**Minutes of January 16, 2019 Select Board Meeting, School Staff Room, 6:00pm**

Present: Selectman Pearson, Selectman Ribeiro, Dean Brown, Nancy Long, Wendi Weinberg, Abbie Jenks, Kevin Fournier, Victoria Desclos (arrived at 7:20) and Selectman Agoglia (arrived at 7:45)

Absent: Susannah Carey

6:00 pm meeting called to order by Chairman Pearson

**Country Lane dog complaint:** Homeowner and animal control officer present to discuss. Mr. Brown moved to Country Lane in the Spring and noticed dogs off leash chasing cats, which upsets his daughter, and repeatedly messing in the yard. His wife sent a Facebook message to Ms. Wasserman to ask her to leash her dog and got no response. All complaints were sidestepped or defensive. Mr. Plotkin’s response was to say that Mr. Brown’s dog barks also. Three police reports have been filed with no resolution. The offending dog has repeatedly ripped up compost bags on the deck and in the yard and is on the deck daily at 8am. Hundreds of photos have been taken. After the first formal complaint in July 2018, Ms. Long was told by Ms. Wasserman that a dog trainer had been hired and they would need some time. A $10 fine was assessed. Owners of the offending dog have been unresponsive to Ms. Long as well. Selectman Pearson asked if fencing could be a consideration. Mr. Brown suggested it would not as a gate would also be needed and other neighbors are having this problem. Ms. Weinberg, resident of Country Lane, was present and noted comparable experiences of the offending dog chasing her cats and chickens, and pooping in her yard as well as unresponsiveness from the dog owner. Mr. Brown suggested an electric fence on the Wasserman-Plotkin property could be a solution. Selectman Ribeiro asked Ms. Long if she has experienced anything similar and what actions had been taken. Ms. Long noted an experience of a dog barking incessantly which resulted in that dog being legally forced to leave town. The dog is out of compliance with the leash law because it is not in the owner’s control and is also violating the nuisance law.

Mr. Brown will draft a letter referencing the various measures taken to date and Officer Fournier will prepare copies of the reports. These will be forwarded to the Selectboard for a formal letter of complaint to be issued to the owners of the offending dog.

**Dog Leashing:** A neighbor will be drafting an article for this coming spring town meeting warrant to reevaluate the leash law.

**Officer Salaries:** Discussion with Officer Fournier about the loss of a new hire to another municipality over wages. This other municipality pays $2 per hour more and officers a $6 per hour increase upon completion of the Academy. Discussion also included the resignation of Officer Courtney Stutz. Officer Stutz was sworn in five months ago as a reserve officer without experience. She was unable to patrol on her own and, according to her resignation letter, was not paid for many months, felt adequately trained by her fellow officers, and did not feel the offer to be paid for one day for every two days’ work was fair or reasonable. The town’s broken speed sign and a request for the police department to get quotes for a new sign were also within this discussion.

**Annual Town Meeting Calendar:** Each item on the calendar was reviewed. Ms. Jenks asked about making minor edits to articles that had previously been submitted on time. These dates will be reviewed and confirmed. Selectman Ribeiro moved to approve the calendar with one date being reordered chronologically and verification by acting Town Clerk facilitated by Selectman Agoglia given a discrepancy with last years’ calendar, seconded by Selectman Pearson and passed unanimously.

**Neighborhood District Zoning**: Ms. Jenks noted that new language was being prepared for the Village Center bylaw to better reflect the intent for the mixed-use district. Discussion covered the Planning Board’s authority over a new business’s hours, lighting, parking. There will be a project on traffic calming and sidewalks as speed and safety is a real concern on Amherst Rd. Selectman Pearson will follow up with Ms. DeBoer who was on the agenda to discuss this issue.

**MMA Conference Schedule**: The schedule was reviewed and workshop plans for each member were shared among the board.

**Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness:** Victoria Desclos attended and was scheduled to discuss Pelham’s climate change resolution. Selectmen Pearson and Ribeiro shared thoughts for the upcoming issue of the Slate, including the suggestion that a picture of Ms. Desclos be included so that other boards and committees are apprised of the plan for her to meet with them on this topic. Ms. Desclos noted that she just took a full-time job and will no longer be available for this paid project. She has a friend at UMass who may be interested.

**Liaison Reports**

KR Highway - Price difference between community hall painting and residing (opposition to residing was previously noted by member of historical commission). Selectman Ribeiro will ask Superintendent Adamcek to get a quote. Peter Hepler has shared ideas on keeping town culverts clean.

BA Town Offices - Selectman Agoglia has coached Susannah Carey in preparation for her review, June Masse will reprise her accomplishments and goals for 2019, and Sandra Burgess will draft a proposal for the Assistant Town Clerk. Selectman Pearson asked for a specific process for posting the position.

AP Fire - nothing new

AP Police - noted the Cram the Cruiser activity

KR Finance - noted the BOS budget proposal is scheduled to take place at the same time as our next select board meeting

AP Library - noted the next trustee meeting is on 1/23

KR Elementary School - Selectman Ribeiro gave an update on the budget review and the SGEE curriculum presentation at the most recent school committee meeting, reflecting changes based on suggestions received.

BA Regional School - public forums were held on 1/10, the regional four town assessment methodology meeting was 1/17, and 1/25 will be the pivotal regional meeting with Mark Abrahams featuring the first look at a five year back and five year forward financial analysis of regionalization of the elementary school.

**Old Business**

-KR gave an update on the MVP program to date including discussion of a claim made by John Trickey that the task force was in violation of open meeting law. This is not true given that the task force is not a public body. Ms. Jenks conferred with the AG’s office. In order to be as transparent as possible, the committee member’s names will be added to the town website.

New topics - Selectman Agoglia made a motion to submit a letter of support for the PVPC grant request for distribution of the regional “Rural Plan for Massachusetts” report.

Selectman Agoglia moved to adjourn at 9:07pm, seconded, passed unanimously

Submitted by Selectman Karen Ribeiro