

Board of Selectmen Meeting

307 Main Street

Gilbertville MA 01031

January 23, 2023

Zoom

In attendance: Julie Quink, Chair, H Robert Ruggles, Vice Chair, Kelly Kemp, Clerk, Nicole Parker, Town Administrator

Meeting is called to order at 6:31

ABCC License form for 2023

The form required by ABCC for has anyone who had failed to renew or if the License was disapproved. The form was not submitted with the Licenses. Form was approved and no licenses were disapproved or failed to renew

Visitor Comments

Anne Barnes brought to our attention to the two abandoned properties on church st. and would like to know if there is an update on these properties.

We have reached out The board of health to see what is listed in the folders regarding the properties to research and see if it was condemned. The Board of Health is net to condemn the building.

2% Increase in Retirement benefits

Worcester retirement board will do a 2% adjustment for current retirees. Any retirees that we currently have in Hardwick, would get 2 % increase on top of the 3 % they receive now. This will be a total of 5%.

The Board of selectmen should wait to vote for an increase as we should see what other towns and boards will be doing.

School Budget increases

Dr. Sheila Muir, Superintendent of Schools and Cheryl Duval, Director of Administrative Services, came to present potential increases for the FY24 budget.

The Governor of MA will have the updated MMA figures their budget is set to be released in March. The school will know more of what the budget will look like. As for now there will be a .5% increase that will occur due to out of town districts.

Dr Muir informed the Board of a Press Box they are looking to update at the Quabbin Middle and High School. They are trying to raise funds through donations, if they do not receive enough donations, they will we reaching out to the surrounding towns to get the additional funds needed.

Mayflower software for assessor approval

KK made a motion to approve the Mayflower Software Evaluation on quote for items 1-4, and the cost will be billed on the per diem bases of \$550 a day and items 504 appraisal cost will be \$2000. As submitted by the Assessor and to authorize Nicole to sign the contract.

HRR Seconded

Roll Call

HRR (I), KK (I), JQ (I)

Town house fire escape quote

The fire escape at the Town House needs to be fixed by the next Hardwick Fair in August per the building inspector. They have received quotes and the cost is under \$10,000.

Anne Barnes stated Peter Schmidt did get the quotes and they met with both companies. Need to check if the Town house budget has enough to cover the cost. The Town house still has two oil deliveries and a furnace cleaning and this will take up the rest of the budget

JQ asked if we can use ARPA funding.

NP I will look into the budget to see where we can get funds for this.

JQ agreed to take funds from our regular budget to cover the cost and to go with the lowest bidder.

Vacancies

Ryan Witkos asked if we will put vacancies on the annual ballot

Currently we have a Planning board Vacancy and Hardwick member Quabbin regional school committee vacancy.

Planning board resignation was received on January 13 by Eric Volheim and he will resign on April 10th

Ned Kelly resigned from Quabbin Regional School committee K-12 resign on April 10. Their original expiration dates were June 30, 2024

Pursuant to MGL 4110 no election shall be held for any office pursuant to this section unless The Board of Selectman file with the Town clerk a notice of an election of such office not less than 15 days before last day to submit nomination papers for certification.

For this to happen on the April 10 election we need to vote on this by February 17. Ryan will need a vote and notice from Nicole that you wish to place on ballot. The vacancy that would need to occur for one year on the Planning board and K-12 Quabbin school committee.

KK made a motion to place on the annual ballot the planning board vacancy and Hardwick K-12 Quabbin Regional School committee vacancy .

HRR Seconded

Roll call

HRR (I), KK (I), JQ (I)

Appointment procedure

To join a committee please send your letter of interest to Nicole and please allow for a reasonable turn around. Board of Selectman try and get all our information in the Thursday before our meeting. If we have not received your letter of interest by then it will be added to the next agenda.

Board of Selectmen are going to look over the Planning boards vacancies. The Board believes there is one for making the procedures and one to implement these procedures.

Meeting minutes

KK made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Board of Selectmen for Oct 3, Oct 4, Oct 10, Oct 24, Nov 7, Nov 9, and Nov 21, of 2022.

HRR Seconded

Roll call

KK (I), HRR (I), JQ (I)

Boiler inspections

The boilers in some of our town buildings were recently inspected and we have violations. Most of the violations were due to smoke or CO 2 alarms in the Municipal Building, Library and Town House. The inspection reports were sent to BEC plumbing and heating of Ware, and they will be working on this to make sure we are in compliance.

Signatures and Approvals

We are in receipt of a Winter recovery grant which is a dot grant given to towns. The other term for this is WRAP. The amount we received was \$1077.16 . Highway has used 35% of this grant towards the completion of the Greenwich road project to preserve the roadway.

Selectman round table

There needs to be a sewer meeting put on the agenda once a month as the Board now oversees the sewer.

Adjournment

KK made a motion to adjourn.

HRR seconded.

KK (I), HR (I), JQ (I)

Meeting Adjourned 8:25