

**Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
4/18/2018, Rhodes Building, 6:00pm**

Present: Todd Ford, Kathy Martell, Stan Swiercz, Geoff Hudson, Burt Franzman, Joan Epstein, Julie Rypsys, Select Board members Bill Martell, Karen Ribeiro, Alisa Pearson, and Susannah Carey.

Open: Selectman Martell opened at 6:30pm.

Minutes held off until after CCA discussion.

CCA discussion with Todd Ford, HCOG Executive Director

Pelham is currently using Colonial Power as their Aggregation agent with contract set to expire in January 2019.

HCOG currently offers **3 services/programs related Energy**.

Hampshire Power is a new model of buying local energy, saving money, and supporting local community. 100% of excess revenue is returned back into the area employing local people.

Hampshire Renewables offer Net Metering Credits for a 15% discount off both residential and commercial electric bills. The credits are sourced from community solar, low impact hydro, wind farms, and cow power through anaerobic digestion.

The newly created and locally funded **MA Renewable Energy Trust** is a new generation of energy controlled by communities who choose to invest. Some of the green products pricing appear below the base Eversource rate. Energy Trust products offer 100% pure additionality; solar, wind, hydro, biogas, and geothermal.

Minutes & Norms

Motion by Selectman Martell to table Norms until after Town Elections, not seconded.

Selectman Pearson asked SC to read aloud her additions on page 2 from the minutes on 4/4/18, Website Discussion. Edits were not shared with the Town Clerk previous to the meeting. Selectman Martell recused himself. Handout from 12/6/17 BoS meeting to remind everyone of the majority vote, which added no swearing and assume goodwill to the Norms document. Miscommunication about why board members trying to change the current posting that Town Clerk handles. The AG office's did not have an official posting on file for the Town which needs to be updated. Request going forward that the BoS Chair control and direct discussions during meetings to the best of their ability. Handout from Page 9 of the MMA Handbook about the role of the BoS Chair. Suggestion to have short recess when Norms have been breached and have BoS continue to be civil and assume goodwill.

Minutes were not voted on.

Review and Recommend Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Discussion of order of ATM warrant articles. Reminder from Town Clerk that the Attorney stated at ATM in 2017 that business/budget articles of the Town should be addressed first on the warrant. The Finance Committee meeting posted on 4/5/18 was not jointly posted with BoS. If any BoS member attended the FC meeting on 4/5/18, then no deliberation could ensue as BoS Chair, Selectman Martell, is on both the FC and BoS. Selectman Pearson showed up at the FC meeting but left at the beginning as she was told that it may cause an OML violation if there is any deliberation due to its posting. No OML violation occurred as the Attorney General's office communicated to Selectman Pearson. Other BoS members not

on the FC would have liked to engage in ATM warrant discussion with the FC but find it challenging to do so.

Any items that townspeople would like more discussion/information about can request a "Hold" during the ATM. All warrant articles requiring a dollar amount must be filled before ATM.

PEG Access Account

Town counsel responded that the PEG Access Account cannot be used to fund the broadband connection to the Town of Shutesbury that 2 households were requesting. "PEG" is Public, Educational, and Governmental Access. The petitioned article related added onto the ATM warrant can be amended on the floor if needed by the residents who submitted originally.

Net Neutrality Letter of Support

Letter (not on hand) from Amber French of Media Democracy, for support of Net Neutrality. Asking for BoS to sign letter of support. Item will be added to 5/2/18 agenda.

Appoint Animal Inspector

Motion to appoint Nancy Long as Animal Inspector, seconded Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

Statewide Environmental Justice Policy

Letter read from Boston City Councilors to support the Commonwealth to reduce toxics in the State.

Motion to sign Environmental Justice Policy letter, seconded Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

Town Officials-none.

Public Comment-none.

Liaison Reports

Highway Department; Selectman Pearson; Edward Chapin has returned back to work. Rick working on specs for RFP for Community Center repair and painting job.

Town Offices; Selectman Pearson; Positive feedback returned for June Masee.

Fire Department; Selectman Martell; everything good.

Police Department; Selectman Martell; everything fine.

Energy Committee; Selectman Pearson; May 8 event to meet the installer chosen for the Solar Thermal Challenge. Informational session on CCE on 4/24/18. Neighbor to Neighbor group had questions regarding 3rd party energy. Tony Rogers working with data loggers from Library.

Finance Committee; Selectman Martell; meeting on 4/5/18 with discussion of Article 4 only.

Library; Selectman Ribeiro; poetry reading, MVP workshop on 4/21/18 with 23 signed up. Listening session in May after MVP workshop with presentation to public, date to follow. Workshop attendees will be asked for ideas on how the remaining grant funds could be applied. Proposal sheet reviewed regarding funds disbursement for MVP grant. KR will explore the possibility that the MVP grant may cover costs associated with creating an MVP informational flyer & the summer Slate newsletter printing.

Elementary School; Selectman Ribeiro; Meeting on 4/4/18 discussion of cuts to principal's salary.

Preschool enrollment is up. Small Schools Initiative Group meeting-no discussion of SWOT analysis.

Regional School; Selectman Ribeiro; nothing to report.

Other-Before 5/16/18, issue email invitation to all Board/Committees for quarterly updates at BoS meetings.

Old Business

Slate newsletter draft to be proofread, printing to follow. Collective will print Slate and Warrant. Mailing to be sent out around 4/30/18. Amherst Copy & Designworks will print the 2017 Town Report.

Time Reserved for Topics the Chair did not reasonable anticipate

Highway Superintendent will be consulted on:

- Condition of Rhodes Building driveway and cost to fix/pave.
- Request for motion light outside of the Rhodes Building.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, seconded Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved at 9:35pm.

Documents Examined

HCOG products and services with map, minutes from 12/6/17, MMA Handbook page 9, minutes from 4/4/18, ATM warrant articles, Town Counsel response for PEG Access Account, Environmental Justice Policy letter, MVP breakdown of grant funds, draft of Slate spring edition.

Respectfully submitted, Susannah Carey