

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

5/2/18, Rhodes Building, 6:30pm

Present: Selectman Martell, Selectman Pearson, Selectman Ribeiro, Fred Vanderbeck, Caitlin Dragun-Bianchi, and Kathy Martell

Absent: Susannah Carey

Notetaker: Karen Ribeiro

Open: 6:30 meeting called to order by BM

Vote Agenda –

Removed net neutrality letter (for next meeting) and town meeting logistics

4/4 minutes motion made to accept revised minutes by AP seconded by KR, BM voted no, motion passes

4/18 minutes as amended motion by KR seconded by AP, BM voted no, motion passes

4/23 minutes as amended motion by KR seconded by AP, BM voted no, motion passes

4/26 minutes motion by KR seconded by AP, passed unanimously

New Conservation Agent – was not there

Harkness Road Speeding – Caitlin Dragun-Bianchi noted that people drive 60 miles per hour on her street which has a posted speed limit of 30 mph. The police have been notified and offered to do more patrolling. Amherst police was also notified and also offered to do more patrolling on their side of Harkness.

The speed picks up around lunch time, morning and after school and occasionally at night. No one stops for dog walkers, joggers, etc. CD-B requested speedbumps. If a child gets hit, who is responsible? BM spoke with Chief Thomann and the log notes how much time is spent on Harkness rd. This figure was not discussed. But GT said that the state would never allow speedbumps on main roads. CD-B has looked into speed bumps and would like the language that states speed bumps are not allowed. BM noted that part of meeting house road and Harkness are considered state roads. CD-B noted that GT suggested she bring this issue to the BOS and BM suggested she ask GT to come to a BOS meeting and present the legal details. AP offered to get in touch with Rick to inquire about the legal statute. CD-B asked if we cannot put speed bumps, what are the alternatives? CD-B has talked with GT twice. KR offered to review the MMA legal library and then go to KP Law if there is no precedent. KR also asked if Amherst might know what the statute is for speed bumps and CD-B will inquire.

Fred suggested that we put up a “your speed is” sign-camera which all agreed was a good idea. KM noted that we’d done a traffic study on Amherst Rd. a few years ago.

Affordable Care Act discussion with Collector/Treasurer –

Big changes with federal tax laws. We are struggling with ACA compliance because of things that our treasurer (prior to Edna) did not comply with. Ms. Masse asked to attend the training on May 17 from 8:15-5:10 in Southbridge MA. It is more than just updates, it will include new information. We do all of the federal and state forms and take care of unemployment and must know the current regulations. Second request has to do with insurance plans. Harvard Pilgrim is gone, policy and deductibles have gone up considerably. Colonial Life would like to make a presentation but their services would be supplemental and cost the insured more but may end up reducing their costs in the long run (substitute for dental?). It is like AFLAC but less expensive due to lower overhead. KR suggested JM get testimonials from Colonial Life that JM could call to get their experience and a couple of case studies. Ms. Dragun-Bianchi noted that Colonial Life is advertising on FoxTV and JM clarified that they are separate from that Colonial Life. BM suggested that they host a public forum rather than present to the BOS. Discussion included steps to move in that direction. JM will ask a few insureds their opinion on a forum and ask MIIA about a joint forum with Amherst.

Three Month Review with Treasurer

AP noted that responses have been very positive – that JM never hesitates to ask for assistance and takes on work with enthusiasm. JM noted that she will be taking Wednesdays off and adding Fridays in order to work side by side with Gail during June and July. AP asked about how JM will post the changes to her hours and suggested these two months have this change (rather than occasional back and forth). Now is a very busy time. KR asked how JM was enjoying the job and JM noted it was good and there is a lot to learn and know and gave examples about subtle nuances of who notifies whom and when. AP asked if we might need to prepare for fines and JM noted we would reply with appeal letters given her understanding (written down) of protocols. BM noted that town employees are very happy with JM. BM suggested that JM keep the changed schedule until the books are totally completed. Next training is in August MCTA in Amherst.

Vote Updated Budget –

AP motioned to accept BM seconded, passed unanimously

Sign Equipment Change Request –

Dash camera awarded by MIIA grant.

KR motioned to accept, AP seconded, passed unanimously

Pelham School Fair –

KR noted that there is a sign up sheet and encouraged others to volunteer.

MVP 2nd Grant –

Second round of MVP grants has a 3-week application window with unexpected \$5MM budget for existing MVP status municipalities. Due in Boston 5pm May 18.

KR described the three components of the grant that are based on the overall top three priorities noted during the 4/21 workshop: Resilient Campus, Resilient Community, Resilient Roads – budgets tbd.

KR noted the grant requires a 25% match and that the EC will be requesting monies from TM that, along with superintendent's budget for culvert repair and staff hours, along with volunteer hours, could amount to this figure.

AP noted the many great community resilience ideas that came out of her roundtable in the MVP workshop – community kitchen and community equipment sharing. Discussion touched on elements of each component.

CD-B noted that her father in law is a civil engineer from Tufts, worked for MA DOT and has worked on culverts, structural assessments, dams, major infrastructure assessments and repairs. He will be a key resource in this process.

Follow up meeting Tuesday May 8th

Actions: to get the PVPC CRB report and forward to the 4/21 participants along with the link to the Google Doc for the grant draft. Goal to approve at next BOS meeting and CD-B agreed to deliver it by 5/18.

KM noted that records in the vault are not stored adequately. Suggested the need for a better system than going through boxes as is the process currently. There was a space-needs committee about 3 years ago that drew up plans for a new addition to add more functionality. AP suggested that the details from this effort be identified to be ready for future grants that are more focused for such projects.

Town Officials –

Map for town is done but another set of details and can take up to 120 days. Each piece is separate and the Census (both Fed and State – John Barr) changes things all the time. Because KM needs knee surgery and does not know when that will be she is unable to do the 10 year Census 2020 and is resigning from

this activity. KM said that whoever takes on this project will have to get the details of the project from the state. AP noted that because KM is the only signatory she will need to return the Census 2020 FedEx package. KR noted that the town is now in a position to need to find an interim town clerk and asked KM to present an idea for this. KM has no information to go on and won't know until meeting with the surgeon June 1st at which time the BOS will need to revisit this. AP asked what the earliest date could be and she said maybe July, maybe September. The September election starts 45 days before the election (absentee ballots).

AP asked if KM did this work previously as a volunteer and KM noted that she helped Ed Martin when he was the BOS chair – this is who is technically responsible for this Census work. She continued to help out during Bill Martell's tenure. AP reached out to David Burgess for assistance and he pledged support as did John Barr. There are 50 municipalities not participating in LUCA, which is Local Update of Census Addresses. KM noted that because Amherst has GIS mapping and know which lots have been subdivided. Selectman Pearson stated it behooves Pelham to participate because each resident qualifies Pelham for \$2,300 in Federal grants (over ? time period).

After discussion about this gap it became clear that KM will be working on other census (local town clerk census work) which is annual and affects the school population by age for grade planning.

KM suggests that we need to do records access training for all boards, departments and committees. KR asked what this would look like, timing, etc. KM noted that KP Law would do the training, AP noted that it is a few hours long. KM suggested that it would be good to do late summer.

Public Comment –

Caitlin Dragun-Bianchi noted that she stopped by today to meet with KM and was concerned that KM wasn't here, similar to another time she stopped by to discuss assessment of her property. Being new to town with young children it is difficult to know when/how to get information. KM noted her hours are posted on the website which includes by appointment.

AP apologized for CD-B's inconvenience and suggested that the home page be reviewed to have a sense of how it is navigated by new to town residents. KR suggested this be a substantial agenda item on an upcoming BOS meeting. CD-B noted that the main calendar does not show on her phone and was not showing the last time she looked from her mobile device which led to discussion that there may be a technical issue that VTS could address. CD-B offered that her husband is a web developer.

KM noted that all boards, departments and committees are now on E-subscribe.

Discussion was tense. KM stated that she will be taking her hours off the website – said that it is not required by law.

5 minute recess was attempted.

Liaison Reports

Done informally with the exception of the following offered by Fred Vanderbeck:

There will be a budget change on the town floor to lesson some of the cuts (salaries, etc.) with a new request for \$11,000. Emily Marriott is finishing her term and was thanked for her service. School Committee will have a meeting at 8:45 am right before TM to approve the request.

Old Business –

Attorney General's office rejected our proposed agenda posting – need one primary (not and/or) designation. KR moved to approve the website as the primary location AP seconded, BM said no. BM stated that he is so glad this is his last meeting and AP thanked him for his service and noted how impressed she is with his compassion for the residents of Pelham, for the many potentially unrepresented.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:00pm