

**SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
TUESDAY, September 8, 2020**

Remote Zoom Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Rich Kuklewicz, Chris Boutwell, and Michael Nelson, Town Administrator Steven Ellis, Executive Assistant Wendy Bogusz, Board of Health Chair Al Cummings, Director of Public Health Daniel Wasiuk, Finance Committee Chair Jen Audley, DPW Superintendent Tom Bergeron, and WPCF Superintendent Chelsea Little.

Meeting Being Taped

Votes May Be Taken

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken.

Board of Health Chair opens the meeting roll call taken.

Approve Minutes:

- **Joint Selectboard, Board of Health and Finance Committee, August 24, 2020**
 - *Boutwell makes the motion on behalf of the Selectboard to approve the Joint Selectboard, Board of Health and Finance Committee, August 24, 2020 as presented. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
 - *Boutwell makes the motion on behalf of the Board of Health to approve the Joint Selectboard, Board of Health and Finance Committee, August 24, 2020 as presented. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Aye*
- **Joint Selectboard and Board of Health, August 31, 2020**
 - *Boutwell makes the motion on behalf of the Selectboard to approve the Joint Selectboard, Board of Health and Finance Committee, August 31, 2020 as modified. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
 - *Boutwell makes the motion on behalf of the Board of Health to approve the Joint Selectboard, Board of Health and Finance Committee, August 31, 2020 as modified. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Aye*

Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Board of Selectmen will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment

Dave Harmon expresses concern that there is no policy in place to fill vacant committee positions. Kuklewicz agrees that when positions open up, they should be published more broadly. Boutwell and Nelson concur. Kuklewicz asks Bogusz to make a list of all the boards and committees, their members, and any current openings.

Tom Bergeron, DPW Superintendent

Update on Millers Falls Road Embankment Repair

- Allstate Asphalt was only able to provide three trucks, which slowed production.
- Tomorrow they will send four trucks and two trailer dumps.
- 726 tons of stone was put over the banking, which cost about \$10,527.
- The goal is to do as much as possible during the dry weather.
- The manhole is plugged up and an inlet has been concreted.
- Kuklewicz wonders if "Closed for Construction" and "No Dumping" signs can be put up.

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- Bergeron states that putting up a chain link fence once the work is done is a probability, which would help deter dumping.

COVID-19 Update and Action Items

Review of any Updated State Guidance or Orders

- Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming were added to the list of lower-risk states on September 5th.
- A cluster of COVID cases was identified involving some surrounding communities. The situation is being monitored and Wasiuk will keep us updated.

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the Board of Health Meeting at 6:54 PM. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Cummings - Aye

Personnel Board

Appoint Samuel Stevens, WPCF Laborer/Operator, UE, Grade B, Step 4, \$18.99/hr., 40 hrs/week, effective 9/21/20

Boutwell makes the motion to appoint Samuel Stevens, WPCF Laborer/Operator, UE, Grade B, Step 4, \$18.99/hr., 40 hrs/week, effective 9/21/20. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Police Advisory Groups

- **Sign appointments approved on 8/31/20 as presented through 6/30/21**

The Board endorsed the slate of candidates for the two police advisory groups last week. Effective date of appointments is clarified.

- **Discuss initial meeting plan for advisory groups**

- Ellis suggests convening the two groups together and suggests and summarizes an agenda for this first meeting. This approach would make the first meeting an actual work meeting rather than a training meeting.
- Ellis suggests that the meetings be on either on Tuesday or Thursday evenings at 6/6:30.
- Paula Green thinks Ellis's idea of a "nuts and bolts" meeting is good. After that, she hopes to make possible some strengthening of the skills individuals already own so that meetings between the groups and interactions with the community go as smoothly as possible.
- Ariel Elan expresses enthusiasm for training. She feels the training should not be in open meeting.
- Kuklewicz agrees with the first "nuts and bolts" meeting, followed by training groups outside or in more intimate settings.
- Green agrees that the training groups should be in intimate settings and held outside, but feels that the training groups should be small.
- Ellis and Bogusz will communicate with the group members to discuss swearing in and take a meeting date poll.
- John Hanold stresses that input from the general public was a mandate from Town Meeting.

Town Natural Gas Contract Renewal

- **Review natural gas contract bid results**

- Our present contract for gas is with Direct Energy and expires at the end of December. Prices have dipped recently.

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- Ken McCance states that of the three suppliers, Sprague's quote is the best.
- **Execute contract with low bidder for term to be determined**
Boutwell makes the motion to enter into a contract with Sprague Energy for 28 months at a cost of \$0.60800/therm. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Jen Audley, Finance Committee Chair

Summary of Finance Committee Recommendations for known STM Financial Articles

- We are going to have slightly reduced revenue compared to our earlier estimate.
- We will not have enough funds available in Taxation to fund the things that we had planned to.
- The Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen and others on the Financial Management Team found some places where the operating budget could be trimmed without any risk to the Town. In addition, Olsen found lines that the expenses will come in slightly higher.
- Audley reports the following changes: (1) The Montague Center Park Survey is now going to be funded out of Free Cash, and (2) The Senior Center's roof project's estimated cost has gone up by \$10,000.
- The Finance Committee still recommends that some of the excess Free Cash be moved into specific stabilization accounts.
- Ellis wants people to be aware that we have a very strong General Stabilization Fund balance.
- Ellis hopes to provide a firm number for the burn dump capping by next Wednesday.
- The Shea Theater fire suppression system will require \$4,000 for repair work.
- There may also be an article relative to the purchase of radios to go with the new emergency communication system.

Town Administrator's Report

- **Discussion of letter received regarding Farren Care Center Closure**
 - Ellis reads aloud a letter we received regarding a public hearing on September 16 at 6 p.m. to receive comments regarding the Farren Care Center Closure. This will be posted on the website and the Town's Facebook page.
 - Attorney David Roulston encourages the Board to make a visible statement of opposition. He feels that given the pandemic, this is the wrong time to move clients to Mount St. Vincent, especially as that facility has already suffered 13 COVID-related deaths.
 - The Governor has the power to stop the closure.
 - Kuklewicz would like us to advocate for some redevelopment to the Farren as well as for keeping it active.
 - *Boutwell makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to write a letter to the Governor that all the Selectboard members will sign. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*
 - Ellis states that we have been advocating through our legislators to have major investments made into the facility as it is quite antiquated.
 - We are adamant that Trinity Health should be responsible for a redevelopment study that would help the Town identify what the best uses for the property would be if the closure does happen.
- **MA Office of Disability ADA Project Grant proposal**
Boutwell makes the motion to allow the Town Administrator to resubmit our 2020 ADA Project Grant Submission in response to the FY21 ADA Project Grant Award round

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opportunity. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **DPW Building Project Update**
 - The pavement is going down this week. The lots and entrance will be fully paved by the end of Friday.
 - Things continue to go on schedule.
 - We have received a COVID change order request in excess of \$100,000. The contractor detailed several different items that have affected the cost of implementing the project. The request has been sent to Counsel.
 - The Statewide Director of Federal Funds told Steve that this likely would be an allowable expense under the CARES Relief Act, provided that it is well-documented and well-justified.
- **Execute MOU for the household hazardous waste collection on 9/26/20**
 - Boutwell stresses that residents should re-register for the collection.
 - *Nelson makes the motion to execute the MOU for the household hazardous waste collection on 9/26/20. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Boutwell - Abstain*
- **Special Town Meeting Logistics Update**
 - Things are on track with regard to using the DPW facility.
 - Paul Interland Sound will be available for assisting the Town again.
 - We are in touch with a local vendor relative to table and chairs.
 - Ellis reviews the dimensions of the space. There is room for 466 people, taking into account 6-foot distancing.

Upcoming Meetings:

Selectboard Meeting, **MONDAY, September 14, 2020, 6:30 PM** via Zoom

Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Seconded by Nelson, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye