



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes August 16, 2022

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

Also Present: Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works, Marc Portieri, Police Chief and Roger Kavanagh, past Select Board Member.

Kathleen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and listed Select Board members present.

Citizen Speak: None

Approval of Minutes:

Kathleen requested more time to review the minutes and asked for the approval to be postponed until the next meeting. All Board members agreed.

Town Administrator Update:

Marie informed the Board that the Attorney General has approved all bylaw articles from the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, which includes the approval of the Marijuana Zoning Bylaw changes.

Introduction of Shared Human Resource Employee:

Marie introduced Sophia Beltsos, the new Human Resource Director. Marie explained that Sophia will be working for Monterey, Sheffield, New Marlborough, Great Barrington and West Stockbridge and will be on site in West Stockbridge in the afternoons of the first Tuesday of the month. She will continue to work remotely for the Town as well. Sophia is currently working on updating job descriptions. She thanked the Board for opportunity to work for West Stockbridge.

Kathleen and the rest of the Board welcomed Sophia and look forward to working with her.

Friends of the Library Sign Request:

Lauren Krouss requested permission from the Board to post signs around Town for the Library Book Sale. The Sale will be held on Saturday, August 27th and Sunday, August 28th in the Town Hall Gymnasium. The Board approved.

Josh Billings Runaround-Permission to use Town Roads:

Patty Spector requested permission for the Josh Billings Runaround to use Town roads at their event on Sunday, September 18th. The Board approved.

Appointment of new DPW employee:

Curt explained to the Board that one of his employees has resigned from his position. Curt posted an advertisement in the Berkshire Eagle for two weeks in a row and had two applicants. Both applicants were qualified and were interviewed by Curt, Highway Superintendent Jamie Boyer, Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Frank Alfonso and Town Administrator Marie Ryan. After the interviews concluded, they all voted to hire Tim Magner. Tim told the Board he is looking forward to working for the Town and he appreciates the opportunity.

Andy Potter made a motion to appoint Tim Magner as the new DPW employee, seconded by Andy Krouss.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Kathleen	Yes

Motion approved.

Police Union Contract:

Roger Kavanagh, past Select Board member, had been working on the Police Union contract from the beginning and told the Board he believes the final version is a good and fair contract. The Board thanked Roger for his time and effort working on this contract.

Andy Potter made a motion to approve the Police Union Contract, seconded by Andy Krouss.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Kathleen	Yes

Motion approved.

Police Department Update:

Police Chief Marc Portieri thanked the Board for their support of his reorganization efforts, resulting in the PD now having four full-time officers. Marc stated this has made a positive impact on the productivity of the Department.

Marc has updated safety equipment in all of the Police vehicles. Calls have decreased this current year as compared to last year. However, last year there were 7 arrests but so far this year, the Department has already had 17 arrests. Due to full-time staffing, they are able to complete more investigations and patrols.

Kathleen asked Marc how information about public safety could be shared with the public. Marc will produce some information that can be posted on the website for residents.

Marc informed the Board that the Department will be participating in Active Shooter trainings on August 22th at Town Hall and on August 29th at the Richmond School. Officer Lukas Horn will be assisting in the trainings.

Marc gave the following updates:

- Crane Lake Camp has closed for the season. Everything went well this summer with no issues.
- The Department has given out 78 tickets in the past three months.
- Marc is working with Massini Bus Company on safety issues on Main Street for school pick up when school begins.
- The Department has made 17 arrests this year.
- The have stopped 77 cars for speeding this year.
- There have been 18 accidents so far this year, which is about average.

Kathleen then inquired about traffic calming efforts to date. Marc responded that he has had extra patrols out on the roads, especially on Great Barrington Road. With school starting, the Officers will be out on the roads more frequently.

Kathleen requested an updated list of the stats with a breakdown and Marc said he had just run a report from the Sherriff's Office for review.

Marc will continue to inform the Board of staffing changes/issues, provide statistical reports and update the Board about Traffic Calming.

Marc again thanked the Board for allowing the new structure of the Department with added Full Time Officers.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter stated that he believes the Board should begin meeting in person with video available, in hybrid meetings. Andy Krouss suggested that could be possible, but requested that attendees wear masks. The Board agreed that this will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Andy Potter suggested that the Board look into creating a policy to hold all public meetings in the evening so that there could potentially be more participation from the general public. The Board agreed that this will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Andy Potter asked about the process for determining what is going to be on the agenda Kathleen explained that any Board Member can contact Marie for any item they want to place on the agenda and she will forward it on to the Chair.

Andy Potter made a motion to adjourned, seconded by Andy Krouss.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Kathleen Yes

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator