

Approved 10/7/19

**HAMPDEN
MASSACHUSETTS**

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

John D. Flynn

Donald L. Davenport

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Robert T. Markel

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Board of Selectmen/Board of Health

Board of Selectmen's Office

September 30, 2019 6:00 pm

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by John D. Flynn at 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge was recited.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MGL c30(A), s20: Selectman Flynn asked if anyone was recording the meeting and the response was no.

Eve Sullivan, a student from UMass attended the meeting as an assignment to study how groups interact.

OLD BUSINESS

Senior Tax Work Off Program: The Assessors approved the program for a total of 10 participants. The BOS would like an accounting of what that means in terms of dollars that will be abated. Once done, COA Director, Becky Moriarty will be asked to start notifying the public about the program.

Warrant Review: The board reviewed the most recent draft of the warrant, containing a number of changes to include:

- A change to allow payment for the Radio System for Police and Fire;
- Add Fire Officers salaries back (should have report from Fire Chief Study Committee by Oct 7)
- ADA article to establish ADA Commission
- Rescind two articles from the ATM warrant
- Amend article to allow process in which to pay
- Add article to negotiate Thresher Road PILOT

Selectman Davenport emphasized that after having looked at Planning Board approvals on various projects, he wants to ensure that all conditions are met before the PILOT agreements are finalized.

A motion was made by Selectman Davenport to open the STM Warrant to make these changes, seconded by Selectman Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Warrant: TA, Bob Markel has urged the Community Preservation Commission to bring their articles forward in time to put on warrant for October 28th. Selectman Flynn noted that he is on the commission and will push to make that happen.

Stormwater Committee: TA, Bob Markel has a meeting tomorrow with the Building Inspector, Highway Superintendent, Gary Weiner (Chair of SW Committee) to discuss the process going forward as to who will supervise the permitting etc., associated with stormwater.

NEW BUSINESS

Municipal Building Lighting upgrades: The board reviewed the applications for incentive programs for Town Hall and Senior Center. A motion was made by Selectman Davenport to authorize Chairman Flynn to sign the applications for these incentives, seconded by Selectman Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Highway Building: The board reviewed the contract for services with Architectural Insights, Palmer MA, who will be managing the construction of the addition at the Highway Garage. A motion was made by Selectman Davenport to approve the contract and authorize the Chair to sign, seconded by Chairman Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

West Brook II East Warrant Article: Sherry Himmelstein and Judy McKinley Brewer came before the board to explain the warrant article for STM which has to do with acquiring the West Brook, second phase. As Sherry explained, some funds were granted by CPC money at ATM, in the amount of \$72,720 to be used towards the purchase price of this property. This warrant article would enable the town to allocate the rest of the necessary funds to purchase the property, and then to be reimbursed by the Grant Program. The total amount needed is \$207,250, with expectations of grant funding at \$132,640 (a 64% reimbursement). After the STM, we should have an answer of the award in March or April of 2020. So, the town would vote the money to be allocated, with the intent that, if successful with the grant application, we would be reimbursed the \$132,640. Sherry Himmelstein will attend STM to answer any questions the residents may have.

National Grid: Selectman Flynn discussed the changeover to LED lights as discussed with our representative from National Grid, Joanne Derosé. Ms. Derosé explained the program which includes using a lesser wattage and helped complete the order. A motion was made by Selectman Davenport to enter into the agreement with National Grid, seconded by Selectman Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted. The form will be signed and return to Ms. Derosé at National Grid.

Pilot Agreements: The board has a revised PILOT program submitted by BlueWave Solar and have a question on the warrant to allow them to negotiate the PILOT agreement. In addition, the solar development on Thresher Road will need a warrant article to allow the board to negotiate that agreement as well. TA, Bob Markel will work on revising the warrant.

CORRESPONDENCE

Meeting Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of September 16, 2019, and a motion was made by Selectman Davenport to approve as presented, seconded by Chairman Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Letter to State Ethics Commission: A letter was sent to the State Ethics Commission to notify them that Judge Howarth would no longer serve as our Ethics Officer, and that Town Clerk, Eva Wiseman would be appointed.

Letter from Lt. Governor: The board received a letter of congratulations for working to secure funds from the Community Compact Grant from the State.

Police Chief's Request: The board is reviewing the Chief's request to work for another entity when not working for the Town. Selectman Davenport will review the Chief's contract for language about this before issuing a decision.

Vacation Request: Administrative Assistant has requested a few days off in October, around the time of STM. TA, Bob Markel has assured the board that he has no issue with this, and the board agreed to the vacation schedule requested.

Town Administrator Report: See attached report.

ONGOING

Ambulance Service: Meeting Scheduled with Chief Morrisette, October 2

Fire Station Expansion

Highway Garage Expansion

BlueWave Tax Agreement

Fire Chief Study: Meet with BOS on October 7th

Senior Center Update

Ameresco Solar: Waiting to hear from Steve M at Ameresco.

NOTE: The board was made aware of a group conducting "First Amendment Audits" where people with cameras and microphones enter municipal buildings, as is their right, and film what they can. Many times they serve to provoke people working in these buildings. TA Markel will address this at our next Department Head Meeting on October 8th.

Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Selectman Davenport to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm, seconded by Chairman Flynn. VOTE: All in favor and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Courtney
Administrative Assistant

/pbc