



## **Minutes of the Board of Selectmen**

Date: December 19, 2022  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: McCourt Social Hall  
Present: Vice-Chair Howard, Clerk Grigg, Selectman Hicks, Selectman Pepe and  
Administrator Bridges  
Remote: Chairman Woodbury

### **Call the Meeting to Order**

At 6:00 pm Vice-Chair Howard called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Announcement Any members that are participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law**

Mr. Howard announced that Chairman Woodbury will be participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law and as such, all votes will be taken by roll call.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

#### **Review & Act on the Meeting Minutes of November 21 and December 5, 2022**

*A motion to approve the minutes of November 21, 2022 (Pepe/Grigg) passed 5/0 by roll call: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury- yes*

*A motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 2022 (Pepe/Hicks) passed 4/0 roll call: Grigg-abstained, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury- yes*

### **Citizens Input**

None

### **Communications**

Administrator Bridges noted that the Clean Water Trust approved loan forgiveness for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project in the amount of \$6.5 million dollars off the top.

### **New Business**

#### **Review & Act on the Board of Selectmen Appointment for CMRPC Delegate & Alternate for FY2023**

*A motion to nominate Selectman Grigg as the CMRPC Delegate (Hicks/Pepe) passed 5/0 by roll call: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury- yes*

*A motion to nominate Selectman Howard as the CMRPC Alternate (Hicks/Pepe) passed 5/0 by roll call: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury- yes*

**Authorization to Expend Donated Funds for the Purpose for which they were Intended: Senior Center**

Administrator Bridges reported that State law requires that the Board of Selectmen authorize the expenditure of donated funds for the purpose for which they were donated. The Senior Center has a coffee can donation and over the past year, \$41.00 was deposited into the can.

*A motion to authorize the Senior Center Coffee Can Donations for the support of the Senior Center (Hicks/Grigg) passed 5/0 by roll call: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury- yes*

**Town Administrator's Report**

No additional items to report at this time.

**Contracts for Consideration and Approval - Review & Possible Action on:**

**2023 Firefighter Safer Equipment Grant:**

*A motion to approve Firefighter Safer Equipment Grant (Grigg/Hicks) passed 5/0 by roll call: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury- yes*

The Board thanked Chief Parsons for his efforts in obtaining the Grant.

**Renewal of Elm Street Parking License with National Grid**

*A motion to approve the Renewal of the Elm Street Parking License with National Grid (Hicks/Grigg) passed 5/0 by roll call: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury- yes*

**Citizen's Input**

Carl Kwiatkowski, Meadow Road: asked why Town Hall was not decorated for Christmas. Mr. Bridges said funds were not allocated after budget reductions several years ago. Dr. Hicks would like to obtain a price from Arsenault & Sons and put the amount in the preliminary budget for FY2024.

Jonathan Viner, 34 Donnelly Cross Road: requests action to have the Highway Department implement best practices regarding snow and ice due to lack of plowing and overuse of salt during the recent storm. Vice-Chair Howard said the Board will take the request under advisement.

## **Board Member and Staff Comments**

Dr. Hicks said he drove from Ludlow to Spencer on December 18<sup>th</sup> and there was more snow in that area than in Spencer, yet the lack of plowing and salting in Ludlow and on the Mass Pike, as well as other towns along the way made for very unsafe conditions. Spencer roads were well treated and with under two inches of accumulation, it was unnecessary to plow the roads; salting made for safe conditions.

There was an accident on Route 9 which created some issues, however the Town is only responsible to treat Route 9 from Valley Street to Park Street.

Chairman Woodbury recently attended a retirement party for Dispatcher Laurie Zukowski, along with Dr. Hicks, and Administrator Bridges and stated that the Board should recognize all Town employees who retire. Dr. Hicks said a Certificate of Appreciation should be presented by the Board. Discussion will take place at the next meeting.

## **Schedule ARPA Workshop Meeting Dates**

ARPA Workshops will be scheduled on Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> and Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Pepe would like to block off the off Mondays for ARPA discussions.

## **Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A: §21(a), ¶3: to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining for all Town Bargaining Units**

*A motion to enter Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A:  
§21(a), ¶3: to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining for all Town Bargaining  
Units (Hicks/Grigg) not to reconvene in open session passed 4/0 by roll call vote: Grigg- yes  
Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury- was remote and did not vote. 4/0.*

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie  
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: Safer Grant Contract; Elm Street Parking Lot Contract