

## **Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes**

**10/16/2019 6:00PM Rhodes Building**

**Present:** Selectman Ribeiro, Selectman Agoglia, Mark Santos, Attorney Allison, Police Chief Thomann, Steven Hughes, Bill Martell, Kathy Martell, Judy Eiseman, Fred Vanderbeck, June Massee, Susannah Carey, and Wanda Kelly (public comment only).

**Open:** Selectman Ribeiro opened the meeting at 6:00PM.

### **Minutes**

Motion to enter executive session to approve minutes from 8/22/2019, aye Karen Ribeiro, aye Bob Agoglia, unanimously approved.

Motion to approve minutes from 8/22/2019, unanimously approved.

Motion to leave executive session and reconvene in open session, aye Karen Ribeiro, aye Bob Agoglia, unanimously approved.

### **Appointment of New Constable, Steven Hughes**

Steven Hughes is a retired police officer who lives in Belchertown and is an Amherst native. He will be working elections, road details, etc. and will perform a little training with the Town Clerk.

Motion to appoint Steven Hughes as Constable, unanimously approved.

### **200 Daniel Shays Highway Foreclosure-Mark Santos**

Town of Pelham now owns the property due to foreclosure. Mr. Santos attended with his Attorney with hopes to pay the outstanding balance, set up an escrow account and begin making payments to the Town paying off within one year. This particular situation is an execution on a default judgement with right to redeem within one year at the discretion of the Town. Mr. Santos has the right to take the Town to court. Mr. Santos failed to answer the foreclosure complaint in 2017. A substantial payment was made in September 2018 which paid balances from 2015, 2016, and 2017, but fiscal year 2019 was already underway. Mr. Santos requested bills to be sent but the Town did not receive any reply or payments. Previous Collector/Treasurer not present recalled bounced checks prior to 2015 from Mr. Santos. The Town could have tried to work with Mr. Santos if there was communication. Board of Selectmen would like to speak with town counsel and meet with Mr. Santos at a later time. Mr. Santos is currently living at the property. Motion to extend the current eviction notice from November 1<sup>st</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>, unanimously approved.

### **Raising Fees for Tax Collector/Treasurer's Office-June Massee**

Under Massachusetts General Law the Town has the right to increase certain fees. June recommends increasing municipal lien certificates and demand fees. Motion to raise Municipal Lien Certificate fees to \$35 and demand fees to \$20, unanimously approved.

### **Review & Sign Green Communities Grant for \$170,000 Award**

Motion to sign Green Communities Grant for VRF system \$170k grant award, unanimously approved.

### **Discussion of Condition & Replacement of Rhodes Building/Town Offices Sign**

Observation that the sign along Amherst Road in front of Rhodes Building needs replacement. Suggestion to coordinate with Library Trustees since the sign will also be replaced at the Community Building. Possibility to purchase similar signage.

### **Consider Opt-Out Health Insurance Policy for Town Employees**

Other surrounding towns hold policies related. This opt-out policy offers employees incentive to decline health insurance benefits. Incentive payments to opt-out for individual plan would be \$1,500 and \$3,000 to opt-out of the family plan. Pelham's premiums for health insurance currently stand at \$8k for individual plan and \$20k for family plan. The opt-out does

not include teachers and is only for town employees not covered under contract. Motion to approve voluntary opt-out health insurance policy and back date to July 1, 2019, unanimously approved.

**Vote on Special Town Election Calendar to Fill Vacancy on Board of Selectmen**

2 election calendar options proposed by Town Clerk. Minimum hours for election would be four with polls opening before noon. Generally, one election Warden, four poll workers and a Constable work during elections. Motion to approve January 4, 2020 election calendar to fill Board of Selectmen vacancy with election hours 11:00AM to 5:00PM, unanimously approved.

**Council on Aging New Member Appointment-Nancy Rose Weeber**

Nancy previously served on other boards/committees in town. Nancy will be filling the remaining vacancy for regular members. Motion to appoint Nancy Rose Weeber to Council on Aging, unanimously approved.

**Review with Selectman Ribeiro-October 5<sup>th</sup> MMA/Mass Selectmen's Association Conference-tabled.**

**Town Officials**

- Training for PB and ZBA members on writing good decisions. PB budget should cover the expense for its members, likewise with ZBA budget.
- Does Pelham have a hiring policy? Planning Board would like to hire a Clerk. Can a current member also work as the Clerk?
- Request for office space and filing cabinets in the Rhodes Building instead of the History Room in the Library.
- Selectman Ribeiro and Judy Eiseman will connect to discuss 40B for Amherst Rd development.
- Attorney General has approved the Annual Town Meeting PB articles. More from the Town Clerk soon.

**Public Comment**

Wanda Kelly joined the meeting and has resigned from her position as Outreach Worker by submitting a letter this evening. Recent evaluation with COA members upset Ms. Kelly. Ms. Kelly has been working in Pelham since November 2018. COA Chair Kathy Martell requested Ms. Kelly remove all social media links but she did not comply. As Pelham's Outreach Worker, Kathy mentioned that Ms. Kelly knew of her responsibilities which included taking care of the senior table in the sitting area inside the Library and having a presence once a week at the Library for seniors. Ms. Kelly was claiming to be Pelham's social worker, which is not the position she was hired for. Ms. Kelly resigned from her position at the last COA meeting but still needs to return the COA laptop, which will be set up with Police Chief Thomann. Ms. Kelly was upset that her picture was used in a previous Slate Newsletter which she did not approve. Board of Selectmen would like COA Chair to share Ms. Kelly's evaluation from the last meeting.

**Liaison Reports-tabled.**

**Old Business**

Register Selectman Ribeiro for MMA conference in January and for the November 1<sup>st</sup> water and sewer forum in Whately. November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting cancelled, Next meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>

**Time Reserved for Topics the Chair Did Not Reasonably Anticipate**

Chair of Cultural Council, Nora Maroulis, left appointment paperwork for new member Christopher Wardlaw. Motion to appoint Christopher Wardlaw to the Cultural Council, unanimously approved.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn, unanimously approved at 7:07PM.

**Documents Examined**

Green Communities Grant Contract, Opt-Out Health Insurance Policy, Town Election Calendars for BoS vacancy, Letter of resignation-Wanda Kelly.

Respectfully submitted, Susannah Carey