

Select Board Meeting Minutes

12/16/2020 7pm Virtual via ZOOM

Present: Select Board members Robert Agoglia, Tara Loomis, and David Shanabrook, Amy Rusiecki, Walt Kohler, Robert Rowell, Bruce Klotz (7:20pm), and Susannah Carey.

Open: Select Board member Robert Agoglia opened the meeting at 7:00pm. Remote script read aloud by Susannah Carey. All Board members confirmed present. All public introduced.

Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from 11/18/2020, aye Robert Agoglia, aye Tara Loomis, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Motion to approve minutes from 12/2/2020, aye Robert Agoglia, aye Tara Loomis, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Centennial Water Treatment Plant Project-Amy Rusiecki

Treatment plant located on Amherst Rd between Jones and Arnold Rd. The facility has been offline for the last few years due to treatability issues and lightning strikes to the building. The plan is to demolish the current building and erect a brand-new building that will almost cover the exact footprint. The Town of Amherst in the future will be acquiring permitting and permissions from Town of Pelham, Eversource, etc. for the project. The backwash basins located at the back of the site will be changed into stormwater collection basins & for emergency overflow. The plant is not currently connected to the sewer system line which has a connection point along Amherst Rd.

Amy was asked about resources; Leverett Town Administrator; and grants; USDA Rural Development loans, State revolving fund loans; for possible sewer connection for Village Center residents.

Request for Transfer of Ownership from Historical Society to the Town of Pelham for Fire Alarm & Monitoring System, 376 Amherst Rd

Historical Society has paid for alarm system since the late 1960s. The Town of Pelham officially took ownership of the building a few years back. There was a Security alarm at the museum but it was disconnected because of rodents. The fire alarm system requires a phone line. The cost for electricity to the museum will continue to be covered by the Historical Society. Request for the Town to assume responsibility of the fire alarm cost through Johnson Controls Security Solutions. Motion to have Town assume responsibility for service associated with fire alarm at the Historical Complex and assume payment immediately, aye Robert Agoglia, aye Tara Loomis, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Scenic Roads Decision for 8 Amherst Road

Scenic Roads hearing was held on November 14, 2020 with the Planning Board, Tree Warden, and Habitat for Humanity at 8 Amherst Rd. All parties present at the meeting were satisfied with the discussion and decisions made on November 16, 2020 by the Planning Board, who has authority with the Scenic Roads bylaw. Walt Kohler mentioned that the groundbreaking will be in April 2021. Motion to affirm Planning Board decision regarding tree removal and cutting at 8 Amherst Rd pursuant to scenic roads bylaw, aye Robert Agoglia, aye Tara Loomis, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Reporting Relationships for Certain Town Positions

Select Board identified two main issues surrounding positions that don't have a set liaison/supervisor; structure around relationships between the Select Board, Building Inspector, and Tree Warden, & the importance of record keeping of incidents/issues/permits, etc. If Liaison's are identified for the Building Inspector and Tree Warden, then the type of reporting and how often the reports are received would need to be determined. Select Board member Tara Loomis will be the Building Inspector's liaison while David Shanabrook will be liaison for the Tree Warden.

Town Officials

Tax Classification-Revote needed due to paperwork submission dates.

Motion for a single tax rate, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, aye Tara Loomis, roll call unanimous.

Motion to not have open space exemption, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, aye Tara Loomis, roll call unanimous.

Motion to not have residential exemption, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, aye Tara Loomis, roll call unanimous.

Motion to not have small commercial exemption, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, aye Tara Loomis, roll call unanimous.

Public Comment-none.

Liaison Reports

Fire; Select Board member Tara Loomis; Request for job descriptions for Deputy Fire Chief and contract for Fire Chief.

Highway; Select Board member Robert Agoglia; storm preparations; pre-construction meeting 12/14 for Community Building VRF system; Rick will be kept in the loop with the Treatment Plant project; ERV system install began today and will be completed before December 30th deadline.

Police; Select Board member David Shanabrook; no report.

Town Offices; Select Board member Robert Agoglia; Two employees tested positive for COVID-19 so the Rhodes Building was disinfected; Slate newsletter is currently in layout process, Select Board will include an article about Town Meetings, James Lumley award, ERV, and computers from Smith College; IT statement created to identify and clarify IT in the Town Offices. Motion to approve IT statement for IT systems in the Rhodes Building, aye Robert Agoglia, aye Tara Loomis, aye David Shanabrook, roll call unanimous.

Request to adopt an e-signature program. Question if warrants can be electronically signed. Select Board looking for ways to improve efficiency of the Town.

Old Business

CCA Agreement-Shared with Select Board from Karen Ribeiro. Document will be reviewed at upcoming meeting with the Joint Powers Committee and their attorney. Item will be added to 1/6/21 agenda.

Time Reserved for Topics the Chair Did Not Reasonably Anticipate

Cards will be signed by Select Board and sent to Booth and Bigelow families for recent passing of family members.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:25pm, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, aye Tara Loomis, roll call unanimous.

Documents Reviewed

Minutes 11/18/20 & 12/2/20, Water Treatment Plant project plans, Letter & invoice from PHS, link for CCA agreement.

Respectfully submitted, Susannah Carey