



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes February 6, 2023

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

Others Present: Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works and Police Chief Marc Portieri

Kathleen called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM and listed Select Board members present.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to approve the minutes from January 23, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Andy Krouss Yes

Motion Approved.

Citizen Speak:

Joanna and Thom Yurman, residents of Baker Street, are concerned about the placement of new poles and wires, as approved by the Select Board on January 23, 2023. The new poles and wires will be installed by National Grid to provide service to Wiseacre Farm. She and Thom strongly disagree with the placement of the new pole locations. They asked the Town to request National Grid look at either placing the wires underground or change the pole locations to run to Wiseacre Farm from the Rte. 41 side as opposed to Rte.102. Kathleen asked Curt Wilton will contact National Grid and inquire if the placement can be altered. Joanna thanked the Board.

Zucchini Festival One Day Entertainment License – Marjorie Powell, Cultural Council Member

Marjorie requested a one-day entertainment license to hold the Zucchini Festival in West Stockbridge on August 12, 2023. She included a long list of events in her application. She mentioned that she did not include fireworks on the list, however, that is also something she

would like to include. Joe Roy will be contact the local businesses to involve them in the planning as well as their approval of the events. After much discussion, with none of the events listed as definite, Kathleen requested Marjorie come back to the Board with the final list of events once they are scheduled for approval.

Andy Potter made a motion to resolve that the Zucchini Festival may be held on August 12, 2023 in West Stockbridge, seconded by Kathleen. This approval will allow Marjorie to proceed with scheduling events and come back to the Board with updates for approval.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Andy Krouss Yes

Motion Approved

Department of Public Works Update – Curt Wilton, Director

Curt presented the following Department of Public Works update:

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2/6/2023

Dear Select Board members Kathleen, Andy and Andy,

Unlike other reports and updates I wanted to share a few brief summaries of what has been the focus during the last few winter months.

HIGHWAY

On December 8, 2022 the "Speed Feedback Signs" were installed by the DPW on Great Barrington Road down in the Williamsville section of Town. There was a slight adjustment to the north bound original installation. It was discovered the constant flashing from the warning signal was problematic for some residents who lived along the area. The DPW along with the PD found a more suitable location where it would not be so bothersome for these residents. This new placement was completed on January 12, 2023. The signs sole purpose is to make driving motorists aware of the speeds they are going and warn them of an approaching speed limit zone change ahead. Falling under the jurisdiction of the Police Department, the information these signs gather can help them in their quest to enforce motor vehicle speed violations. The units can provide accurate traffic counts and vehicle speeds in real time. When used as a tool they can pinpoint the time of day when most violations occur and possibly adjust their patrols in hopes of catching these habitual offenders. The total cost for these signs were \$\$6,519.00. The units were split between the Highway and Police operating budgets.

The Town has received a Grant from Mass.DOT. for 2 more "Speed Feedback Signs". Back in late fall Marie and myself applied for a F.O.R.R.R.D. (**F**ocusing **O**n **R**educing **R**ural **R**oadway **D**eparture) Grant. This Grant is 100% funded by the State along with installation to place 2 more of these signs on a section of Swamp Road near the intersection of Cone-Hill. The anticipated installation is early summer 2023.

Although this winter seems relatively mild as far as snow accumulations the frequent warm temperatures bringing mostly rain, are more costly than a good old fashion snow storm event. The rapid freeze/thaw of our streets and gravel roadways force us to apply more chemicals/salts and stone aggregates to prevent premature failure of these assets. Black

ice/freezing temperatures and muddy quagmire conditions are keeping the crews busy.

The Snow/Ice Operations Budget (\$80,000) has a current balance of \$4,232.66.

The Gasoline and Diesel Fuels operating Budget (\$22,000) will be over extended by the next delivery.

The Over-Time operating Budget (\$14,600) remaining balance is \$2,367.97.

M.V.P (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness)

M.V.P is another federally funded funding source for cities and Towns. The funding criteria they look for needs to focus on Town wide flooding issues and storm water resiliency. I feel seeking this type of funding is vital for West Stockbridge as we experience these events more frequent than not. To be eligible for this type of funding you must first be M.V.P. Status. Marie and I are working with Weston & Sampson Engineering who will aid the Town in becoming a M.V.P status Town. We are currently in a partnership as a guest with Town of Richmond who are MVP status. Both Towns have targeted a culvert replacement in hopes of being awarded M.V.P. Funds. A culvert on Baker Street has been chosen for replacement in West Stockbridge.

Complete Streets Program

The Complete Street Program offers Massachusetts municipalities funding incentives to adopt policies and practices that provide safe and accessible options for all travel modes. West Stockbridge has adopted our Complete Streets Policy back in 2016 and we are a few months away from completing our Tier II task. With the aid of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, we have outlined at least 15 eligible projects programed over a 5-year period. As we begin Tier III the Town will be submitting these projects to Mass Dot for potential funding. Up to \$500,000 is available in construction yearly through this program. This document along with the 15 projects will soon be available on the Town's Website.

This concludes my brief report,

Thank You,

Curt

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter informed the Board that the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Superintendent's Forum is holding a forum with their School Committee in regards to the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board's work on combining their school district with Berkshire Hills Regional School District.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Potter at 7:19 PM.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Andy Krouss Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator