



Select Board

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Select Board Open Meeting Minutes January 16, 2024

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

Kathleen opened the meeting at 6 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the December 18, 2023 and January 2, 2024 minutes. All were in favor, minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

None.

Berkshire Velo Bike event – Phil Gentile

Phil Gentile introduced himself as the Treasurer of the Berkshire Velo Bike Club. He requested permission to use the parking lot at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for their bike event to be held on April 20, 2024 from 10 AM until 3 PM. They will have two parking attendants to assist with parking. This is the third year they have held this event with no issues in the past. He has spoken with Police Chief Marc Portieri and the Director of Public Works Curt Wilton for approval as well.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve use of the parking lot at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the bike event on April 20, 2024. All were in favor, motion approved.

PCB Transportation through West Stockbridge – Kathleen Keresey

Kathleen told the Board that GE had announced its Transportation Plan for the Housatonic Rest of River Cleanup of PCBs. Ge is recommending truck transport of the most highly PCB contaminated waste to out of state facilities. As the trucks travel to destinations in New York State and beyond, the transportation route showed all truck traffic coming through West Stockbridge, either on the Massachusetts Turnpike or on Route 102.

The 5 Rest of the River Towns (Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge, Great Barrington and Sheffield) have drafted a letter to the EPA in regard to their concerns about the transportation of the PCBs being removed from the Housatonic River. West Stockbridge has asked to be included as

signatory with the other five towns. All 5 Towns have agreed to include West Stockbridge in their letter to the EPA.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to be included as a signatory in the letter addressed to the EPA in regard to the PCB removal process and the transportation routes.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Shared Fire Department with Lee & Stockbridge: Jeff Blanchard, JB Consulting Group

Stockbridge and Lee have asked West Stockbridge and Richmond if they are interested in having a feasibility survey done to evaluate the possibility of merging Emergency Services. Jeff Blanchard presented to the Select Board and explained that he has taken data from Lee and Stockbridge Fire and EMS Departments to create a strategic response analysis. Jeff uses three phases in his process to determine what would be the most efficient way to service the residents. Phase one creates map of the covered area. Phase two creates an historical call analysis, including where calls come from and how long the response time is. The final phase is a predictive modeling, used to evaluate and compare for various deployment options, how options impact call-back and mutual aid. Finally, he will determine how future growth may impact response times. All of these results are presented to the Select Boards to assist in determining if a shared department or what combination of departments would best benefit the residents. The purpose of this survey would assist the Boards on how to proceed and how to best service the residents with the Fire and EMS Departments.

The Board thanked Jeff for his presentation. The Board will have a meeting with Austin White, EMS Coordinator, Fire Chief Steve Traver and the Richmond Selectmen to discuss next steps in the process.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter informed the Board that the TriTown Connector, which provides transportation to our community, has been a huge benefit to our residents. Great Barrington Town Manager, Mark Pruhenski will be applying for a grant for additional funds for this service and has requested a letter of support from the Towns that are part of this service. Andy asked the Board for approval to submit a letter to Mark by the end of the week in support of this grant. Kathleen and Andy agreed.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to adjourn open session and enter into executive session and not to return to open session.

Anticipated executive session in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A Paragraph 21 (a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, as meeting in open session would have a detrimental impact on the Board's negotiating position (Police Union Contract)

Roll Call vote to enter into executive session and not return into Open Session.

Kathleen Yes
Andy Potter Yes
Andy Krouss Yes

Open Meeting Adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator