

Selectboard Meeting 2023-06-07

Board Members Present: Ann Marie Visconti, Chairperson, Curt Robie, Member; Regrets Tonya Santaniello

Town Residents Present: Tamarin Laurel Paine; Adair Laurel Cafarello, Joseph Kearns, Doreen Black, Tracy Main, Crustal Kruszyna, and Catya Belfer

The Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM, Warrants were signed.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of May 24, 2023.

Mark Doane was introduced as new Town Assistant Administrator. He will need a key to office. Addendum: Key issued on June 12, 2023

Warrants have been signed.

Beverly Cooper, Town Accountant, will be late to the meeting but will be in attendance.

Tracey Gero was invited and will be coming

EMS Service plan . Crystal Kruszyna has been in contact with the Regional Director of Western Mass Region 1 EMS , Lisa Herenshaw. Crystal and Lisa are working on a program for response time, and can we meet those expectations. Questions were raised if those statistics are available thru the respective vendor dispatch logs, which Crystal feels is a strong possibility. Crystal has talked with Jenny Dion, Police Chief about medical equipment we have on hand and possibility of having a Medical Director available thru Berkshire Medical Center, to be able to have a supply of epi-pens on hand. Crystal also has appointment with county ambulance as a potential ambulance service for the town. Once a plan of everything is in place, it will need to be signed off on. Crystal is also willing to have an informational meeting for the town as she states there is an interest by the town people for the ambulance services. She will also have to have a narrative in her final report as to how the requests came about. Her goal is to have a proposal to show by mid-July.

Insurance: Both plans presented had a \$300,000 limit in all 3 categories. The MIA plan for FY 2024 is \$11,900, which is \$1000.00 less than FY 2023. VFIS is little less than that, but has 16 pages to go thru. Both have similar coverage; both cover junior fire fighters as well as police and fire personnel, and both cover accidental death. A contract needs to be completed soon, and Fire Chief Ron Radwicz is to go thru by next meeting. meeting. It was discussed that the time frame for a decision to occur is to late to do anything with comparing plans at this point. The ultimate decision was to accept proposal from MIA as it is a known entity, and \$1000.00 less than previous fiscal year. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to stay with MIA,

however, it was recommended that during the coming year to set up meetings with representatives from both insurance companies to do a detailed drill down of options so the town can have the best possible plan available.

Tracey Gero and Diane ? wants to recycle bottles and cans for the Fair Kids Zone. Need mechanical license and insurance, along with inspections for. Tracey stated that she can utilize Kelly's Package Store as a redemption site, and they will take a bag of cans, and receive 12 per bag. Bottles will need to be in boxes of 6/12/24. She also stated that she and Diane will clean out the town owned storage bin at the dump as a place to collect cans and bottles. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to allow Tracey and Diane to proceed with their plans. Tracey will give update on their progress at the June 21st select board meeting.

Transfer station: A lengthy discussion took place regarding the positioning of can/bottle recycling container and a way to make it handicapped accessible. The Highway Department will look at moving can/bottle container, and redirect the traffic flow out of the dump. Once the can/bottle bin is moved, the old pad will be used for if appropriate for paper compactor. Grant money will be used for these improvements, but until then, the stairs will be repaired that allow access to the current place of the bottle/can container. A question was raised of having a pole light installed at some time. It was reported that Matt Radwich last day of employment will be June 8, 2023, with his replacement starting around June 20, 2023.

Summer help is to be advertised for, and one townsperson is willing to do part-time and volunteer duties in order to utilize Senior Work Off program.

Town Park update: granite curbing is in place, pavers to be in place when available in. Work on placing fence posts and fencing up to occur before finishing up. The Highway Department will check to see if they can use the auger from Chester Highway Department to drill fence post holes. Trees are ordered but will not be delivered until after the fencing is in.

The Highway Department continues to work on road grading, using WRAP money. They are also updating/replacing culverts, and looking into replacing guard rails on the Chester Road.

The new police cruiser was registered via Curt, as the MIA registration person resigned and a new person has not been hired to replace him/her. GIS

GIS: Catya has not gotten anything back yet, however, a bill for \$3000.00 was received, but was only budgeted for \$2800.00. A question was raised of taking \$200.00 from the Reserve Fund to pay the bill. It was recommended to wait until July 1, and then request the \$200.00

Cat: Will look at streamlining and improving the town website for increased ease of use by the town people.

Pickleball clinic will be on Saturday June 17, 2023 at the Pickleball Court at the town hall. 2 nets are available for use.

When TA on board will have all board meeting

Adair mentioned that people have concerns with computers and speed etc., and recommended every computer look at to increase user friendliness

The Yearly inspection for the Town Hall kitchen showed that minor improvements are needed, and they will be addressed after July 1

FRTA will develop proposals for transportation for town use, proposals will be sent to Judy Hoag, with updates provided to the select board when available.

Town Hall Cleaning Supplies have been ordered and delivered.

ADA needs for future Curt to pick up OWL for our uses

Town Administrator offer has been made. Background checks need to occur.

The draft of a report on the grant for dirt road is pending. It was reported that PVPC is on their fourth administrator, and that a meeting is needed with that person.

Copies of checks used to pay for services of Ken Murray will be needed in order to submit to the state for reimbursement from grant monies. Open Space paperwork to been sent into state for their use.

Federal Census Report discussed, with a letter signed in regard to census, and faxed back to Susan Straight at Umass.

Town offices to be closed Juneteenth, 19th, July 4th is a Tuesday, and Town Offices will be closed on July 3, 2023

Selectboard meetings 6/21, July 12, July 19, August 9, August 23, September 6, September 20th.

Bill presented for 3rd water test taken at the Senior Center,

Middlefield Congregational Church will gift the town \$2500.00 for town counsel services in researching Church deed or anything needs. A motion was made seconded and carried to accept a gift from the Church.

Mark Doane will attempt to make contact with Mark Oliverly, from Springbrook RE: setting up a zoom call on software.

Bev and Ann Marie discussed multiple issues, with clarification on those issues.

Doreen Black wanted clarification that Cam McNeil is up for re-election in 2025, not 2024, for the Planning Board.

A discussion was held re: investing in CD's from loose cash.

There being no further business to come before the Selectboard, it was closed at 9:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark W. Doane, TAA