



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: May 10, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Audioconference Broadcasted Live from McCourt Social Hall
Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Remote: Chairman Hicks, Vice-Chair Woodbury, Clerk Howard, Member Pepe
Member Berthiaume was absent.
Also remote: Health Agent Daoust

Chairman Hicks called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and announced that the meeting is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, pursuant to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Virus. In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have suspended public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. We are currently meeting remotely and as such, all votes will be taken by roll call in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law.

Review and Act on Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2021

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 26, 2021 (Woodbury/Pepe) passed 3-0 with a roll call vote: Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-abstained, Woodbury-yes

Citizens Input

Matt Defosse, Paul's Drive, asked the Board to expedite the in-person meetings to the public. Dr. Hicks said when capacity restrictions are lifted, in-person meetings can begin.

Review and Act on Coronavirus / COVID-19 Response

Health Agent Daoust reported that there are 168 total Coronavirus cases, with 11 active. The Rutland Clinic has opened vaccinations to students 16 years of age and over, with parental consent.

Old Business

Review & Act on Town Administrator Screening Committee

Mr. Pepe said his preference is to have Community Paradigm bring the final candidates to the Board.

Dr. Hicks suggested having two Select Board members serve on a screening committee if the Board decides to go that route. Mr. Woodbury would like to see Department Heads involved as well.

Mr. Shemeth said he believes it is important to have a screening committee as part of the process to allow for public input.

The Board will discuss further at a future meeting.

New Business

Review & Act on the Request of Tara Donohue, DPHS Athletic Booster Club to hold a Toll Booth on Saturday, June 12 with a rain date of Saturday, June 19, 2021, at the intersection of Main/Maple, Main/Elm, Main/Pleasant, and the Transfer Station from 8 am to noon

A motion to approve the request of Tara Donohue, DPHS Athletic Booster Club to hold a Toll Booth on Saturday, June 12 with a rain date of Saturday, June 19, 2021, at the intersection of Main/Maple, Main/Elm, and Main/Pleasant from 8 am to noon (Woodbury/Pepe) passed 4-0 with a roll call vote: Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes

Ms. Donohue will contact Utilities & Facilities for approval at the Transfer Station.

Review & Act on the Request of Melissa Huard, Leicester-Spencer Raiders to hold a Toll Booth on Saturday, August 7 with a rain date of Sunday August 8, 2021, at the intersection of Main and Pleasant from 9 am to 3 pm

A motion to approve the request of Melissa Huard, Leicester-Spencer Raiders to hold a Toll Booth on Saturday, August 7 with a rain date of Sunday August 8, 2021, at the intersection of Main and Pleasant from 9 am to 3 pm noon (Woodbury/Pepe) passed 4-0 with a roll call vote: Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes

Dr. Hicks suggest having the rain date on Saturday August 14th which will offer more activity.

A motion to approve rain date for Leicester-Spencer Raiders on Saturday August 14th (Woodbury/Pepe) passed 4-0 with a roll call vote: Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes

Review and Act on Ratification of Scott Conner as Veteran's Agent

Mr. Gregory reported that Veterans Agent Tim Gagnon submitted his resignation and plans to retire in June. He appointed Scott Conner as the new Veterans Agent asked the Board to ratify the appointment. Mr. Conner has served the Town in many capacities and fully understands the needs of veterans today.

A motion to ratify the appointment of Scott Conner as Veteran's Agent (Pepe/Woodbury) passed 4-0 with a roll call vote: Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes

Mr. Pepe thanked Mr. Gagnon for his dedicated service to Spencer, noting he has done a great job. The Board agreed.

Review and Act to Designate Select Board Member to Assist with Review of Owners Project Manager Qualifications for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Dr. Hicks noted that he is the Board's liaison to the Sewer Department and asked if any members are interested in assisting with the review of owner's project manager qualifications.

Mr. Gregory noted that the State requires an owner's project manager for projects valued over \$1.5 million; interested firms will submit qualifications which will be evaluated by the group.

A motion to nominate Dr. Hicks as the liaison to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Owner's Project Manager review of qualifications (Howard/Pepe) passed 4-0 with a roll call vote: Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes

Discussion on Deer Run Subdivision

Dr. Hicks reported that the Deer Run Subdivision was built over twelve years ago and the developer went out of business, leaving the road and sidewalk unfinished.

U & F Superintendent Bill Cundiff said there is over \$210,000 in the Deer Run Subdivision account which is not enough to complete all the work required. Some building lots were taken by the Town due to nonpayment of taxes and there are hurdles to work out before the other lots can be sold. He suggests the Planning Board develop a plan for the work required in Phase II.

Mr. Woodbury said he believes there are legal issues and a legal opinion is necessary prior to completing any work. Town Planner Todd Miller noted that in the meantime, surety funds are available to provide for the repair of the most pressing safety concerns. Mr. Miller said a list of questions will be provided and asked for authorization to reach out to KP Law. Mr. Woodbury said Attorney Eichman is already working on this. Mr. Cundiff and Mr. Miller will participate in a call with Attorney Eichman. Mr. Woodbury recommends that the Planning Board Chair be involved as well.

Town Administrator's Report:

May 6th Annual Town Meeting Wrap-up and take any action related there to

Mr. Gregory reported that the Town Meeting was a success and thanked the Fire Chief and all who helped with the set-up. Dr. Hicks also thanked Corey Lacaire for his service at Town Meeting and to the Fire Department.

May 11th Annual Town Election Update

Mr. Gregory indicated that all safety protocols will be followed at the Annual Town Election.

Citizen's Input

Bill Shemeth thanked Corey Lacaire and Chief Parsons and all who helped the Town Meeting run smoothly.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Pepe and Dr. Hicks thanked Ms. Berthiaume for her service on the Board and to the Town. Mr. Pepe would like the Town Planner to check in on businesses to assist with economic development.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:59 PM (Woodbury / Howard) passed 4-0 with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Woodbury-yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant