



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes November 1, 2021

Open Meeting

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

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

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and listed Select Board members present.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the October 18, 2021 Select Board meeting will be approved at the next meeting on November 15, 2021.

Town Administrator Update:

The Committee for a Shared Human Resource employee offered the position to someone who is having childcare issues and needed to decline the offer. The Committee will be meeting again soon to decide on the next steps. Marie will update the Board on the status of the position after the Committee meets.

Police Chief Marc Portieri informed the Board that the Bridge Academy has begun and will be holding classes for the next three years. He has several officers signed up to attend in year two and year three. The classes will be available in Berkshire County. He also informed the Board that Officer Brandon Messina handed in his resignation on Saturday and his last day of work in West Stockbridge will be on November 14. Brandon will be working for the Town of Great Barrington Police Department. Marc has two officers available that may take on this open full-time position. One officer currently works for the Town and the other officer currently works in Pittsfield as a 22-year veteran. Both officers are already fully trained. Marc will keep the Board informed on the status of the situation and who

he recommends to fill this open position.

Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Emergency Management Plan:

Eric commended all involved in creating these two documents, and stated that they are both a treasury of information and resources. Kathleen agreed the documents are impressive and asked what the next steps will be. Marie explained that the Hazard Mitigation Plan has been submitted to Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Once approved by MEMA, the plan is final and will be available at the Police Department, Fire Department, Town Hall and MEMA. It is a living document that can change as needed once approved by MEMA. The Emergency Management Plan (EMP) is also a living document that can be changed as needed. There is no approval procedure for this plan and it will be available at the Police Department, Fire Department, Town Hall and filed with MEMA as well. Both plans will also be available the State website.

Eric suggested a change in the EMP on page 17, the second paragraph. Wanting to give ultimate responsibility to the most qualified representative, he suggested that the first paragraph should state “the Emergency Management Director in consultation with the Select Board Chair...”. The Board agreed to this change.

Municipal Parking Lot Agreement – Eric Shimelonis

Eric asked the Board if they had any questions or changes to the updated Municipal Parking Lot Agreement which the Board received from Town Counsel. Kathleen approved of the updated agreement. Roger agreed and asked Eric if the next step would be to send back to Werkshires and 6 Depot for their review again. Eric responded that he will send this version back to them for their approval and then the area can be surveyed prior to all parties signing the agreement.

Select Board Speak:

The Board had no issues to discuss at this time.

Citizen Speak Time:

Frank Landsberger inquired about the status of the feasibility study for the landlocked area on Harris Street and the status of Merritt Way. Curt Wilton, Public Works Director said that he asked three firms for a quote on the feasibility study and he received only one response from Foresight Land Services. The other two firms did not respond. Kathleen asked if there are other firms that could do the work and Curt replied, yes but he would need to start all over again with requests, it is a process.

Eric answered the second part of the question from Frank in regards to Merritt Way. Eric stated that Town Counsel is in negotiations and the Board will get an update from Town Counsel in the coming weeks.

Eric made a motion to adjourn at 6:50 PM, Roger seconded.

Roll call vote:

Roger-Yes Kathleen – Yes Eric- Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie U. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents:

- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Emergency Management Plan
- Municipal Parking Lot Agreement updated draft