



Select Board

21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge, Mass. 01266-0525

Tel. (413) 232-0300 x319

Fax. (413) 232-7195

E-mail: admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Select Board Meeting Minutes September 7, 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: Marc Portieri, Police Chief, Steve Traver, Fire Chief and Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works

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

Approval of Minutes:

Kathleen made a motion to approve the minutes from August 23, 2021, seconded by Roger.

Roll call vote:

Roger – Yes Kathleen – Yes Eric – Yes

Minutes are approved.

Town Administrator Update:

Marie participated in interviews in August for the Shared Human Resource position with Great Barrington, Monterey, New Marlborough and Sheffield. There were four applicants set up for an interview, two cancelled at the last minute, one did not show up and one person was interviewed. The group decided to advertise again with an increased salary to attract more qualified applicants. The next round of interviews will take place on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 in Great Barrington.

Fire Department Update: Fire Chief Steve Traver

Fire Chief Steve Traver has parts on order to update and repair three hydrants in Town. He is waiting to hear when he can expect delivery of the new Fire Chief vehicle.

Department of Public Works Update: Director of Public Works Curt Wilton

-The Mass DOT sidewalk project from Card Pond to Main Street has been completed. Curt suggested the Town send a Thank You letter to Francesca Heming-Kristensen at Mass DOT. Eric will draft a letter to Francesca.

-Mass DOT is going to deliver the shrubs for screening at the Turnpike solar array on Great Barrington Road in the fall. Curt hired Peerless Tree Company to plant and fertilize these shrubs when first installed. These plants will be 5-6 feet in height when planted. The Town will be responsible for maintenance and trimming to keep these shrubs healthy and below 12 feet tall per Mass DOT request.

-Curt has received a response from Foresight Land Services in regards to the feasibility study for the Harris Street Extension. He solicited three companies for this study. The other two companies have informed Curt they are still interested and plan on submitting a plan soon. Curt will report back to the Board once he receives their submission. Eric will research grants to assist in covering the cost of this study.

-Curt received 5 bids for the East Alford Road and Cobb Road paving project. The low bid came from LB Corporation. The bid came in lower than expected and the Town will not need to borrow the full amount of \$294,000 approved at Town Meeting in May. Curt asked the Board to award the bid officially to LB Corporation.

Eric made a motion to award the East Alford Road and Cobb Road paving project to LB Corporation, seconded by Kathleen.

Roll call vote:

Kathleen – Yes Roger – Yes Eric – Yes

Motion approved.

-Curt informed the Board that Department of Public Works employee Zach Levesque is returning to college to pursue a degree in Information Technology. His classes will be on Wednesdays. Curt would like to allow Zach to remain an employee and use his vacation days for his class time. Zach has 20 available days to use and this semester will require 16 days off. Curt asked the Board for approval to allow Zach to continue working and attend his college classes. The Board unanimously agreed that it was an acceptable situation as long as the department does not suffer. They support Curt's decision to approve this.

-Curt will meet with Kathleen and representatives from TurnPark next week to discuss the planting of the trees purchased last year through the Shared Streets Grant for screening the fenced in area on Moscow Road.

-Curt thanked Wayne Cooper for his years of service keeping the Town Hall clean and safe through the COVID 19 pandemic. Wayne is still working at the Transfer Station and the new employee, Frank Alfonso, has begun working in the Town Hall building and is doing a great job.

-The Cemetery Commissioners are continuing to focus their work on repairing monuments and mowing at the cemeteries. There have been many positive comments about the mowing and some issues, which have been addressed.

-The new compactor unit at the Transfer Station for bottles and cans is close to the final stages of installation. This compactor will be more efficient and should be up and running within a month. The paving at the Transfer Station will be completed in early November.

Police Department update: Police Chief Marc Portieri

-The new Police Reform and Bridge Police Academy is reinforcing physical fitness in their

requirements. Marc agrees that this will benefit all departments.

-The Town Police Department will begin training in the following areas soon, taught by Officer Lucas Horn, a certified trainer:

- Firearms
- Taser
- Building searches

-The radar trailer is being moved around Town now that school has begun. The officers have been following the school buses in the morning due to the complaints by the bus drivers of cars illegally passing them.

-Marc has stocked up on PPE (personal protective equipment) due to the recent increase in COVID 19 variant cases. He has obtained supplies for the Fire and Police Departments.

-Marc reported the following statistics from July 1, 2021 to the present date;

2 - OUI	51 - 911 and abandon calls
58 - Motor Vehicle citations	20 – Motor Vehicle accidents
6 – Breaking & Entering	6 – Domestic calls
30 - Medical calls	35 – Fire Calls
11 – Well Being checks	30 – Parking Tickets issued
22 – Suspicious Activity calls	10 – Suspicious Person calls
18 – Criminal Investigations	15 – Mutual Aid calls

-At the beginning of the summer, the officers initially performed educational stops giving warnings for speeding and parking issues in Town. They are done with that procedure and are now issuing tickets.

Roger asked the Chief if the Department is using body cameras and he responded, “not at this time”. Marc stated that it is not mandated yet but he believes that with the new Police Reform, it may become a requirement. Marc also stated that there are grants available to help cover the cost of purchasing body cameras, which he will look into.

Final Review of Special Permit Document for the Foundry:

Eric asked the Board if they required any further discussion of the documents for the Special Permit for the Foundry which Town Counsel reviewed and approved, prior to final approval. Roger and Kathleen both approved of the documents. Eric stated he will then sign the documents tomorrow and submit to the Town Clerk to begin the 20-day appeal period.

Select Board Speak:

Kathleen stated she and Curt will meet with Igor at TurnPark next week to discuss the next steps in the plantings and screening of the fenced in area on Moscow Road. Roger inquired about anyone interested in the Beautification Committee and Kathleen responded there has been no interest at this time. She hopes to have some outreach and get the word out for anyone interested in the committee.

Eric informed the Board that projects are about to begin under the Green Communities program, starting with LED lighting in all town buildings and facilities. He will have a discussion with Curt in regards to a new boiler for the Department of Public Works building soon.

The Board would like to be more proactive with safety protocols due to the increase in COVID 19 case recently. The Board agreed to require masks for everyone while inside Town Hall

regardless of their vaccination status. Marie will post notices on the front door. They also requested to have Board of Health Agent Earl Moffatt attend the next Select Board meeting for an update on COVID 19 protocols.

Citizen Speak:

Joe Roy thanked the Board and Curt for the removal of the old Welcome to West Stockbridge sign at the exit of the Turnpike. He inquired if there has been any progress with creating new signage throughout Town and Eric responded that he is currently working on this project.

Kevin Sullivan discussed his belief that he is within his rights to live on his Pixley Hill Road property in his camper trailer. Roger told the Board that this issue dates back to earlier this year and that Kevin has been given notice on several occasions to vacate the trailer and remove it from his property. Since he failed to comply after repeated warnings, the Zoning Enforcement Officer finally had to take him to court.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn at 7:14 PM, Roger seconded.

Roll call vote:

Roger-Yes Kathleen – Yes Eric- Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie U. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents:

-Minutes: August 23, 2021

-Documents for the Special Permit for the Foundry to be approved