**Selectboard Meeting Minutes October 7, 2024 Zoom Teleconference 5:30 pm**

**Call to Order**: Rick LaPierre called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Others present: Selectboard members Andrew Baker and Tricia Yacovone-Biagi, and Town Administrator Terry Narkewicz.

A motion was put forth by Andrew to approve the minutes of September 23 as amended. This was seconded by Tricia. Roll call vote: Rick – yes; Andrew – yes; Tricia – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Department Liaison Reports:**

**Town Hall** – Following a friendly reminder letter Treasurer/Collector Angel Bragdon has received some overdue tax payments as well as some requests for payment plans. Tax bills will be going out soon and will be due November 1. A notice to that effect will be in the *Two-Town* *News*. A notice about tax exemptions for seniors and veterans will be in a future edition of the *Two-Town News*.

Staffing for early voting and Election Day is complete. More training will be given before Election Day. Tricia said an article in the *Boston Globe* showed that a lot of Town Clerks have resigned citing the pressure, stress, and additional responsibilities over election security.

**Emergency Management** – Checklists for those attending the upcoming table top exercise have been distributed. Those who can’t attend the exercise will at least have a checklist to follow.

**MVP** – Both FRCOG and Weston & Sampson are willing to assist with this year’s MVP project, which is a drainage plan for the town. Both FRCOG and the highway department will create maps of the areas of greatest concern. Tricia took a survey regarding a new climate one stop application and is registered for a focus group on the new application.

**Pratt Library** – The major discussion item at a recent meeting of the board was addressing the elevator needs and starting to create a budget for its replacement. The town approved $55,000 at town meeting, a Mass Office of Disability grant has been applied for. It might be $10,000. An application for CPA funds has received preliminary approval. The plan would be to replace the elevator with a lift.

**Highway Department** – Andrew said a site visit on Old Greenfield Road attracted several residents who had a good discussion and provided some good input. Warner Brothers is installing culverts, which should be finished by the end of this week. The entire paving project should be finished by the end of the month. The pole barn is complete, doors have been installed. Paving is done for the year. A culvert has been ordered for the Patten Road project, which awaits Conservation Commission approval. Plans for a temporary bridge near 80 Bardwells Ferry Road have been submitted. Jeff Johnston is looking ahead towards purchasing beaver deceivers for several potential problem areas,

**Police Services Advisory Committee** – The committee met and organized. Bob Dean will be chair, Rick LaPierre will be vice chair, and Tony Jewel will be clerk. A report from the chief regarding capital requests said that the 2014 cruiser is scheduled to be replaced and six Kevlar vests will be needing replacement. The Police department is working with the Mohawk Superintendent regarding setting up a school resource officer position. Det. Jenkins is qualified to be a resource officer but the issue is funding for the position.

**Franklin Regional Planning Board** – Rick reported that there had been a discussion on unpaved road and storm water management. He learned that 25% of Shelburne’s roads are unpaved, most towns have a lot more. Watershed zoning was discussed and Shelburne was found to have good zoning in place. The new state law on ADUs was another discussion topic. Many planning boards are hoping to get a moratorium in order to get some local regulations in place. Each town is to have two members on this board, one from the Selectboard and one from the Planning Board. There was some confusion as to whether a member of the Planning Board had been appointed. Terry said that Paul Hollings was the Planning Board’s representative. Tricia asked Paul to write a brief synopsis for the Selectboard following each meeting of the regional board.

**Appointments:**

**5:45 pm Whit Sanford and Cynthia Fisher RE: Proposed Mosaic Tile Signs** – The purpose of the meeting was just to let the Board know the plan for the two business promotional signs on Route 2. One is on the Flaccus property and the other is on Clark Corvair property. Both landowners have given permission for the signs to be upgraded and repaired. Cynthia said the Flaccus sign is very tall, possibly 19 feet high. A lift might be needed to reach the top. It is hoped that someone will step forward and donate the use of a lift. No money is being requested from the town, and Whit is working on grants for the project. Since the GSFABA ended, Whit has been getting grants for various projects for promoting and beautifying the village. She summed up the results of several projects. In the case of the sign project, fundraising is just beginning.

**6:00 pm Norman Beebe, Recreation Committee Chair RE: Crack Sealing Tennis Court** –The courts had been redone around 2017. During COVID, small cracks started to appear. The cracks are now much more obvious. Mary Lou Gallup and other volunteers will paint the cracks with acrylic latex. This is only a temporary fix. There will be no top coating or repainting. Norm said that eventually, the courts will need to be clear-coated. The money for the temporary fix is all in the Rec Committee budget. Tricia suggested that the Rec Committee publicize the fact that cracks are being repaired which might change the look of the courts. A motion was put forth by Tricia to approve having volunteers fix the cracks at the Cowell Gym tennis courts, as described, with the funds coming from the Rec Committee budget. This was seconded by Andrew. Andrew then asked why this vote was needed. Norm responded that he also didn’t feel a Selectboard vote was required, since similar expenses were regularly approved by the committee, but a Rec Committee member had wanted Selectboard approval. Rick agreed that a vote was not necessary. A motion was made by Andrew to withdraw the previous motion. This was seconded by Tricia. Roll call vote: Rick – yes; Andrew – yes; Tricia – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Old Business:**

**Knotweed Management Plan RE: Old Greenfield Rd –** Andrew had spoken with Highway Superintendent Jeff Johnston. Jeff has approval for two applications of chemical spraying through a waiver and by Con Com vote. Time for spraying is running out as a frost is soon expected. Once a killing frost has happened the spraying will be delayed. The applicator will be making the decision on that. The knotweed on the Cosby property is being treated by the cover and smother method.

**ARPA Funding Requests** – Of the remaining balance of funds, $54,385.86 has not yet been allocated. One quote has been received for repair of the Village Information Center foundation for $2,750. Another quote is expected soon. The quote received is for the foundation work. Siding repair and maybe a window repair will also be needed.

Based on three estimates, gardens and landscaping for the pocket park will be $35,000. Andrew thought the repair of the pothole deck might be funded by next year’s CPA money. Renaissance Builders are soon coming to look at repair work in Memorial Hall. Andrew will ask them to look at the deck as well. Tricia asked if improvements to Memorial Hall, suggested by the Energy Committee, could also be looked at by Renaissance Builders while they are in the building. That would be possible and a good idea but Andrew said changes to the lighting in the hall were planned for another phase of the Memorial Hall project. This year ceiling repair is the goal.

**Transfer Station Operations RE: Proposed Changes & Bottle Redemption Shed** – A lengthy discussion on transfer changes started with the idea of placing the town stickers around the bag ties for more visibility. That was thought to be a poor idea as just a few people attempt to hide their lack of stickers. Window decals to identify town residents are something many area towns use. Tricia asked how many non-residents use the transfer station and how are they identified. Out of state license plates are one way of telling. Many of the issues at the transfer station seem to come from the attendant needing to sell stickers. That could be changed if stickers were purchased elsewhere, or if there was a second attendant to keep an eye on things while sales are going on. Rick thought a second attendant would be the best idea. Terry, who represents Shelburne at the Franklin County Solid Waste District, said most transfer stations use window decals and sell labels at other locations. Andrew said if stickers were sold elsewhere he thought there would be no need for a second attendant. Window decals would easily show proof of residency. They would not need to be expensive, but it was assumed that Terry would be selling the decals and how much of her time would be spent doing that? A system of selling decals would need to be worked out. Tricia was concerned that tourists would have difficulty in getting rid of their trash. Andrew said landlords would be responsible for the trash of people renting vacation accommodations. It was suggested that decals should cost $10. Tricia thought more data was needed. Terry will ask other towns how they handle decals sales and prices. This discussion will continue at another meeting.

A Charlemont Selectboard member had suggested that bottle redemption should be done by any Mohawk or Hawlemont group. The Mohawk Athletic Association (MAA) is the only group that has ever done it but sometimes the bottle area becomes full to overflowing. Rick reached out to Lew Goodnow, who is in charge of the MAA bottle redemption program. The MAA said they built the shed and the program and it was an integral part of funding for Mohawk sports, and they would not approve of changing the system. Another volunteer has been enlisted to help and keep on top of the bottles and cans. The Board agreed to leave the system as is. Andrew said the transfer station attendant should be given Lewis’s contact information so that the Selectboard does not need to get involved. A motion was put forth by Tricia to decline the offer to start a different system for bottle redemption and continue with the MAA with the caveat that the transfer station attendant has a way to contact the MAA if problems arise. This was seconded by Andrew. Roll call vote: Rick – yes; Andrew – yes; Tricia – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Solar Array Installation @ Highway Pole Barn** – All permits are in place and work is expected to start on or about October 21.

**Christopher Curtis RE: Deerfield River Watershed Association – J. LaPierre Interested** – Open Space Committee member Joan LaPierre is interested in being Shelburne representative to the DRWA. Due to meeting schedules, Rick thought the Board should appoint Joan to be the representative, pending approval by the Open Space Committee. Andrew was hesitant to step in front of another committee and felt the Open Space Committee should first decide that they wanted Joan to represent them. Meanwhile, Joan can unofficially attend the next DRWA meeting.

**New** **Business:**

**Police Department Wage & Classification Study Proposals** – Two proposals were received and reviewed by Chief Greg Bardwell, Rick, and Terry. It was their recommendation to accept the proposal of Capital Strategic Solutions for $8,550. This will be funded by a grant secured by Terry. A motion was made by Tricia to accept the proposal of Capital Strategic Solutions, for $8,550 to do a police department wage and classification study. This was seconded by Andrew. Roll call vote: Rick – yes; Andrew – yes; Tricia – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**West County Senior Services District RE: Acceptance of Chap 402 of the Acts of 2022** (Sylvia Smith, Christine Baronas)– The transition plan had been presented to the Selectboards of the three-member towns and there had been no questions of concerns. The proposed motion will be voted on by all three towns. A motion was put forth by Tricia to accept Chapter 402 of the Acts of 2022; and further, to approve the West County Senior Services District Transition Plan that was approved by the Board of Managers at its meeting on October 2, 2024; and further, pursuant to Section 2 of the Act, to approve the creation of the West County Senior Services District to become effective at 2:00 a.m. on July 1, 2025; and further, pursuant to section 2 of the Act, to terminate the Senior Center Consortium Agreement effective at 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2025. This was seconded by Andrew. Roll call vote: Rick – yes; Andrew – yes; Tricia – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Any Other Business:** None.

**Next Meeting** – The next Board meeting will be on October 21, at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

**Correspondence:**

**Hussain Hamdan, Hawley Selectboard RE: Regional Paramedic Ambulance Service** – This is a topic that has been discussed many times in the past. The request was passed to the Fire Chiefs of the Shelburne and Shelburne Falls Fire Districts. They said they would first want to meet with the Buckland Fire District to seek its thoughts before thinking about anything larger.

**F.C. Tech School RE: Collective Bargaining Negotiations** – The tech school is looking for a Selectboard representative from one of the member towns to attend a meeting on October 8. Rick will do it, but if someone from another town wants to do it, that would be fine.

**Todd Dubreuil & Terri Mitchell Accept Re-Appointment to Finance Committee** – The Board was notified that Todd and Terri have been reappointed by the moderator. It is not known if they have been sworn in.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment**: At 7:20 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