

Select Board Meeting Minutes

3/3/2021 7pm Via ZOOM

Present: Select Board members Robert Agoglia, Tara Loomis, & David Shanabrook, Susannah Carey, David Waskiewicz, David Hawkins, Police Chief Gary Thomann, and Robert Rowell.

Open: Select Board Chair Robert Agoglia opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Minutes

Motion to accept minutes as amended from 2/17/2021, aye Robert Agoglia, aye Tara Loomis, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Salary Discussion with Building Inspector, David Waskiewicz

David Waskiewicz was hired in July 2009 to work as a part-time building inspector. Currently the position pays \$25/hour with a \$250/month stipend. In 2012, the minimum fees for permits were raised in order to cover time the building inspector's time spent on processing, etc. Request today for a salary increase to \$35/hour with a \$350/month stipend retroactive to January 1, 2021. Also, request to increase the minimal upper limit of the building inspectors revolving fund from \$18,227 to \$30,000 due to upcoming large projects in town; affordable housing apartments, potential sewer extension. Select Board will speak with town counsel about revolving fund language.

Similar to the Electrical and Plumbing Inspectors, the Building Inspector does not receive annual cost of living (COLA) increases. Also, suggestion to look into implementing incremental steps for inspectors and to flag for the Wage and Salary Study. The Select Board oversees the Building Inspector and approves compensation. Action on David's request continued to next meeting to check on whether the SB has the authority to approve this increase. Potential future discussion item for Building Inspector responsibilities in relation to enforcement and assistance from Select Board and Police Department.

Zoning issues by far are the most time consuming for the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Request from Police Chief for Additional \$5,000 for Administrative Assistant

Chief Thomann is requesting approval for an administrative assistant position budgeted at \$5k for about 5 hours a week. The recent Police Reform bill that passed will require additional administrative work with department policies. Also, PD staff will be required to acquire additional certification, which may impact staffing within the department. Today's request from Chief Thomann comes after the Department's original budget hearing with the Finance Committee. Previous discussions with the Select Board about reallocation of existing budgeted funds is not an option at this juncture due to loss of officer patrol hours. Motion to approve request for Administrative Assistant for \$5,000 for Police Department, aye Robert Agoglia, aye Tara Loomis, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous. Police Reform Bill-This bill will require part-time officers to assume 250 hours of certification to become full-time officers at no cost to the town. There will be additional costs outside related to firearms, EVOC, etc. More to come after the Committees formation July 1, 2021. Six officers on staff will be affected by the certification requirement. Four police officers already have the full-time certification.

Request for Traffic Sign near 154 Buffam Road, David Hawkins

Tree Warden and resident, David Hawkins, request for signage to be posted around his residence at 154 Buffam Road due to trucks backing into driveways. Traffic moves very quickly in this area with definite blind spots. Police Chief Thomann is aware of the speed in this particular section of Buffam Rd. Rick Adamcek will reach out to Dave

Hawkins for further discussion. Motion to approve installation of warning signage in an appropriate location as determined by Rick and David around 154 Buffam Rd, aye Robert Agoglia, aye Tara Loomis, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Biomass Resolution for Consideration on 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Resolution prepared by League of Women Voters of Amherst and adopted by Amherst. Language has been adapted for Town of Pelham. Motion to include Biomass Resolution on 2021 Annual Town Meeting warrant, aye Robert Agoglia, aye Tara Loomis, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Review & Approve Select Board Report for 2020 Town Report Book

Motion to approve 2020 Select Board report for 2020 town report, aye Robert Agoglia, aye Tara Loomis, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Juneteenth (June 19) Holiday Discussion of Town's Participation

Governor Baker made June 19th an official state recognized holiday on July 24, 2020. Motion to honor June 19 as official state holiday in Pelham, aye Robert Agoglia, aye Tara Loomis, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Liaison Reports

Building Inspector; Select Board Member Tara Loomis; above discussion.

Fire Department; Select Board Member Tara Loomis; Police Chief and Deputy Fire Chief discussion did not focus on salary but on who was interested in serving as the next Pelham Fire Chief when Chief Murphy retires on June 30, 2021. The Select Board tonight had to decide on which option is best for Pelham. Option one is to appoint the Police Chief as a Director of Public Safety and upgrading a staff member in each department to assume additional duties and report to him. Select Board Chair Agoglia has received letters from the Hampshire County Fire Defense Association and the Western Massachusetts Fire Chief's Association advocating against this option. Option two includes keeping the current Fire Chief Murphy on staff in an administrative capacity and speak with the Deputy Fire Chief to see if there was interest handling all Fire Department on-site calls. Both options offer the town additional time to look into possibilities of sharing a fire chief with another town or to undertake a recruitment process to hire a new Fire Chief. The Select Board decided to support option two and speak with the current Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief about whether and how they would support it. Legislation would need to be submitted to the state to keep the current retiring Fire Chief on staff as an administrative chief.

Highway Department; Select Board member Robert Agoglia; Electrical panel upgrade at Rhodes Building completed with camera and motion light project soon to follow. ASM Sheetmetal has provided a quote for Community Hall ERV unit which is fully reimbursed by the CARES Act grant.

Police Department; Select Board member David Shanabrook; discussion above.

Town Offices; Select Board member Robert Agoglia; Both RA and Susannah Carey had zoom call for IT Assessment during which there was a compilation of information related to stakeholders, security, wired west, servers, software packages, phone service, budgets for IT, emails, etc. The Wage & Classification contract has come in and will require signatures. The town has been awarded two Community Compact Grants to support these assessments.

Tree Warden; Select Board member David Shanabrook; Change to budget figures for new fiscal year.

Old Business

Dog Update-Select Board member David Shanabrook attended recent Conservation Commission meeting with discussion on dogs related to leashing, signage at trails, and dogs in conservation areas. Next meeting will be in April.

Time Reserved for Topics the Chair did not Reasonably Anticipate

PVTA-Select Board member David Shanabrook will serve on the PVTA Advisory Board as Pelham representative.

Letters from Boyden Rd Residents Regarding paving/not paving-Several letters from Boyden Rd residents about opinions regarding paving versus not paving. Highway Superintendent, Rick Adamcek, looking into how to combat road issues which mainly occurs in the first 500 feet of the road from intersection with Buffam.

Adjournment-Motion to adjourn at 8:40pm, aye Robert Agoglia, aye Tara Loomis, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Documents Examined

Minutes 2/17/2021, 2020 SB report, Biomass Resolution, Hawkins signage request.

Respectfully submitted, Susannah Carey