



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2020

21 State Line Road, Town Hall

Open Meeting

Quorum present: Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Member, Eric Shimelonis, Select Board Member, Marie Ryan, Town Administrator

Roger opened the meeting at 6:04 PM. He reviewed the agenda, stating the Board has signed the warrants. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 13th and August 26th Select Board meetings. Eric made the motion to approve the minutes, Roger seconded and all were in favor.

Roger noted the Ivan Barros from Formel Salvage is unable to attend the meeting and will be rescheduling. He also mentioned that the discussion regarding the Baldwin property will also be on hold pending review of new information about the property that the Assessor and Town Counsel need to review prior to presenting to the Board.

Town Administrator Update:

Marie presented an update on the COVID-19 Relief Act Fund. To date, she has submitted \$25,863 of expenses and all were approved and reimbursed. She will be processing another submission in the next month.

She reported that she and Curt will be purchasing 3-4 large locked cabinets to store Food Pantry items which are currently on tables in locked Community Room. Securing these items in locked cabinets will allow the Community Room to be unlocked and open for other activities. The cost of the cabinets will be submitted to the COVID-19 Relief ACT Fund for reimbursement.

Kathleen asked if people could make donations to the Food Bank using the Venmo application. Marie will check with Karen Williams, Treasurer, to see if that is something that is allowed for municipalities.

Bike Share Feasibility Study:

Eric explained that this agreement is something the previous Select Board had agreed to take part in, along with Lenox, Great Barrington and Pittsfield. He said Berkshire Regional Planning applied for and received a \$60,000 grant to have the Bike Share Feasibility study done. The towns participating in the study are required to contribute a total of \$15,000; \$3,000 each from Lenox, West Stockbridge and Great Barrington, \$6,000 from Pittsfield.

He felt this comprehensive study could lead to more grants and be an asset for the Town. Kathleen said she thought the study was a good idea in theory but was concerned that the \$3,000 was not in the FY21 budget. The Board had previously asked Marie to see if the Planning Board would cover the \$3,000 from its FY21 budget. Marie said that Dana agreed to cover the expense if the Board approves the Feasibility Study.

Roger asked the Board to vote on committing \$3,000 to participate in this study. Eric made a motion to sign the agreement for the Bike Share Feasibility Study, Kathleen seconded. Roll Call vote was:

Eric – Yes

Kathleen – Yes

Roger – No

The motion passed and Roger, as the Chair, signed the agreement.

Review of Annual Town Meeting Special Articles 28-42: (see attached list)

Marie reviewed each article, recapping the current status, the amount appropriated and the amount spent to date.

Roger asked Eric about the possibility of using funds from the Green Communities grant to cover the costs of the new boiler for the Fire Department/DPW building(Article 34). Eric said the Green Communities grant is still in process but he would be happy to find out if the boiler could be paid for from the grant. Kathleen and Roger asked Eric to provide an overview of the Green Communities program at a future meeting, which he agreed to do.

When tree planting at the solar array on Stockbridge Road (Article 39) was discussed, Kathleen asked if it would be possible to get the company that operates the solar array at the old truck stop on Rt. 102 to plant some screening trees. Marie said that the previous Board had asked her to look into that and the response she got from the company was no. The company said that this would be too expensive and it was not in the contract. The Board asked Marie to get them more information on that contract.

Citizen Speak:

Frank Landsberger suggested that the Hazardous Mitigation Plan Committee include a Board of Health member. Marie will bring that suggestion to Earl Moffat.

Joe Roy asked if the Community Preservation Act (CPA) was going to be on the agenda for the next Special Town Meeting because the Town needs to move ahead with the formation of the CPA Committee. Marie said the approval of a bylaw that covers the CPA committee would be on the next Town Meeting agenda.

Kathleen noted that in addition to the CPA bylaw, there is another agenda item to reclassify funds appropriated for Gear Racks for the Fire Department that Chief Traver says are not needed. She proposed scheduling a Special Town Meeting soon to address both of these important items. Marie said she would check with the Planning Board to see if they have any items ready to bring to a Town Meeting and will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Select Board Speak:

Roger spoke about the following:

- Andrew Potter is not going to run for another term on the School Board and, apparently, no one is running to replace him. He said he couldn't find anything on-line about the election of School Board members but he thought some action should be taken by the Board to publicize the vacancy and see if potential write-in candidates could be identified. Eric said the Vacancy Committee exists to perform that role and, since he is a member of that committee, he would bring this need to the committee members.
- Elaine has printed out 2 month end budget / actual reports which are available in the Select Board mail slot. Kathleen asked if the reports could be emailed to each Board member. Marie will coordinate that with Elaine.
- At the next meeting, the Board will be reviewing responses to an RFP to lease land for a cell phone tower at 72 Albany Road. The land has been leased since 1990 and Charter / Spectrum has a tower on the site. Marie will prepare a historical information package for the Board so they will have the context needed to make an informed decision.

Kathleen spoke about the following:

- The Shared Streets and Spaces Grant application has been submitted. The time frame to hear back is about 14 days.
- She met with Bob Salerno and Curt Wilton to discuss ideas that could be included in a second application to Shared Streets and Spaces program.
- She asked the Board to consider the creation of a Grant Committee to look into and apply for grants for the Town.
- Kathleen mentioned that she has had heard from a number of residents concerned about conditions at the Transfer Station. She asked Marie to pass these concerns on to Earl and Curt to see if they can take some interim steps, particularly with signage, until the new permanent signs come in.

After Select Board speak, the Board held a broad ranging discussion about working together as a team and with Marie since the July election. They talked about expectations, processes that are working well and those that aren't, challenges in getting information needed to make decisions and Board communications.

One issue discussed was transparency about initiatives that individual Board members are working on or leading. Eric suggested that the Board purchase a dry erase board to place in the

Board work room so that the Board members could post a list of the Town initiatives they are working on. No follow up action was proposed.

Roger confirmed that there were no additional topics to discuss and made a motion to adjourn. Eric seconded and all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marie U. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents:

1. COVID Cares ACT Relief fund expenses
2. Memorandum of Understanding for Berkshire County Bike Share Feasibility Study
3. Update on Appropriations / Expenditures on Town Meeting Articles 28 -42