



Select Board

21 State Line Road PO Box 525 West Stockbridge, Mass. 01266-0525

Tel. (413) 232-0300 x319

Fax. (413) 232-7195

E-mail: admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Select Board Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2019

6:00 PM: Open Meeting

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

Review and act on previous meeting minutes.

Sign State House Notes and related documents.

Review and sign warrants (payroll and vendor)

Agenda Items/Action/Discussion Items: Meeting Opened at 6:10PM

Bernie opened the meeting with a statement in regards to the Board Members trusting each other. He stated that at the last meeting there were no reasons found at that time to not renew all the licenses. He said that if the Eric's e-mail had not gone out, the Board would have been able to get through the license renewals with out all the emotional outbursts and drama that happened at the last meeting. The e-mail mad people scared about not getting their

license renewed so they showed up with support from the community. Bernie also stated that the blanket statement that the Board and the licensees have gotten nothing done is not accurate. Troy's garage for instance went from 93 cars down to 25 and cleaned up a lot of the area.

Bernie also stated that he would like to have the Board discuss the issues and then have a citizen speak time at the end of the meeting so the Board can get their business completed. He feels this way the Board can move forward.

Eric said that he was not singling out any particular business. He wanted to have a fair discussion in regards to compliance. He respects the process of the license renewals and wanted the Board to have a fair and comprehensive process and is not anti-any specific person or business.

Auto Class II and Class III License to Rte. 41 LLC – Alan Becker

Bernie began by stating that this license was a new application by Alan Becker and was submitted correctly but that after the meeting that approved this license, the Board learned of an eviction notice for this business was in process. Bernie also noted that this needs to be voted by Doane and himself. Eric recused himself from the original vote so he does not need to vote on this issue. He then read the following motion:

I make the motion to revoke the two 2020 licenses, on the grounds that Mr. Becker does not a suitable place of business to exercise the licenses, which is a mandatory condition to either license. Doane seconded.

Mr. Becker stated that currently he is not over the car limit and welcomed the Board to go to the site and see for themselves. Bernie then asked if all the cars were in the rented area and Mr. Becker said yes. Ricky Klein, property owner, spoke and gave evidence (pictures and court documents) that show all the cars and that they are not on the area rented to Mr. Becker. A discussion ensued by Mr. Becker and Mr. Klein. Bernie then interrupted them and read the motion again. He then told Mr. Becker that if the eviction is reversed, he could apply again for the license. Doane agreed and the vote was unanimous to revoke the license for 2020.

Ricky Klein asked the Board to require Mr. Becker to remove the vehicles that are blocking the tenant's area to park. Mr. Becker stated that he can move some but it will be hard to move others. Bernie asked Mr. Becker to try to get this completed.

Council on Aging Agreement with Richmond

John Zick, Council on Aging Chair presented to the Board and stated that the COA in West Stockbridge is combining with the COA in Richmond. They have a Memorandum of Understanding for the Board to sign that would combine the two COAs. He stated that they financial accounts would remain separate which will help with grants. He stated that Phyllis LeBeau from Richmond would be the Director and West Stockbridge would pay her for approximately 1-2 hours per week. He said that all parties and trips would be paid for by splitting the costs and would encourage more seniors to participate. The Board all agreed this was a good idea and Marie had them sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Fire Department update – Fire Chief Peter Skorput

Fire Chief presented an update to the Select Board of the Fire Department. (see attached) He discussed events and training updates as well as membership status.

Bernie asked Peter what the status of EMTs was. Peter stated that there is an upcoming training and the 4 people plan on attending.

Eric asked Peter what the status was for the I Am Responding software. Peter stated that his lieutenant was getting this up and running hopefully by end of the week. Eric also asked about the large screen for the Fire House. Peter said that they are working with the company to get that as well. Marie said that she could assist if the cost is high from the company.

The Board thanked Peter for his report.

Police Department update – Chief Marc Portieri

Junk Cars – Chief Portieri reported the courts are still dealing with only 4 people on the junk car issue in town. The location of the cars is on State Line Rd., Cobb Rd. and two at Great Barrington Rd.

Christmas Gifts – Marc stated that the donations and gifts that the Department have are all ready for delivery to the seven families which they are supporting this year. The Department and Fire Chief Peter Skorput (Santa) will be delivering the gifts and the meals to these families on Friday.

Training – The Chief and Sergeant Messina have recently completed a 4-day training on handling evidence. He stated that this training is going to be mandatory in the future. This training helps them to secure evidence.

Calls – Marc reported that the Department has had 3 domestic calls in November all for the same people.

Chief Portieri also stated that the Department has had a total of 4 overdose deaths in the past several years He said that in two of the four they were able to identify the dealer who has been

arrested and is currently going to be charged with two of the deaths of West Stockbridge residents.

The Chief also reported that at the Stockbridge Sportsmen's Club there has been issues of trespassing on to the property near the shooting range which is very dangerous. The Department is going to assist them with more signs.

Doane asked the Chief if he would be willing to help the Board and give an update of the compliance of the Auto Licensees properties prior to the renewal process. Marc agreed that he could do that. Doane also then told the Board he would like them to agree with him for a possible quarterly or every 6 months to review of the License holders. He thought possibly asking them to come in and have a continued discussion on the how things are going would help in the long run when it is time to renew.

Bernie said he has also been asking around other towns to see how they handle renewals. Eric said that when renewals come up that the Board has to have some weight to the conditions that they give each license. He wants to have a fair procedure to keep them all in compliance. The Chief agreed that it would help with communication and bonding with the community. He thought this may help with getting things worked out prior to any issues coming up as opposed to only meeting once a year at renewal time. Marie agreed to put on future agendas a periodic review of the licenses.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Liz DiGrigoli asked the Board if they know why there is a large pile of snow near the cars parked at Troy's near the water instead of being brought to the area near the cemetery where the rest of the snow gets put. Curt Wilton, Public Works Director was not in attendance so Marie will contact and ask about that.

Peter Skorput asked the Board if Curt can please plow the Card Pond parking lot. Marie will ask Curt to do this for the Fire Department.

Joe Roy asked if the Board could approve finding some monies for advertising the Art Show, they plan on having in the spring. They are trying to promote West Stockbridge and they need to advertise for this event as well as advertise for people to come audition for the event after the holidays. Marie will talk with Elaine Markham, Town Accountant, about possibly where some money could come from. Also, Karen Carmean asked what would happen to any possibly monies they may get donated and what fund that could go into. Marie will also talk to Elaine about that as well.

Bernie then made a motion to adjourn, Doane Seconded, all in favor.

The Select Board adjourned at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

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Town Administrator



West Stockbridge Fire Department

24 Albany Road

West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Serving our Neighbors, our Community, and our County

Peter Skorput

Fire Chief

413-232-7853 (home)

413-232-4490 (office)

December 18, 2019

Monthly report of West Stockbridge Fire Department

Calls

Medical 3

False Alarms 2

Motor Vehicle Accident 2

Trailer Truck Accident 1

Training

12/2 Pump Practice Hydrant Testing

12/9 Tanker Training with Richmond

12/16 Station Maintenance Went over Medical Equipment

Equipment

Rack for the Scba and oxygen tanks

Membership

One member quit because of personal obligations

We gained a new member bringing us back up to 18

Peter Skorput

Fire Chief