



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes Meeting in Person June 28, 2021

Open Meeting

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

Others in Attendance: Police Chief Marc Portieri and Public Works Director Curt Wilton

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Kathleen made a motion to approve the minutes from June 2 and June 7, 2021, seconded by Roger, all were in favor.

Town Administrator Updates:

- The Select Board executive session zoom meeting on Thursday, June 24 ended with some technical issues in which the Board did not get to make a motion to adjourn. Town Counsel stated as long as this is mentioned at the next meeting and noted, no formal action is needed since it is just a procedural motion.
- The Bloodmobile will be at Town Hall on Tuesday, June 29th from 9 AM – 2:30 PM.
- The rescheduled date of the Public Hearing for Rouge's application for a Wine and Malt Package store Liquor License is on July 12, 2021.
- Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works received two resumes for the new position in Public Works. Curt and Marie would like to review the applications and do the interviews. Curt will determine who he would like to hire and then present this person to the Select Board for approval to hire. The Board agreed with this procedure.
- A letter was mailed to abutters of Old Great Barrington Road, Oak Street and Moscow Road, per instructions of the Board. This was to inform the abutters that the Town would like to paint marked parking spots on one side of these roads for additional parking in Town. The abutters were asked to respond by July 26th with any concerns or questions. So far, we have had two responses, one negative and one positive.

-The Request for Proposal for a new auditor was completed. Elaine Markham, Town Accountant, only received one proposal from our current auditor, Tom Scanlon. She attributes the lack of submissions due to COVID-19 and the additional paperwork that brings for auditors. Many firms do not want to take on a new client and also have to work on their additional paperwork from COVID money received. Elaine accepted Tom Scanlon's proposal at a fee of \$16,500 per year for the fiscal years 2022, 2023 and 2024.

-West Stockbridge is working with Great Barrington, Sheffield, Monterey and New Marlborough to hire a shared Human Resource person. We have worked together and received a Community Compact grant of \$75,000 which will pay for the first year of this position including their benefits. The Towns will need to pay for advertising. The ad for the position will be published soon and the due date for application is August 2nd. West Stockbridge will have this person for 2 hours per week.

-The Board agreed after the July 12th in person meeting, to hold all of their meetings by zoom. There may be occasional in person meetings depending on the agenda items.

Police Reform and Training: Police Chief Marc Portieri

Chief Portieri explained that due to the recent Massachusetts Police Reform Bill, there will no longer be a Part-Time Police Academy, there will only be a Full-Time academy. For those eligible, the State will also be offering a 7-week Bridge Class that would get part time officers up to the new training benchmarks required by the Reform Bill.

Chief Portieri proposed three possible scenarios to the Board for our part-time officers:

- A. The Town pays full hourly salary and costs for all seven part-timers, in addition to providing uniforms, necessary ammunition, and a cruiser.
- B. The Town does not pay salaries or full cost, but helps the part-timers that want to attend the Bridge Class with some of the costs, and use of a cruiser – with exact terms to be determined.
- C. The Town does not provide any of the salary or costs, and part-timers that want to follow through with the Bridge Class will have to do this on their time, and pay their own way.

The Board mentioned wanting to avoid subsidizing training for part-time officers who might leave West Stockbridge for full-time positions in other departments. Marc will follow up with Board as more details about the classes are available.

Approval of FY22 Board/Committee Appointments:

Eric made a motion to approve the list of appointments for FY22, Roger seconded and all were in favor. The Board acknowledged the handful of vacant positions, and will do what it can to fill them.

Draft Parking Lot Use Agreement:

Eric put forward a preliminary draft agreement for the Town to be able to partner with private property owners to create more municipal parking. It's first use would be for the lot owned half by No. Six Depot, and half by the Werkshires. This first partnership would dramatically increase available parking in the downtown area. Kathleen asked how establishing this lot would work with the ideas being considered by the Master Plan process, and Eric stated that the addition of these parking spaces would be a start in offsetting parking spots that might be lost as part of future Master Plan initiatives. Roger asked Curt if there will be signage put up and Curt responded yes. Curt expressed his support and enthusiasm for this plan, and told the Board that he will give a sketch of his plan for clearing some brush and filling potholes to go

along with the agreement to the owners. The Board discussed some of the language in the draft, and Roger proposed some clarifications and improvements, which Eric will integrate.

Select Board Speak:

Roger continues to work on his project of listing all of the Rights of Way in Town and finding all the written agreements. He is working with Curt to see these areas of Town. His goal is to have them all listed and all of the agreements. Once he has all of this information he will bring it to the Board and then have Town Counsel review to make sure all of the paperwork is legal.

Eric had a few items to discuss;

- The Local Yokel would like to have two sets of minutes to print in each issue. He would like Marie and the Board to be more intentional about getting the minutes completed and approved to meet the deadline of the 15th of each month.

- There is an active Master Plan survey on the home page of the Town's website, and he encouraged everyone to take a few minutes to complete it.

- Eric asked if the Board would be willing to consider a motion later this year to adopt Indigenous Peoples Day on October 11th, and additionally to sign an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement. The Board agreed, so Eric will work on drafts for both for a future agenda.

Citizen Speak:

Joe Roy complimented the Board for increasing parking spots in Town and Roger for researching the legal Right of Ways in Town.

Lori Rose asked the Board to consider the Water & Sewer Plant for overflow parking. Kathleen told her that the Town already does use that parking area. TurnPark just recently used this area for an event. Lori thanked the Board and made clear that she does not want to see painted parking spots in neighborhoods.

Tricia Hickey asked the Board if there are plans for a new solar farm in Town. The Board did not know of any and asked her to let them know if she hears anything further about it. Eric stated that the recently adopted town bylaw with respect to Solar Power gives the Town more oversight than before, and would require a special permit process that would include a public hearing.

Roger made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 PM, Kathleen seconded.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie U. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents:

Minutes: June 2 and June 7, 2021

FY22 Appointment List

Draft License Agreement for Municipal Parking Lot