

Select Board Meeting
August 31, 2022

6:02 pm meeting called to order by Neil Oleson.

Select Board members present: Neil Oleson, Mike Bedini, Terry I. Green

Select board members absent: none

Others present: Vicki Winchell, Joan Lewis, Jim White, Pam White, Carl Gehring, Al Bedini, Rick Williams, Cindy Bosley, Sue Bedini, Larry Cote, Heidi Dugal, Mike Gleason, Jamie Richardson, Dan Dobbert Jr., Dan Dobbert Sr.

Selectboard:

- Terry I. Green made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 17, 2022 Selectboard meeting. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- Pam White discussed conversations she has had with the state regarding open meeting laws and processes due to a meeting she attended in July where she had requested membership to the MMA and was told she could request it at the next meeting as she was not on the agenda. However, two weeks ago the town administrator spoke and there was nothing specific listed on the agenda for her. Pam was instructed by the state to ask what the official policy is. Neil clarified the Town Administrator is always on the agenda. Pam rebutted there was nothing under her name to which Neil responded there does not have to be, it is her report. Pam then asked why the Highway department has to be specific. Neil responded he should not and had planned to discuss that this week. Previous agendas always only listed their names. Only recently were details being added but it is not necessary. While it should be on the agenda, there is always public comment at the end of the agenda and anything could fall under that. Heidi stated any committee can talk about things that are not on the agenda but no vote can be taken. Joan was also told this when checking into it. Terry responded that is correct but we are going to be doing different road projects and different things we should be specific so if it affects anybody in the town when they see we are talking about projects coming up. Pam asked if someone wanted to request something and did not have time to ask to be added to the agenda they could still ask and bring it up. Neil responded yes if time allows and other things warrant it.
- Pam asked what if someone emails the town administrator to be put on the agenda and the town administrator does not put it on the agenda. Does that person need to wait two more weeks? Neil did not see why it could not be brought up if something was missed in error.
- Pam brought up a question regarding Municipal Lien Certificates (MLC). Two issues brought to Pam from attorneys. One received an MLC with no tax information on it. Jamie responded that is what comes out of the computer when she prints it. Discussions held on Jamie's training, software used and how the process works. Neil said they will look into the software question. Terry will sit with Jamie to work on the program as it can just be a matter of clicking one specific key.

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Selectboard (continued):

- Dan Dobbert Jr. and Dan Dobbert Sr. from Dobberts Recycling attended the meeting regarding the board concerns with their properties. Mike had no questions as he was not allowed on the property during their visit. They were asked to put the gate where the truck sits. Neil asked if that is something that can be done. Dan asked for clarification on what type of gate. Neil felt something of a smaller swinging gate they can drive through. Dan agreed they could move the truck over and put some type of gate there. Neil added the only other issue was the definition of a complete car. As far as his and the boards understanding is that would be a full frame vehicle, whether it's got a motor, rear end transmission, it still has all the vehicle identification numbers in it. Dan would like a better definition but agreed to work with that. Parts and pieces are fine. No liquids. Mike added it is not a salvage yard. Neil asked if they wanted to discuss it and get back to the board. Dan responded he wants to live and let live and they will do their best. Neil instructed them to get the gate up and then they will issue the permit. Dan will work with them as fast as possible. The board offered to add them to the next agenda to review progress. Dan was unsure they could be done by then. Neil suggested they work on it. Board will review progress and then issue license.
- Mike Bedini made a motion to grant Justin and Elizabeth Henderson, Southview Storage, a business license. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Berkshire County Selectmen Association annual meeting to be held on Thursday, September 29, 2022. Joan will make the reservation if any members are interested in attended.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- Approached by Mass DOT about N. County Road, Daniels home, regarding work Glen Burdick had in process for widening the intersection to make it safer for buses and plow trucks to come in and out. They need a letter from the town stating the town gives the state the right of way to widen the intersection and put in a catch basin. The board feels this was submitted previously but will write another letter once a diagram from the state is submitted to them.
- Fuel Tanks Quotes – O'Connell oil does not do fuel tanks. Reached out to Bruce Miller of Miller Petroleum, no quote submitted after Jim reached out several times. Neil feels it will take several years for the investment to pay off. All agreed to not proceed.
- Licenses - Kyle reapplied for his hydraulic license. It is in progress. Mike Worth is going to get his learners permit tomorrow.
- Ad placed for truck quotes. Three responded for the information, Patriot Fleet Group, Steven Place, Place Motor Inc and Delurey's. Delurey's was the only company to submit a bid. The ad deadline was extended as well. Delurey's submitted a bid in the amount of \$157,988.00. This includes the truck, stainless steel body, multi sander, with a plow all set up. If board agrees, Town Administrator needs to contact Delurey's to set up payment information. Truck could be ready by Fall of 2023. Bid deadline was extended as well.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to accept Delurey's bid for \$157,988.00 for a new truck. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

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Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor (continued):

- Memorial Lot – Discussed expanding the cemetery towards the memorial lot, to extend it out behind the church, staying 30-40’ from the memorial lot, building up the hill towards the memorial. Cindy questioned if they would be buying the fill all at once. Jim replied they would use the product from road projects as it became available.
- Terry stated she has been asking for a while about a deed for her mother’s plot and the receipt and has not received it, in almost 2 years of waiting. Jim responded the town administrator used to do it but since there is a new one she does not know the protocol. Jim has been having people bring in cancelled checks. Terry added she paid cash and did not receive a receipt even though she asked. Currently, as Jim sells them he is taking copies of checks, with names, site numbers and keeps in his book. Pam added a letter from the town would work for Terry to use for her estate information.
- Mowing on side of roads; Brush cutting
- 2 replacement culverts on Tilda Hill Road and blacktopped.
- Blacktopped Stryker Road, more blacktopping to do.
- Request for payment for Tony Arigoni was submitted last week for this warrant for \$11,295.00.
- Received phone call from Mike F. on Moores regarding the swale in front of his house. There is a blacktopped swale there. Due to how the road is pitched the driveway is 1- 1 1/2’ lower than lawn. Jim tried to explain he needs to be build up his driveway to get the water to run off. The board agreed with Jim’s response and suggested the resident attend a meeting if he has an issue.

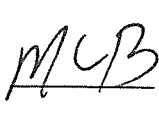

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Building Locks - waiting on answers. Companies questioned which buildings to change the locks, Joan told them Town Hall and Garage only. The number of people you want with keys? If possible, to limit keys Heidi suggested those who need one to could come during town hall hours. Discussion held on why the company would want old keys back. Companies need to know how many people would need keys to get an accurate quote. Neil suggested a few extras as well. Also looking for an alarm system not so sensitive. Neil instructed Joan to have them come here to give a quote. Berkshire Alarm Systems was contacted. They felt a FOB system would be very expensive. Mike suggested Joan check with Lee Audio also.
- Personnel Policies – Obtained samples from various towns that Joan contacted. Heidi added that diversity is also important to be reviewed when making the policies.

Public Comment:

- Cindy informed the board that Lark from FHMS has asked for an appointee from the town. Christine Dobbert use to be the appointee and they are now in need of another. Kevin Poirot offered to be the appointee if no one else was interested. Lark also told Cindy they would not make their goal for the final payment. The committee will also be coming back to the town for more money because Borden Mountain went over. Cindy thought Christine put \$40,000 in an account for overages.
 - Neil Oleson made a motion to appoint Kevin Poirot to be representative to the FHMS. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

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Public Comment (continued):

- Carl Gehring, representing Verizon Wireless attended to ask procedural questions:
 - What is the application fee for a special permit? Neil responded the business fee is \$5. He would need to have a special permit hearing, notifying all abutters. Carl has requested an abutters list but wanted to point out under MA law an applicant is not supposed to handle the abutters notice but will reimburse the town for expenses to do so. Neil did not think there was a specific "application fee" charge, only the reimbursement for the mailing and legal notices.
 - What is the process for the legal ad as some towns charge the applicant directly, some have the applicant pay the paper posting the legal add directly. Neil was unsure how it is handled as it was always down by the town administrator. Joan can put the notice in and send the bill to him.
 - How many copies should be submitted to the town? In the bylaws it states one copy to building inspector, fire chief, chief of emergency services, 3 copies to board of selectmen and under MA law one copy to be filed with the town clerk.
 - Cindy asked what is this project looking to do. Carl responded they are putting up a cell tower.
- Pam informed the board when she in her resignation from the Finance Committee the board never officially accepted it. Mike thanked Pam for her time.
 - Neil Oleson made a motion to accept Pam White's resignation. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.

Neil Oleson made a motion to enter executive session at 7:09 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.


Terry I. Green made a motion to reopen the meeting at 7:47 pm. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.

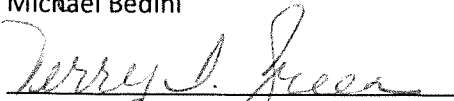
Selectboard:

- The board discussed the resignation of Accounting Officer, Dave Fierro, who resigned for personal reasons. Discussions held regarding posting of the position and the requirements. Neil felt a more generic ad could bring more applications. Terry offered a specific list of guidelines to follow per the state requirements as the position is more in depth than in previous years. The ad will read "preferred" regarding the requirements vs "required" and run for two weeks. Terry will submit the ad to MCTA as well.
- Discussed the open Library position.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

Neil Oleson, Chair


Michael Bedini


Terry I. Green

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