

Selectboard Meeting Minutes November 20, 2023 Zoom Teleconference 5:30 pm

Call to Order: Bob Manners called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Others present: Selectboard members Rick LaPierre and Andrew Baker and Town Administrator Terry Narkewicz.

A motion was put forth by Andrew to approve the minutes of November 6 and November 13. This was seconded by Rick. Roll call vote: Rick – yes; Andrew – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Department Liaison Reports:

FRTA – Andrew attended the quarterly meeting. Free bus service will remain in place. The group voted to add the town of Tolland to the FRTA.

Pocket Park – Andrew and Rick met with Kay Cafasso regarding garden designs created by her students. Kay will now consolidate the designs into one. Andrew walked the Bridge of Flowers with the bridge gardener. Some perennials are left. Andrew marked some that would work well in the pocket park.

Memorial Hall – The HVAC system in the building is in need of repair. The repair people have been on site. The unit is old and parts are now being sought on the internet. It is hoped that the system can be repaired to last a few more years.

Town Hall – Rick will soon set up a meeting with Terry and Treasurer Angel Bragdon to update details on the possible sale of town-owned, tax title lots.

Police Department – Rick presented some interesting statistics. So far this year the department has had 4,000 calls, 122 incident reports, 56 motor vehicle crashes, and 50 arrests. Andrew said that now that it is a two-town department it would be helpful to have the statistics broken out by town. Officer Edwin Thurston has completed the Bridge Academy. The department is now fully compliant with state standards, well in advance of the deadline. Officers Tucker Jenkins and Ted Hanna recently spent time at BSE doing a presentation on anti-bullying for grades four, five and, six.

Highway Department – Work on the pole barn is progressing. The crew is getting ready for winter plowing, placing whips alongside the roads. They hope to get more patching done this week. The new truck has been set up for plowing.

Appointments: None

Old Business:

Proposed Solar Array for Highway Pole Barn Roof – The load bearing capacity of the roof has been designed to hold the proposed solar array and a bit more. The next step would be to ask Andrea Wood of FRCOG to put together either an RFP or bid specs. She will first need specifics for the proposed 25 kw system. There are several options for types of equipment and it was suggested that the Energy Committee should get involved in the process. Bob said the barn is expected to be ready to store equipment by mid-December.

New Business:

A. Paul Hollings, 41 Mechanic Street RE: Community Preservation Appointment and Jennifer Hale, 230 Taylor Rod, RE: Community Preservation Appointment – Three seats remain available on the CPA Committee. In addition to Paul and Jennifer, Susan Flaccus would

like to serve. Jennifer has a background in affordable housing, so she would represent that area, while Susan and Paul would be members at large. A motion was made by Andrew to appoint Jennifer Hale as affordable housing representative, and Susan Flaccus, and A. Paul Hollings as members-at-large to the CPA Committee. This was seconded by Rick. Roll call vote: Rick – yes; Andrew – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0. With these appointments, the CPA Committee is now complete.

Any Other Business:

Energy Committee Energy Advocate – The Energy Committee interviewed two strong candidates for the position of energy advocate, to replace Cynthia Boettner. The committee recommended that Cynthia Fand be hired. She has previously worked with MassSave. A motion was put forth by Andrew to hire Cynthia Fand as energy advocate, for one year. This was seconded by Rick. Roll call vote: Rick – yes; Andrew – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Transfer Station Winter Hours – Starting on December 5, the transfer station will move to winter hours. It will be closing at 4pm on Tuesdays rather than at 7 pm.

Streetlights – Following complaints from residents, Eversource has sent a crew who replaced the LED lights with the old-style bulbs, on two streetlights. Ann McCormack said she appreciated any assistance as the light near her home was too bright.

Jeff Boettner reported that the Streetlight Committee met last week and set up a regular meeting schedule, with the next meeting being set for December 8, at 10 am. The committee voted to have Jeff be Chair. He welcomes community input on any streetlight issues.

Next Meeting – The next Board meeting will be on December 4, at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

Correspondence:

MassDOT RE: FY'24 Municipal Small Bridge Program – Dragon Brook – A small bridge grant of approximately \$225,000 has been received for needed work on the Center Road bridge near the Shelburne Free Public Library. There is presently a sink hole in the bridge. The money will cover the cost of engineering and repairs.

Public Comment:

John Walsh noted that the police department used to have officers who walked or biked around the village to show a presence and this does not seem to be happening since the pandemic. He thought business owners would appreciate it if the practice were to resume. Rick thought it was still happening, but he will check on it.

Adjournment: At 6:13 a motion was made by Rick to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Andrew. Roll call vote: Andrew – yes; Rick – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Faye Whitney, Recording Secretary