



# Select Board

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## Select Board Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2019

6:00 PM: Open Meeting

Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Doane Perry; Eric Shimelonis, and Town Administrator Marie Ryan.

Board reviews and approves warrants; payroll and vendor.

BERNIE stated that the meeting is being broadcasted as the video is now working.

### Agenda Items/Action/Discussion Items: Meeting Opened at 6:00PM

**Assistant Wire Inspector** – Marie stated that Doug Wilber will no longer serve as the Town's Assistant Wire Inspector. Karl Cooper, Wire Inspector gave the name of Lawrence Ray and Theodore Piontek to be appointed Assistant Wire Inspectors.

Bernie made a motion to approve, Doane seconded and all were in favor.

Bernie asked that if anyone in the audience wants to speak to please come up to the microphone.

**Junk Cars** - Chief Portieri stated that 5 people got summons from the Court Magistrate for a court date of September 17. They must appear in court in a closed session. He also discussed the junk cars at the trailer park. He said that he had a discussion with Liza Gennari. She is having help from a lawyer on this issue. The Board of Health has also had the Chief deliver several letters to the trailer park. The Chief assured the audience that things are being worked on it just takes some time but that things are moving forward.

**Signs for Card Lake Inn Parking lot** – Curt Wilton, Highway Superintendent asked the SB what type of signs they would like in the parking lot or rules. Bernie stated he would like just simple signs stating “Parking”. Curt Wilton said the highway can spruce it up a little with some new gravel and will let it be parking and see how it works for now. If it gets abused, they can decide on further restrictions. Joe Roy also commented that the Vision Committee would like to work on it as well as far as the trees around it. Curt Wilton said he will work with the Tree Warden to take care of some of the trees around the area and will research how to get the trees back to being healthy. Joe Roy said the Vision Committee would like to be involved and help.

**Fire Department Update** – Bernie said he would like to update everyone on the executive session meeting that the Select Board had with Peter Skorput, Fire Chief on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Bernie stated that Town Counsel advised that the meeting could be executive session as a continuation of their previous meeting. He believes in order to move on they needed to accomplish things in executive session. He then read the minutes of that meeting to the audience with his explanations as he read.

After Bernie read the minutes, Doane stated that he feels positive for the future but was still concerned about risks. Doane thanked Marie for her work on this issue with Peter. Bernie said he knows that the meetings at times have gotten heated but he believes sometimes this is what needs to be done to flush things out in to the open. He then suggested that this issue rest for now and have Peter give his monthly report in another 3 weeks or so.

A member of the audience stated that they appreciate Peter but that it is important to have the facts of any issues be brought out in public so that there are no false information going around. They said that leadership is important and they trust that the SB and Peter will do what is in the best for the Town. Another person thanked Eric for shaking things up because sometimes it is necessary to shake things up to get to a safer place.

Brian Butterworth spoke and stated that he has had great professional experience with dealing with Peter. He said that the Town has a management problem and they all need to help with instruction and check in periodically and everyone needs to figure things out together.

Another member of the audience stated that she read the report on the Fire Department and it frightened her to learn of the issues. She said we need to address all these issues. In response to her statements, a member of the Fire Department said that the report is 3 years old. We have all new people in the Department now and we have met and taken care of almost all of the issues listed. We are working hard to improve but we need your help to make it happen.

Bernie stated that they have completed a lot of the work and we need to be supportive, especially with factual information.

A member of the Fire Department said that they need help and support and not people coming to calls and looking over their shoulders. They are afraid of doing something wrong and getting called out on it. They can't function like this with the pressure, it makes us feel threatened. This has been the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting on this and we need support and time to get things completed. The audience all said they appreciate the Fire Department and all that they do for the Town.

Eric said that even the Boston Fire Department, who are all well training and have huge financial support have members get killed. This is about regulation and policy and I only brought the issues to the forefront. This is a bigger issue that deals with things happening currently, recent events, not what was in the past as per the report.

Bernie stated that we all need to have confidence that the Fire Department is working on the issues and we need to move forward. He wants to wrap this up and pull together. Bernie felt there had been a lot of positive things said tonight. The Board will have Curt Wilton, Police Chief Portieri and Fire Chief Peter Skorput all come in and give monthly reports on their departments. The Fire Department is doing a great job and they need our support and not to be looking over their shoulders. Let's take the next three weeks and let them breathe.

Doane said that he felt there is two areas that need to have improvement, risk liability and reporting but that he feels a positive future.

#### **Bid Opening for Resurfacing Swamp Road – 7:10 PM**

Bernie stated he was opening bids received for the resurfacing of Swamp Road. He said we received three bids, from Eurovia Atlantic Coast LLC, LB Corporation and HMA Contracting Corporation.

Curt Wilton took the bids and will go over them to see which was the most responsible and eligible bidder. He will announce next week who won the bid.

#### **The following were issues/questions brought up to the Board:**

**Traffic Survey for Swamp Road** – Marie said she got an estimate of about \$450 for a company to do a traffic survey on Swamp Road. This would be the first step in trying to eliminate heavy vehicle traffic on Swamp Road per the SB past request to begin the process. The Board decided to have the study done but reserve the right to decide to continue with the process after the study is completed and they review it.

#### **Berkshire Regional Planning – Bike Share System Grant-**

Marie told the SB that Berkshire Regional Planning would like several towns to be part a grant application for a survey for a bike share system in Berkshire County. Once the application is

accepted and if we were to be awarded the grant, each town would have to chip in \$3000 and the grant pays for the rest. The Select Board was encouraged because this works into the future plans of the Vision Committee. Marie will let Berkshire Regional Planning know that West Stockbridge is interested in this process.

**Parks and Recreation Committee** – BERNIE stated that he has hopes of the Parks and Rec Committee starting to get together and get things done around town. He said that he spoke with Caitlyn Graham and she was very excited to get to work on things. He said the committee has plenty of money to get some things accomplished around town and looks forward to that.

At this point Bernie stated the Board will into executive session. Bernie made a motion to go into executive session, Doane seconded. Each member voted yes. The room then cleared out with the exception of the Board, Marie and Curt Wilton.

**Executive session convened at 7:50 PM:**

The reason for this executive session was to review and sign a new agreement for Curt Wilton's new position of Director of Public Works. Doane asked Curt if he would be comfortable with a midyear review and Curt said absolutely and that is needed so both parties know how the agreement is working. Curt told the Board that he has met with Elaine Markham, Town Accountant and gone over the proposed salary and that what they will be doing is taking monies from each department he is overseeing to create his new salary. Bernie said he would like to see good public relations for each of the departments through Curt. Doane said he feels that the Vision Committee would be relevant to Curt's operations. Eric agreed this was a good idea. Curt thanked the Board and said that he had been thanked by many people in Town already for taking over these departments. The Board then signed the agreement.

Marie reminded the Board that next week, Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> is the Special Town Meeting in regards to the Solar Bylaw at 7 PM. MARIE stated that the next regular meeting would be October 9<sup>th</sup> however, Eric would not be in Town for that meeting.

Bernie motion to adjourn at 8:25 PM, Doane seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Marie Y. Ryan  
Town Administrator