



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2020

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 Caucus Papers to be posted

Sign Warrant for Presidential Primary Election

Review and sign warrants (payroll and vendor)

Agenda Items/Action/Discussion Items: Meeting Opened at 6:05 PM

Bernie opened the meeting stating that the Board signed all the payroll and vendor warrants and the other documents for the election and caucus.

Library Signage – Library Trustee Member Jayne Benjulian

Jayne discussed with the Board that the Trustees would love to see more signs for the Library. She stated she spoke with Joe Roy of the Village Association who said he could add information for the Library location to a sign near Berkshire Bank. She also would like to see a bigger sign in front of Town Hall. Eric then showed everyone a picture of a mock up of a new sign for Town Hall. This had a large wooden Town Seal on top and a sign for each office below it (Town Hall, Police and Library). He stated this would be simple and larger. He mentioned that the Board in the past has discussed having all the signs in West Stockbridge be the same lettering, starting with a welcome sign at the turnpike area. Jayne said she had contacted the state about putting more signs on their property but they denied her stating that would have them getting requests from Libraries for all over the state. Bernie agreed they need to have more signs that are all consistent in lettering and size, but he cautioned they do not want too many signs then no one would read them.

Jayne and Andrew Potter (Library Trustee) stated they really would love people to take advantage of all the Library has to offer. They stated they need to attract people to the Library so they can see all that they have to offer. Eric then asked if the Trustees would be interested in a “shoehorn” library in the center of town. Jayne said that is something the Trustees have already discussed and may do something like that. This would be a small cabinet type structure with books in it that people can just take and return or add to. Jayne thinks this may have people want more so they will be attracted to go the Library.

Library Financial Issue – Library Trustee Member Jayne Benjulian

Jayne also notified the Board about the financial issues the Trustees are dealing with currently. She explained that recently over the past few months, it has come to the Trustees attention that the Library has donations that have not been handled legally. The money has been in an account using the Town Tax ID number and has not had the Town Accountants name on the account. Jayne spoke with Town Treasurer Karen Williams, Town Accountant Elaine Markham and Town Council Joel Bard about this. Town Council is guiding the Trustees on two different ways to correct this issue. One is to have the monies put in to the Town accounts and have the Treasurer handle the donations. The other is to create a new Tax ID for the Trustees and open all new accounts. Jayne let the Board know that she is working on this and will have it decided on in the near future.

Bernie stated he feels that having the money with the Town would seem the best way and Jayne agreed but will let the Board know what the Trustees decide.

Fire Department Update – Peter Skorput

Peter Skorput handed the Board a copy of his monthly update. He explained that he has 4 members that want to attend EMT training. He said that there is a class at Southern Berkshire Ambulance that is free but that the members would be committed to working for them for a year after that at no pay. They also have a class that can just be paid for by that is costs \$1,100 per person. Petr said they are looking into what time commitment that would require and that the cost is something they are trying to figure out.

Peter told the Board that the I AM Responding program is up and running. Bernie asked if they have information in the program such as information on where hydrants are and lengths of driveways, etc. Peter said that this is something they plan on doing when the weather gets warm, they will be able to go out and measure.

Peter asked the Board for permission to have a Boot Drive for the Auxiliary fund raiser on Saturday, February 15 on Main Street. Peter explained that they use these donations for things like buying water and food for the members when they are at a fire. The Board agreed to this and Peter thanked them.

Eric then asked Peter what the current budget and spending priorities were for the Association. Peter stated that they meet every three months and go over what they need to spend money on and has an accountant that keeps their books up to date. Eric asked if this could include training costs. Peter said that he likes to pay for training in his budget. Eric asked what the balance was in the Association and Peter said it was about \$23,000. Bernie said he thinks it would benefit the Association to help pay for the training. Peter said they like to keep that money for things that come up that they need to purchase like gloves, etc. Eric proposed that Peter and the Association look into paying for the EMT training, and possibly sending out fund raising letters, it may benefit the Town and the members. Eric said he thinks they could raise enough money to get this important training paid for. The trained EMTs could work with Richmond and get paid when working in both towns. Peter said he really wants to get this going but that he thinks this is not just about the money but the time commitment as well. He feels they will get in done one way or another.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Marie stated that she has a date for to have the Town flag hung in the State House Hall of Flags. The date for this will be Thursday, February 13 at 12:30 at the State House. She will attend and invited the Select Board if they wanted to go as well.

Eric asked Marie about a possibly security plan for the Town Hall. Marie told the Board she and the Police Chief Marc Portieri are in the process of getting quotes for security cameras and

monitors at Town Hall. Marie expects to have this item as an article in the Town warrant this year.

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

The Select Board adjourned at 7:02 PM.

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)

January 20, 2020

Monthly Report Of the West Stockbridge Fire Department Calls

Medical 9

Auto Alarms 4

Medical Alarms 1

Tree on Wires 1

Car Fires 1

Training

1/6 Station Maintenance

1/3 In House Search and Rescue

1/13 In House Fire Terms

1/27 drill with Richmond Latter's (Scheduled)

Equipment
I am Responding is up and running
Membership

We have gained two new members bring us up to twenty fire fighters