



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes June 21, 2022

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

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

Kathleen noted that Citizen Speak will be at the beginning of the meetings in order for them to speak to any agenda item listed prior to the Board discussing and voting on each item.

Citizen Speak:

Joe Roy, Jr. asked if all Board/Committee meetings can be hybrid once the special State provision expires on July 15, 2022. Marie said yes, meetings may be hybrid as long as a quorum is physically present at the meeting location. Joe also asked that people be able to speak at the end of the meetings as well in case they may have more to say after the meeting is over.

Roger Manzolini, Chair of the Richmond Selectmen, spoke to the Board and welcomed the new members and introduced himself and his Board members, Alan Hanson and Neal Pilson. He stated that Richmond and West Stockbridge have a great working relationship and he hopes it continues with the new Board.

Approval of Minutes:

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the minutes of June 6, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Potter	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

Kathleen Yes
Minutes Approved.

Town Administrator Update:

Marie explained to the Board that she has been working with Danielle Fillio, Richmond Town Administrator, to create a shared ambulance service which includes hiring two full time EMTs. With the help of Austin White, an EMT in Richmond, Danielle and Marie have worked on the financial and logistical issues. After reviewing the benefits for each Town, it has been determined that the best way to proceed would be for Richmond to employ both EMTs so they have the same benefits. Richmond will bill West Stockbridge for their share of the cost. Once the agreement is finalized, Marie will ask the Board to vote to approve the agreement and sign it to enable Richmond to proceed with hiring the new employees.

Finance Committee New Member Appointment:

Bob Salerno, Finance Committee Chair, requested that the Board appoint Steve Sautman as the new Finance Committee member due to the resignation of Andy Krouss.

Andy Potter made a motion to appoint Steve Sautman as a Finance Committee member until the next Annual Town Election, seconded by Andy Krouss.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Potter Yes
Andy Krouss Yes
Kathleen Yes
Appointment Approved.

Keresey Field Dedication: Kevin Larkin, Baseball Historian and Author

Kevin Larkin informed the Board that he will be holding a Keresey Baseball Field Dedication on July 6, 2022 at 5 PM followed by a reception at Chrissey Farm in Great Barrington at 5:30 PM. He explained that the field has a lot of history related to the Town of West Stockbridge and many local families. Gene Dellea had given Kevin some background information about the field a few years ago and Kevin became very interested and conducted more research himself into the history of the field and wrote a book about it. With the help of many local businesses by way of raffle donations, he was able to raise enough money to purchase an historical plaque which will be placed on a post at the Field Dedication. He invited the Board and everyone interested to attend and looks forward to seeing everyone.

Kathleen thanked Kevin for his work on this and encouraged everyone to attend.

Foundry Sign Permit: Amy Brentano, Foundry Owner

Amy Brentano requested a sign permit for a vinyl sign hanging on a wooden wall on her property.

Kathleen made a motion to approve the sign permit, seconded by Andy Krouss.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Kathleen Yes

Sign Permit Approved.

**One Day Liquor License & Permission to post signs on Town Property:
Margie Skaggs, Guild of Berkshire Artists**

Margie Skaggs, Member of the Guild of Berkshire Artists, requested a one-day liquor license and permission to post signage on Town property for their event at the old Town Hall. The event will be held on July 9th from 3 PM – 5 PM. She requested permission to post small signs on Town properties for approximately three weeks beginning this week through July 8th to advertise their event.

Andy Potter made a motion to approve a one-day liquor license for the Guild of Berkshire Artists event on July 9th, and permission to post signs on Town property for three weeks prior, seconded by Andy Krouss.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Kathleen Yes

One-day liquor license and permission for signs to be placed on Town properties, Approved.

Police Department Update and Appointment: Police Chief Marc Portieri

Marc spoke to the Board about a discussion held with the previous Select Board regarding hiring two additional full-time officers. He stated that he would like the Board to approve the appointment of Michael Renton as the new Sergeant and Curt Wilton, III and Lauren Nelson as the two new full-time officers to the Department. Marc explained doing this will enable him to have 24/7 coverage in the Town and be able to use the part-time officers to fill in for vacations, absences, and details.

Andy Krouss made a motion to approve the appointment of Michael Renton as the new Sergeant and Curt Wilton, III and Lauren Nelson as the two new full-time officers as recommended by the Police Chief, Marc Portieri, seconded by Andy Potter.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss Yes

Andy Potter Yes

Kathleen Yes

Appointments Approved.

Shared Human Resource Employee Agreement; Marie Ryan, Town Administrator

Marie explained to the Board that she has been working with the Towns of Great Barrington, Monterey, New Marlborough and Sheffield to hire a shared Human Resource employee. They have recently hired Sophia Bletsos and she will begin working on July 5th. Sophia will be

employed by West Stockbridge for two hours a week on average. Marie will sign the Intermunicipal Agreement and asked the Board if they any questions or concerns. There were no questions asked.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter noted that there is an event happening this Sunday, June 26th at Card Pond for the opening of the summer season. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Kathleen asked the Board members to please review and update themselves with the Police Union contract that is currently being negotiated. She said there is a lot of background information that they may want to get up to speed on.

Kathleen also encouraged residents to please contact the Select Board or the Town Administrator if they have any concerns or questions about what is happening in Town. Kathleen noted that she has seen many incorrect statements on social media and discouraged people from posting unless they were sure that what they were posting was true and verified. The Board is happy to answer any questions to ensure that the public has real facts on any given issue.

Kathleen then, allowed anyone to speak at this time if they had any additional comments.

Roger Manzolini, again welcomed the new Board members and said Richmond will help in any way they need. He looks forward to continuing to work with West Stockbridge.

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 6:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator