



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes May 10, 2023

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

Others Present: Town Counsel Lauren Goldberg, Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works and Marc Portieri, Police Chief

Kathleen called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Kathleen introduced Town Counsel Lauren Goldberg. Lauren discussed the recent tied election results for the position of Select Board and the process moving forward. She explained that only the candidates that were tied can request a recount using the proper form from the Secretary of State's Office which includes a requirement of having the signatures of a minimum of 10 registered voters on the form. Should the recount result in a tie, then the Select Board can vote to hold a special election for that seat. If the Board does not vote to hold the election but they receive a written request from 200 or more registered voters of the Town to hold special election, they are required to do so. Then she explained that Kathleen, as an incumbent may remain on the Board as the Chair of the Board until a new person has been elected and sworn in.

Approval of Minutes:

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2023 meeting.

All were in favor.
Minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

Curt Wilton would like to have the Board allow the Department of Public Works to use red paint for the crosswalks with a white border. He also would like to use a stencil of a body in white on the crosswalks as well. He is having a difficult time getting the green paint and he feels that the red paint will show up better for safety reasons.

Kathleen asked Curt to come back to the Board with a picture of what this would look like.

Curt will come back to the Board with that information.

Appointment of Two New Full-Time Police Officers:

Chief Marc Portieri requested that the Board approve the appointment of Nathaniel Sermini and Jeffrey Spratt as Full-Time Police Officers for the Town. He explained that Nate will take the position currently vacated by the resignation of Lukas Horn and will begin work right away. Marc thanked the residents for approving the budget at Town Meeting which allows him to have an additional Full-Time Officer. He would like that position to be filled by Jeffrey Spratt.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to appoint Nate Sermini and Jeffrey Spratt as Full-Time Police Officers for the Town of West Stockbridge.

All were in favor.
Motion approved.

Chief Portieri, Nate and Jeffrey all thanked the Board and the community for their support. They look forward to working for the Town.

Tess McGovern Approval to Hold Two Positions in the Town:

Per the Librarian Rachel Alter, this agenda item is put on hold. No need for discussion at this meeting.

USDA Water & Waste Water Disposal Loan & Grant Program:

Andy Potter attended recent meetings for local officials in Holyoke and Pittsfield that included discussions in regards to the USDA Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program. Andy explained that this program could really help the Town complete upgrades to our infrastructure as well as gain technical assistance. He will meet with DPW Director Curt Wilton and Mike Buffoni, Water & Sewer Department Operator to discuss further. Andy would like to gather a task force to host a meeting to include other Boards, Committees, employees and residents for a discussion with invited USDA Director for our region. Kathleen and Andy Krouss thought this was a great idea and they look forward to the meeting.

Discussion/Vote to hold Special Election:

Due to the election result of a tie for the position of Select Board at the Annual Town Election, Marie requested that the Board vote to hold a special election on July 17 for the position of Select Board.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to hold a Special Election for the position of Select Board on July 17, 2023 contingent upon the results of the recount to be held. If the recount establishes a winner, then the Special Election will not be held.

All were in favor.
Motion approved.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter would like to hold an After-Action Conference at Town Hall with National Grid and the residents to discuss how to prevent future issues with extended power outages during storms. The last Nor'easter that occurred caused several outages which lasted for days and he would like to see what can be done to prevent that from happening in the future. He will

invite MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) to attend as well because they have held these conferences frequently and can structure the meeting. Kathleen and Andy Krouss agreed.

Andy Krouss informed the Board he is still working on the broadband issue and will have an update in the fall.

Kathleen thanked Attorney Lauren Goldberg for her time and guidance as well as the residents for voting and the Election Workers. She also made a strong appeal for civility and respect in the Town.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Potter at 6:50 PM.
All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator