

Select Board Minutes
Holland Town Hall
April 3, 2018 6 PM
27 Sturbridge Road
Holland, MA

Present:

Bettina Schmidt - Chair

Lawrence Mandell Member

Elias Gillen - Member

Meeting called to order by Ms. Schmidt at 6:00 PM

Minutes:

Motion 040318-1 Mr. Mandell to approve minutes of March 20, 2018. 2nd Mr. Mandell. so voted.

Meetings with the Board

John Stevens – Christine McCooe spoke on behalf of the Chair of the Lake Oversight Committee (LOC). Ms. McCooe stated that the LOC has reached out to different boards, departments etc. who are not getting back to the committee. She wants to know what the solution is. The LOC rearranged its meeting schedule to accommodate the members but particularly Mr. Gillen who has had many demands made on his time due to his private sector work schedule. Mr. Gillen stated that he appreciated the committee making the accommodation, but he could not change that aspect of his work. Ms. McCooe explained that the LOC would like to meet directly after the Select Board meetings so that the Select Board member would already be present for the meeting and it would be more convenient. The Select Board agreed. Mr. Gillen resigned from the committee and nominated Mr. Mandell to replace him on this committee as a better fit.

Motion 040318-2, Mr. Gillen, to appoint Mr. Mandell to the LOC. 2nd Ms. Schmidt. So voted.

Mr. Gillen explained that the meetings will be better served by the change in membership but it will not change the fact that if an elected board does not respond to the LOC there is nothing the Select Board can do. Ms. McCooe asked when Mr. Mandell would be able to start.

Mr. Mandell stated he could begin for the April 17th meeting. Ms. McCooe asked if the LOC could have the entire board participate in the at least 10 minutes of the LOC meetings. Mr. Mandell explained that doing that would defeat the purpose of having a select board member on the committee. Mr. Mandell stated it would be his function to bring things discussed by the LOC to the Select Board.

Jennifer O'Hop – representative of the Opacum Land Trust.

Ms. O'Hop gave some back ground about the land trust and its beginnings. Ms. O'Hop is in attendance to seek permission from the Select Board to begin researching and writing grants for the purchase of 173 acres of land known as the Sichel property for use as open space and senior housing. The Trust would like to partner with the town to pursue the purchase of this property. The grant tutorial will be attended by Ms. O'Hop and written this summer. If all goes well it will

be placed on the warrant for the FY20 annual town meeting. (May 2019). Mr. Gillen expressed complete support in this activity as a win, win for the town. Mr. Gillen stated we need senior housing, it is beautiful open space that should be preserved.

Motion 040318-3 Mr. Gillen, to grant permission to pursue grants for the possible future purpose of purchasing the 173 acre land known as “the Sichel” property. 2nd Ms. Schmidt. So voted

Ms. Schmidt reported on the ongoing Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) application for the Tri Community Grant. The process is ongoing and the application will be in June for Holland, Brimfield and Wales.

PVPC is seeking permission to use recaptured funds to complete a project started in 2017 for a home rehabilitation in Holland.

Motion 040318-4, Mr. Mandell to allow recaptured funds to be complete the project on Dug Hill Road in 2017, to be completed. 2nd Mr. Gillen. So voted.

Old Business – None

New Business

Subordination agreement- A subordination agreement request was received by the Select Board from PVPC for a refinance. Mr. Mandell noted that the Select Board Policy for such requests is to sign the agreements as long as there is enough equity to recapture any remaining funds.

Motion 040318-5, Mr. Mandell to sign the subordination agreement for 47 Dunhamtown Rd., Brimfield. 2nd Mr. Gillen. So voted.

Fire Chief Vehicle

The Fire Chief was asked why his vehicle is not detailed at a previous Select Board meeting. He explained that all the other fire chiefs have black unmarked vehicles. He stated the Select Board could check with other towns but they would find he is correct. The Fire Chief explained that this has been the way it is done since 9-11. Ms. Robbins reached out to the Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts and received the following responses:

| Town | Color | Detailed |
|---------------------|-------|----------|
| New Salem & Wendell | tan | yes |
| Chesterfield | red | yes |
| Groveland | red | yes |
| Halifax | red | yes |
| Heath | white | yes |
| Sterling | red | yes |
| Athol | red | yes |
| Shutesbury | white | no |
| Achusnet | red | yes |

| Town | Color | Detailed |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| Dunstable | black | yes |
| Conway | black | yes |
| Gill | no vehicle | NA |
| Leverett | black and white | yes |
| Hadley | black | yes |
| Wales | red | yes |
| West Brookfield | black | yes |
| Brimfield | red | yes |

Snow days – The Select board has received inquiries as to why the town hall is closed when the school is closed. Mr. Mandell addressed the matter. A letter was provided by the highway department stating that the priority of snow removal was to get and keep the roads open. The last thing on the list to clear are the town buildings as they are not a safety priority. In small towns this is a common scenario. Mr. Mandell reached out to West Brookfield, Wales and Brimfield who all have the same policy in place. This is a safety issue and as such there is no need to change the policy.

Ms. Robbins asked to address the Select Board regarding information about information she received earlier in the day regarding the LED lighting for the school. The school lights in the class rooms were upgraded in the early 2000's. At that time they were not brought up to code. As such the new LED conversion must bring these light fixtures up to code. There will be an additional cost to complete the school. In order to ensure the project is completed there will be a need to come up with the cost for the project somewhere in the area of \$5,000.00. Ms. Robbins stated that it is unfortunate but has to be done now that the problem has been identified. The Select Board cannot vote on funding the expense at this time as this was only discovered immediately before the meeting and is not on the agenda. Ms. Robbins would like the board to hold another meeting to address the issue. Mr. Gillen stated he would bring the information before the school committee. If a meeting is needed he will let Ms. Robbins know any results in order that the agenda may be posted in a timely manner.

Christine McCooe – audience member asked that the letter from attorney Nislick be added to the agenda if there will be a special meeting.

Christine McCooe also asked for a copy of the deed for the land under Hamilton Reservoir.

Announcements:

There will be clean up day at the Hitchcock field this Saturday. Anyone who would like to volunteer is welcome.

Holland Clean-up day, spear headed by Anne Hall, will be on April 21, 2018 from 9- noon. Watch the website for details.

Warrants signed – Pay roll \$27,991.84, Accounts Payable \$51,289.05

The following are seeking members

Zoning Board of Appeals - 1 alternate member

OPEB - 2 members

Bylaw Committee - 1 member

Capital Planning Committee - 1 member not affiliated with any other boards or committees

Cable Committee – 2 members

Planning Board

Mr. Mandell, to adjourn. 2nd Ms. Schmidt. So vote 7:08 PM.