

Minutes
Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021
Select Board Meeting – 5:00pm
And
Joint SB & LOC Meeting – 5:30pm

Select Board Members present: Bettina Schmidt; Clelland Johnson; Larry Mandell
Others present: Stacy Stout, Town Administrator; James Whalen

Meeting called to Order at 5:01PM by Ms. Schmidt

1. Minutes from 2/2/21

- a. Motion to approve minutes made by Mr. Johnson, 2nd by Ms. Schmidt
- b. Roll call vote: Ms. Schmidt (Yes); Mr. Johnson (Yes); Mr. Mandell not present at this time

2. Assessor appointment

- a. Motion to Appoint KarieAnn Morehouse to serve on Board of Assessors until next election made by Mr. Johnson, 2nd by Ms. Schmidt
- b. Roll call vote: Ms. Schmidt (Yes); Mr. Johnson (Yes); Mr. Mandell not present at this time

3. Planning Board openings – 3 openings, to be posted on website to recruit interested parties until next election; appointments would need to be made jointly by remaining Planning Board members and Select Board

Question raised on date of Caucus – To be confirmed with Town Clerk

Ms. Schmidt noted that we may need to handle this same as last year – take papers out (may not be able to do at Elementary school; cannot do virtually due to verification of registered voters and counts)

4. Salary Benchmarking – Finance Board research

Mr. Johnson will take the lead on this topic; Finance Board is using MMA benchmarking survey data for reference
Ms. Schmidt made motion to have Mr. Johnson be the Finance Board Liaison; 2nd by Mr. Johnson
Roll call vote: Ms. Schmidt (Yes); Mr. Johnson (Yes); Mr. Mandell not present at this time

5. Tri-Town Community Development Advisory Committee meeting Feb 17th, 2021

Recaptured funds from block grants to be used to do a study in Brimfield for a senior center and a library in Wales and up to \$15k for Holland to demolish property on Island Rd.- funds will be reimbursable; then that land can go to auction and tax revenue can be collected; Brian Johnson/Highway will need to rent equipment small enough to get to structure; analysis has been done – no asbestos; B Johnson contact Building Commissioner to get permit; there is other money in a town account allocated for demolition and there are 2 other properties that should be addressed and then could go to auction also; these are all very small lots; B Johnson will work directly with Linda Blodgett/Treasurer to coordinate

Discussion: There is a request for an addition to the Solitude contract for weed treatment; Ms. Stout will reply to representative with memo format for submission; then will be brought to Select Board and Accountant for approval

Joint BOS and LOC Meeting – Ms. Schmidt called joint meeting to order at 5:31

LOC Members present for Joint meeting: Christine McCooe; Lynn Johnson; Sam Spratlin; Doug Cayer; Dori Ference
Others Present: Marian Poe-Heineman; Bob Kamay; Cynthia Poirier; Ernie Fancy; Peter Frei

1. **Culvert Grant** – chances of getting grant are not high based on last culvert (Mashapaug Rd) report from Mass DOT; would need to balance oversight with another grant (319) that highway dept is already managing
Action – Ms. Stout confirm with Jay Mooney/Grant writer that we will not apply for this at this time
2. **RFQ for weed treatment** – Ms. McCooe sent draft RFQ for review and approval by BOS; Stacy forwarded Feb 3rd 2021 update to BOS to review highlighted sections
Action – BOS will review and respond to Ms. Stout with feedback; email address for Bob Kamay to be added under contact info section
3. **Lake Maintenance & LOC Budget** - \$1000 for Expenses and \$50,000 for Maintenance submitted to Finance Board as part of FY22 Select Board budget request; original LOC estimate for maintenance was \$55,000; since not all estimated treatments may be needed yearly, requested amount is \$50k

4. Dam Cleanup & maintenance

Dam maintenance Discussion: Highway is responsible for maintaining spillway; Need a documented procedure for managing necessary work items; Once we have a new inspection report and estimate for work then it would be a Warrant Article for a Town Meeting; last comprehensive report is from 2016 (McClure Engineering); most recent report is dated 2018 (Lenard Engineering) however the data was believed to be outdated

Action: BOS and LOC will pursue having a new inspection done; Ms. McCooe and Mr. Kamay will assist with researching potential firms to use

Dam clean up – as reported by Ms. McCooe, Mr. Johnson/Highway Dept was to hire a landscaping company to clean out Phragmites

Action: Ms. Schmidt to talk with B Johnson to confirm if it was done and to schedule if not

5. Drawdown procedure

Discussion: the low water level is causing issues for some residents; seems the draw down process is not working smoothly

Based on NOI and Order of Conditions, Highway dept is responsible for maintaining the level at 2' down at the dam through the end of March; this year has been particularly erratic resulting in loss of water for some residents

Action: Ms. Stout to request current active Protocol for Drawdown, Notice of Intent and Order of Conditions from Conservation Commission to be reviewed by C Johnson and then for BOS to discuss plan for next steps

6. **Procellacor treatments** – FHRA voted to pay \$4900 to treat the privately owned pond (in CT) above reservoir; this is in addition to the treatment paid for by the town; owner has granted permission; Solitude will file permits

Ms. Schmidt called to adjourn Joint meeting at 6:07PM; Ms. Schmidt called to adjourn Select Board meeting at 6:07PM

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Stout, Town Administrator