



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes February 21, 2023

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

Others Present: Mark Webber, Simon Davenport, Mike Buffoni, Joe Roy, Jr. and Peter Rothstein.

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

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to approve the minutes from February 6 and February 15, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes

Andy Krouss Yes

Minutes Approved.

Citizen Speak:

None

Appointment of Simon Davenport to Sewer & Water Commissioners- Mark Webber

Sewer and Water Commission Chair, Mark Webber, requested that the Select Board appoint Simon Davenport as a new commissioner. Mark explained there is currently 4 members of their 5-member commission.

Simon thanked the Board for the opportunity to service the Town.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to appoint Simon Davenport as Sewer & Water Commissioner.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes

Andy Krouss Yes
Motion Approved.

Discussion/Vote for use of ARPA Funds for Wastewater Treatment Plant Items (WWTP)

– Mike Buffoni

Sewer & Water Treatment Plant Operator, Mike Buffoni discussed the urgent need of certain items for the WWTP. He stated that the Generator is 30 years old and has broken down many times, requiring the rental of another generator. The software system used for billing is outdated and no longer supported by the company. The final request is for two new Outfall Collectors, the current ones are 30 years old.

Kathleen asked if there was an option to get the generator repaired. Mike responded that they have tried many times and the parts are no longer available for this old generator. She also asked Mike if the WWTP would be in good shape after these purchases and he responded yes, very good shape, other than routine maintenance.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to approve the use of ARPA funds to purchase two RBC Outfall Collectors, a new generator and a new software package for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes
Andy Krouss Yes

Motion Approved.

EV Charging Stations – Joe Roy and Peter Rothstein

Joe read his letter to the Select Board from the Vision Committee on their research of EV Charging Stations as follows;

From: WS Vision Committee

Re: Proposal for Electric Vehicle Charging Station in town

What: Level 2 charging station set up in town parking lot

Date: February 20, 2023

Why:

- Encourage clean energy
- Promote town's profile as forward-thinking
- Provide attractive service for visitors to town and locals

Where:

- Most likely locations being explored in town owned lots
 - Across from Post Office
 - Next to Historical Society
 - Lot above Historical Society

Cost to town:

- Without incentives or grants, cost for a Level 2 charger = c. \$25,000 including infrastructure
- With National Grid grant or with MA DEP Electric Vehicle Incentive Program, **potentially no cost** to town

- After installation, there might be a yearly maintenance fee
- Potential revenue source to town for charging

Next steps:

- Get SB approval to proceed or to have SB appoint a separate committee to develop proposal
- Investigate grant sources and incentive programs from National Grid and from State
- Solicit proposals from local electrical contractors and contractors with experience installing and standing up EV charging stations to be considered for providing infrastructure.
- Present proposal to Select Board

Questions:

- Will proposal need to be voted on at Annual Town Meeting or can it be handled administratively (especially if the work can be paid for by grant)?
- Does the SB want to take over the proposal? Have town DPW or town administrator handle it?
- Will National Grid granting program require that the location be paved?
- Does it make sense to consider a Direct Current Fast Charger rather than a slower Level 2 charger?

Peter and Joe explained their next steps will depend on how the Select Board would like them to proceed. They both realize that funding will be a major issue in this process and they will continue to investigate the possible funding sources. Kathleen suggested that they include the Master Plan Committee in the process.

Andy asked if the charging stations would be for one vehicle or will they have two ports to support two vehicles at a time. Peter said that they hope to have stations that can accommodate two vehicles at a time.

Kathleen and Andy thanked Joe and Peter for their work on this issue and both agreed they would like them to continue their research on EV charging stations and return to the Board in the future with more information while also working with the Master Plan Committee.

Joe and Peter thanked the Board for their time and consideration on this project.

Appoint Town Administrator as Signatory for Berkshire Aggregation – Marie

Marie explained to the Board that three years ago she signed a contract with Colonial Power to be part of an aggregation to keep the cost of electricity for the West Stockbridge residents to \$.09/kw. This contract is ending in November this year. Colonial Power has requested that each Town Administrator have their Boards vote to approve them as the signatory for the next contract.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to appoint Marie as the signatory for the Colonial Power Berkshire Aggregation.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes
Andy Krouss Yes
Motion approved.

Select Board Speak:

None.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy at 6:44 PM.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes
Andy Krouss Yes
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator