the Town on Saturday, April 22.

Curt Wilton, speaking as a resident, brought attention to the parking situation during the recent bike event in Town on Saturday. He was extremely pleased with the process in which the group parked 127 cars at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in a very organized fashion. He was most appreciative of their efforts and hopes that all groups in the future follow their lead. The event holders made sure to have parking attendants which make the process seamless and very respectful to the Town.

**Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment:**

Zoning Board of Appeals Clerk, Joe Roy requested that the Board appoint Gunnar Gudmundson as an ZBA Alternate Member. Gunnar has been a Planning Board Member for many years and his experience with zoning on that board will be extremely helpful as a ZBA member. Gunnar said he is happy to be able to continue to serve the Town.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to appoint Gunnar as a Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Member.

All were in favor, motion passed.

**Farmer's Market Annual Entertainment License:**

Lily Davenport requested that the Board approve an Annual Entertainment License for the Farmer's Market. She stated that they will have 1-3 musicians that will play low volume folk music during the Farmer's Market on Thursdays.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to approve the Entertainment License for the Farmer's Market.

All were in favor, motion passed.

**Zucchini Festival One Day Entertainment License:**

Marjorie Powell, Zucchini Festival Chair requested that the Board approve a One Day Entertainment License for the Zucchini Festival on August 22, 2023. They plan on having low impact, reduced noise fireworks at the end of the festival at 10 PM. She has meet with the State Fire Marshall for placement and security for the fireworks. She requested that the Town to get an umbrella policy under the Town Insurance Policy for the event. Director of Public Works Curt Wilton will assist with the parking locations, using Town Hall, Card Pond, Wastewater Treatment Plant and the cemetery. There will be shuttles to assist getting people to and from the parking lots to the downtown area. The Berkshire Bank parking lot will be reserved for vendor parking. All parking lots will have an attendant to assist with parking. The Festival will have music and dancing that will end by 10 PM prior to the fireworks. Marjorie spoke with Police Chief Marc Portieri and secured Police Detail coverage and with Fire Chief Steve Traver for Fire Department coverage for the fireworks. Marjorie also recieved approval from the Conservation Commission to have a duck race.

Joe Roy, as a representative of the West Stockbridge Village Business Association, has informed all local businesses about every aspect of the Festival. He has not received any responses back from anyone, but he assured the Board that everyone has been informed.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the One Day Entertainment License for the Zucchini Festival.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Marjorie thanked the Board and she will come back to the Board and keep them updated as plans progress.

**Department of Public Works Update:**

Curt Wilton presented an update of the Complete Streets Program. The Committee submitted 15 total projects for approval to proceed with attaining grant funding from Mass DOT. All 15 projects have been approved as feasible for grant funding. The next step will include public input by way of surveys and an open meeting. Then the Committee can determine which projects they will submit for grant funding in the fall with assistance from Nick Russo from Berkshire Regional Planning.

Curt also discussed the roads in Town that he feels should no longer should be Town roads. Curt stated there were 7 roads that he felt should be abandoned by the Town and no longer maintained by the Town. Curt believes to maintain these roads is not cost-effective, they are essentially driveways. The roads being considered are:

VanShaak Road  
Oak Street  
Moscow Road  
Beach Street  
South Street  
Bryan Road  
Easland Road

He suggested that the Board allow he and Marie begin the process of deleting these roads from the list of Town roads by contacting Town Counsel. The Board agreed this was a good idea.

**Municipal Officials April Meeting Update:**

Andy Potter attended a Municipal Officials Meeting in April. One of the main discussions at this meeting was in regards to the inequalities between the funding given to eastern Massachusetts towns versus western Massachusetts towns. He specifically mentioned the PILOT program where towns receive money for state owned land. In the eastern part of the state some towns receive \$1000 per acre while towns in the western part receive only \$129-200 per acre.

Andy also recently attended a meeting in Pittsfield at the Berkshire Innovation Center involving discussions about green energy and potential funding. The USDA representatives were also in attendance and they specifically talked about funding to assist with water treatment infrastructure. Andy will gather more information about their rolling applications for grants and long-term low interest loans for treatment plants.

**Select Board Speak:**

Andy Krouss informed the Board he is still working on the broadband issue and will update the Board when he gets new information.

Andy Potter mentioned that he would like to discuss changing the agenda process at their next meeting by including Citizen Speak during the meeting to enable people to be involved as the Board discusses each item.

The 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board has come up with equity formulas for paying for the new high school and how that will work to allow fair payments by each town. The Board has done some great work and will be presenting that information soon to the Towns.

Kathleen asked the Board if they would be open to having a joint meeting with the Select Board of Great Barrington and Stockbridge to discuss the Housatonic Water Company issues. The Board agreed and Marie will set the meeting up.

Kathleen asked the Board if they would be interested in the possibility of being involved in the joint Stockbridge and Lee Fire Department which is in the early process of forming. The Board agreed this maybe a good idea to look into if this is feasible for West Stockbridge to join them. Kathleen will write a letter of interest to be sent to Stockbridge and Lee.

Kathleen recently meet with Representative Smitty Pignatelli and discussed different shared services. He would like to attend a Select Board meeting for further discussion. Marie will reach out to Smitty to get some possible dates for a meeting.

Andy Potter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Krouss at 7:30 PM.  
All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie y. Ryan*

Marie Y. Ryan  
Town Administrator

Date 4/20/23

Board of Selectmen  
West Stockbridge Town Offices  
21 State Line Road  
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Dear Board of Selectmen:

The purpose of this letter is to request your approval for me to hold more than one appointed position with the Town.

In general, the conflict of interest law restricts municipal employees from holding more than one appointed town position, where at least one position is paid. However, in recognition of the difficulty small towns experience in finding people willing to serve in town positions, the law gives Boards of Selectmen the power to grant exemptions from that restriction.

The multiple appointed positions that I wish to hold are:

- 1) Library Assistant, \$18.00 per hour, 9 hours per week; and
- 2) Programs Consultant, \$25.00 per hour, variable hours per week.

Under § 20 of the conflict of interest law, G.L. c. 268A, in towns with a population of less than 3,500, the Board of Selectmen may allow a municipal employee to have more than one appointed position. Since our town, West Stockbridge, has a population of 1,650, you as the Board of Selectmen have the power to authorize me to hold all of the positions listed above.

I hereby request that the Board of Selectmen approve the exemption under § 20 to allow me to hold all of the listed appointed positions.

Very truly yours,



Tess R. McGovern

## USDA Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program

West Stockbridge may want to consider the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program offered by the USDA's Rural Development agency to fund local water and waste disposal infrastructure projects.

The program provides low-interest loans and grants to eligible rural communities to improve their water supply and waste disposal systems. The loans are available for terms of up to 40 years, and the grants can cover up to 100% of the project's costs. The funds can be used for a wide range of projects, including constructing or upgrading water treatment plants, replacing or repairing aging pipes, and installing or improving waste disposal systems.

To be eligible for the program, the community must be a rural area with a population of fewer than 10,000 people. The project must also meet certain criteria, including being necessary to protect public health and safety, having a reasonable chance of repayment, and being technically feasible and environmentally sound.

Based on the information provided by the USDA's website, the town should consider applying for this program as the town's water and waste disposal infrastructure is in need of improvement. This could include projects such as replacing aging pipes or upgrading the town's water treatment plant.

The low-interest loans and grants available through the program could provide the town with much-needed funds to complete these projects. Additionally, improving the town's water and waste disposal infrastructure could help protect public health and safety, as well as ensure that the town's residents have access to clean and safe water.

Overall, the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program offered by the USDA's Rural Development agency could be a valuable resource for West Stockbridge to consider to fund local water and waste disposal infrastructure projects.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program>