Selectboard Meeting Minutes June 12, 2024 Memorial Hall 4:00 pm

Call to Order: Vice-Chair, Andrew Baker called the meeting to order. Others in attendance: Selectboard member, Rick LaPierre and Town Administrator, Terry Narkewicz

Order of Business:

**Highway Superintendent Interviews**: the Town advertised the position in the Greenfield Recorder, Hampshire Gazette, Athol Daily News, Amherst Bulletin, Indeed, and Mass Hire with a salary range of $78,000 to $91,700. The Town received five (5) applications/resumes for the position. The three most qualified individuals were scheduled for interview. Just prior to the scheduled interview date, two candidates withdrew their applications. One cited medical reasons; the second did not provide a reason. The Selectboard interviewed Jeffrey Johnston of Heath, MA. Mr. Johnston is currently serving as the Highway Superintendent in the Town of Heath. He has held the position since 2015. In addition to meeting all of the required qualifications for the job, his responses to the interview questions impressed members of the Board particularly in the areas of communication, planning, personnel management, and time management. Following the interview, Rick presented a motion to offer the position to Mr. Johnston pending reference checks. A salary of $85,000 was recommended. Andrew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Terry will immediately follow-up with reference checks and if positive, she will send Mr. Johnston a letter of hire.

Other Business:

**John Hoyt & Family RE: Gift of 1858 Map of the Village of Shelburne Falls**: John Hoyt and his family would like to gift a map of the Village of Shelburne Falls created from an 1858 survey conducted by Civil Engineer, Geo. Stevens. The Board reviewed photocopies and pictures of the map and decided that it might be a nice addition to the Town archives. Rick presented a motion to accept the Hoyt family’s “gift”. Andrew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ARPA Funds Transfer Request of $10,520 for Pocket Park**: The Selectboard has committed all but $10,520 of the Town’s American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds. All funds must be committed by December, 2024. In previous discussions, the Board agreed that at least $10,000 would be allocated to the Pocket Park once plans for developing the site were underway. Now that the pavilion is complete, Terry recommended that the Board transfer the uncommitted balance of $10,520 to that project. Once final invoices are submitted for Bridge Street Construction Phase II, additional funds may become available. Terry reported that costs associated with grading the site and constructing the pavilion to date is approximately $16,735 ($13,387 of which has been paid using proceeds from grants and a movie production’s donation). A final invoice of $3,348 for the Franklin County Technical School’s services will be paid using a portion of the $10,520. Rick presented a motion to allocate $10,520 of uncommitted ARPA funds to the Pocket park project. Andrew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Rick presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:15pm. Andrew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Narkewicz

Town Administrator