**Selectboard Meeting Minutes July 29, 2024 Zoom Teleconference 5:30 pm**

**Call to Order**: Rick LaPierre called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. Others present: Selectboard members Andrew Baker and Tricia Yacovone-Biagi, and Town Administrator Terry Narkewicz.

Tricia had several corrections to the minutes of July 1. A motion was put forth by Andrew to approve the minutes of July 1 as corrected. This was seconded by Tricia. Roll call vote: Rick – yes; Andrew – yes; Tricia – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Department Liaison Reports:**

**Town Hall** – As requested, Tricia spoke with the Tax Collector about inserts in the town tax bills. Such enclosures need to be approved by the Selectboard. Boards and committees will be reminded of that fact and urged to plan ahead.

**Emergency Management** – EMD Tom Williams said he has a “very enthusiastic” group of team members. They met recently to learn basic radio and telephone procedures and map reading. The group went over procedures and made some changes. Tom has completed a review of the Emergency Management Plan. It has been updated and emailed to committee members. Tom has created informational binders for town officials. He attended a table top exercise presented by Great River Hydro concerning how to respond to a dam failure upstream on the Deerfield River.

**Senior Center** – Senior Center Director Juli Moreno recently submitted several old invoices. Juli has implemented a better procedure to prevent a reoccurrence. Tricia also notice that Juli is using a form with the previous director’s name on it. Tricia will help her update that form.

**Highway Department** – The new superintendent is now in place. Andrew thanked Mark Shippee for his many years of service and wished him well in his retirement.

**FRCOG Meeting** – Rick attended the meeting in Andrew’s place. This was the FY’25 reorganization meeting. The new chair is from Deerfield, the vice chair is from Gill, and the clerk is from Hawley. There was a presentation on the Franklin County Regional Housing Plan review. Mohawk Trail Regional District has seen a 57% decrease in enrollment over the past 10 years. It was the opinion of the report that this was caused by a lack of affordable housing. FRCOG would like to tweak area zoning bylaws to provide more affordable housing. The next meeting was set for October 17. Andrew mentioned that at the previous FRCOG meeting it was said that some funds will be returned to the member towns.

**Police Services Advisory Committee** – The next meeting will be in August. No date has been set.

**Franklin Regional Planning Board** – The next meeting will be on September 26.

**Franklin Regional Transit Authority** –The next meeting will be on September 19.

**Veterans Services –** The next meeting will be on September 10.

**Police Department** – Reacting to a citizen’s concern about speeding on Main Street, the department is doing month-long data collection radar sessions on traffic both heading into and out of town. Andrew suggested attaching a solar collector to the radar device to help keep the batteries functioning longer. Rick will mention this to the Chief.

**Appointments:**

**5:45 pm Juicebox Wine Bar, 8 Bridge Street RE: Request for Entertainment License** – The hearing was opened at 5:45 pm by Rick. The request was for an annual entertainment license to allow occasional live acoustic music or DJs playing vinyl records from 4 to 8 pm, during the months of May through October, excluding Sundays. Owners Alice Thompson and Roxanne Crocker were present and explained that the events would be family friendly and free for the community. There were no public comments and no written comments had been received. The hearing was closed at 5:49 pm.

The Board felt this was a great opportunity to build community and a great use of the space. A motion was made by Andrew to grant the entertainment license to Juicebox Wine Bar. This was seconded by Tricia. Roll call vote: Rick – yes; Andrew – yes; Tricia – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Old Business:**

**Shelburne’s Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan RE: Public Comment Period** – The public comment period will continue until August 12. Terry indicated that she received a telephone call from a Northampton resident regarding the town’s draft ADA Plan. Terry asked the individual to send her comments in writing.

**Police Chief, Greg Bardwell RE: Ice Cream Vending** – The Chief had reached out to Charlemont, several times, to see if that town followed correct protocol in licensing David Kong’s ice cream truck. No answer has been received. Rules for ice cream trucks are set by MGL and are in the purview of the Police Department. A bylaw would be needed to allow the police to conduct the required background checks. Tricia thought the Planning Board should also be working on a mobile food establishment bylaw. Andrew will work with Chief Bardwell on a general bylaw to allow the police to do background checks.

**New** **Business:**

**John MacGibbon RE: Interest in Serving on Community Preservation Committee** – John has followed the proper procedure in expressing interest in serving on the committee and the CPC wants to have him join the group. A motion was made by Tricia to appoint John MacGibbon as an at-large member of the Community Preservation Committee. This was seconded by Andrew. Roll call vote: Andrew – yes; Tricia – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Letter of Support for House Bill H.823 RE: Recycling of Paint** – This request came from Jan Ameen of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. The bill has been supported by most of the surrounding towns. Funds collected by retail paint stores will be used for a system to recycle and safely dispose of paints, etc. A motion was put forth by Tricia to approve sending a letter of support for House Bill H.823. This was seconded by Andrew. Roll call vote: Andrew – yes; Tricia – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**David Conlon RE: Tiny Town Exemption Request** – David works at BSE as a teacher. He would also like to work as a part-time custodian at Colrain Central School. To do both jobs he is required to get an exemption. A motion was made by Andrew to grant the tiny town exemption request for David Conlon. This was seconded by Tricia. Roll call vote: Andrew – yes; Tricia – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**FY’24 End of Year Transfers - Final** – Two more transfers are needed for FY’24. The Board was asked to approve transferring $337 from the Buildings and Grounds Account to the Cowell Gym Maintenance Account and to transfer $2,287 from the Highway Snow & Ice Account to the Highway Salaries Expense Account. A motion was made by Tricia to approve both transfers. This was seconded by Andrew. Roll call vote: Andrew – yes; Tricia – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Any Other Business:**

Tricia said she would be taking the Selectboard 101 training on August 15.

**Next Meeting** – The next Board meeting will be on August 12, at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Public Comment:**

John Walsh suggested that perhaps the Cowell Gym could be used as a cooling center during heat waves. He also mentioned that the five streetlights that were to be removed have been removed. John also said he had heard that it is now OK to submit letters regarding streetlights to Eversource and the DPU, wait 30 days, then have Town Counsel review the contract. Finally, John said he was starting the process of getting quotes for painting Cowell Gym and wondered about changing the color from white to red. None of this could be discussed by the Board during public comment.

**Adjournment**: At 6:20 pm a motion was made by Andrew to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Tricia. Roll call vote: Rick – yes; Andrew – yes; Tricia – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney, Recording Secretary