



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes January 3, 2022

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

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

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

Approval of Minutes:

Roger made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the minutes from November 17, 2021 and December 6, 2021 Open Meeting and Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote:

Roger	Yes
Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes

Eric made a motion, seconded by Kathleen to approve the minutes from November 23, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Roger	Abstain – Not present at that meeting
Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes

Town Administrator Update:

The committee to hire a shared Human Resource Director has made an offer to an applicant and is in the process of negotiations. They hope to have this applicant begin working by February 1st. Marie will invite the new Human Resource Director to a Board meeting for introductions in the future.

The Town has received 180 kits (2 tests per kit) of the COVID-19 Antigen Rapid at home tests. These were given to the Town by the State and are available to residents that are low income families and seniors in Town. The Community Nurse, Emilie, has been giving them to the senior residents and to the Council on Aging to hand out. Marie delivered several kits to the school nurse at Muddy Brook Elementary School to hand out to the low-income families.

Use of the gym has been requested by a few residents and Marie has responded to them that due to the high increase in COVID cases in the area, the gym is not available for use. The Community Nurse and the Board of Health have supported keeping the gym closed at this time until the cases begin to decrease. The gym will be closed at least until the end of January. The status of the COVID cases will be reviewed in February and the opening of the gym will be assessed at that time. Marie will work on a policy for the future use of the gym and present it to the Board in February.

Police Update and Appointment of Lukas Horn- Police Chief Marc Portieri

Marc updated the Board that the Police Department activity log totaled 7590 calls last year. He told the Board that the Department has been certified by the State to carry Narcan and will begin doing so by the end of January. The Bridge Academy classes have begun in the State and the Berkshire County Police Chiefs has been meeting to work on a plan to host some of the training in Berkshire County. This would decrease the cost of travel and time for Berkshire County Officers. Marc informed the Board that each part-time officer can attend the Academy or remain a traffic control officer and only be allowed to work on details. A benefit of having traffic control officers available would be money the Town receives each time an officer works a detail and if they are requested to use a cruiser there is an additional cost that the Town gets paid for as well.

Marc introduced Lukas Horn, a current part-time officer. Lukas has been fully training and he instructs many of the training classes for the rest of the Department. Marc requested that the Board appoint Lukas as a Full-Time officer to the Department.

Eric made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to appoint Lukas Horn as a Full-Time officer to the West Stockbridge Police Department as of January 3, 2022.

Roll call vote:

Roger Yes

Kathleen Yes

Eric Yes

Motion passed.

Department of Public Works and Facilities Update – Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works

Curt informed the Board that his budget for the facilities will be overbudget soon. The majority of the \$20,000 budget has gone into repairs for the boiler at Town Hall for a total of \$14,607 to date. He said the boilers are 17 years old and will need to be replaced in the near future.

Curt stated that another issue that needs attention at Town Hall is the Controllers CTC heating

and cooling system. This system required a retro-commission where the manufacturer found many failing parts of the system. The cost for this was \$1400 and the result is that the system will require \$4508 in parts to repair. Eric suggested that the repairs may be eligible to be paid for through the Green Communities Grant. He will work with Curt on this and prepare the paperwork together to request money from the Grant to help with this cost.

Curt asked the Board to keep in mind the following monetary items that may be placed as articles on the warrant for the next Annual or Special Town Meeting;

- Cost for a traffic study for Great Barrington Road
- Cost for feasibility study for Harris Street/Moscow Road area

Curt is working with Foresight Land Services on the layout of Merritt Way, which he believes will be done by mid-January, as well as the layout of the shared parking lot. He asked Foresight Land Services to create a layout of the parking lot so they can review how many cars would be able to be parked in that lot.

Vote to Adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan

Roger requested that Foresight Land Services, who produced the Hazard Mitigation Plan, along with Lou Oggiani, Emergency Management Director attend a meeting and speak to the summary of the plan and give their recommendations prior to the Board voting to adopt it. Marie will request them to attend the next Select Board meeting.

Vote to enter into Purchase and Sale Agreement and Deed Acceptance for Moscow Road

Eric made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, that the Board vote to enter into the Purchase and Sale Agreement and Deed Acceptance on the terms and conditions as set forth therein for Moscow Road.

Roll call vote;

Roger Yes

Kathleen Yes

Eric Yes

Motion passed.

Select Board Speak:

Roger stated that there were two Fire Department Members that received a much larger yearend stipend than all the others and he asked Fire Chief Traver why they received so much more money. Chief Traver responded that both members attend almost every call that came into the Station. Roger asked Eric if it was common that there are so many calls that come in each year. Eric responded yes, and that WSFD personnel are doing a great job at responding to fire and rescue calls both in West Stockbridge and Richmond, which strengthens the partnership.

Roger asked Marie to gather information from Town Accountant Elaine Markham on the amount of money that the Town puts out to pay the Police Officers for detail shifts and how much money the Town receives for the details. He also requested that Elaine gather information on the total amount of money that has been spent on purchasing Moscow Road, including surveys and legal fees.

Roger requested that an item be placed on the next agenda in regards to the Special Permit Process as it pertains to the Select Board. He stated that he believes that the Special Permit scheduled for 5 Albany Road Café for January 13th, is not required. His research along with assistance from the Planning Board Chair, Dana Bixby, shows that the property already has a special permit from the Planning Board in 1999 attached to it to allow a restaurant on the property. Brian DuVal, Building Inspector, however stated he believes a Special Permit from the Select Board is required at this time. After a short discussion, the Board decided to reach out to Town Counsel for an opinion on the matter.

Kathleen informed the Board that the Zoning Board of Appeals will be holding a meeting on Thursday, January 6th by zoom and one of the agenda items will be a discussion of the recent ZBA hearing (Orient Express/Foundry) and Roger Kavanagh's written response. She thought the Board may be interested in joining the meeting.

Kathleen stated that there is an ongoing traffic issue in Town. She would like the Board to place it on an agenda in the near future to discuss with the Police Department.

Eric praised the West Stockbridge and Richmond Fire Departments for their admirable performance on Christmas Day at the Hilltop Orchard fire. Like with the fire at the Tap House last March, a quick and decisive fire attack saved the building.

Citizen Speak:

None.

Eric made a motion to adjourn at 7:33 PM, seconded by Kathleen.

Roll call vote;

Roger Yes

Kathleen Yes

Eric Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Marie U. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents:

-Minutes from November 17, November 23 and December 6, 2021

-Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021

-Purchase & Sale Agreement for Moscow Road