

Board of Selectman Meeting
307 Main Street
Gilbertville MA 01301
February 13, 2023
Zoom

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

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Appointments

KK made a motion to appoint Ned Kelly to the council on aging in the town of Hardwick for the term ending June 30, 2023.

HRR seconded

Roll call

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

Board of Health relative to loss of Leicester /BOH agreement and impacts

JQ has reached out to Stan Remisewski, Chair for the Board of Health, to have a meeting, and JQ has not heard back. We have asked Stan to meet with the Board of Selectmen more than once and they are not interested. It is very concerning we have no working relationship with our Board of Health.

The Board of Health has hired another agent and he is on an as needed basis. KK asked how the Board of Health is paying for this person. We cut their wages for FY23 budget as we had Leicester taking care of the inspections and permits. For the upcoming FY24 budget we will need to fund that line item to pay for the agents.

As a board we had agreed to the contract with Leicester and the Board feels there has not been closure. It is a bit of a loss losing Leicester and their expertise. If a letter can be written to Leicester Board of Health thanking them for their assistance and sorry that the contract did not work and hopefully we will be able to work with them in the future

JQ stated ramification for Leicester terminating with us is we may miss out on any grants that we would have been eligible for.

Condemned buildings on Church St

Tex Sarabia the old Board of Health Chair, had gone through extensive work to get them into compliance. NP did get to speak with Stan Remisewski and the properties are in receivership and under the impression that it is uninhabited so it does not fall under their jurisdiction and should be on the building inspector to deem these buildings condemned.

Currently those buildings have red X's so Kelly believed they were condemned by the prior building inspector.

If condemned, then the town will have to tear down those buildings and the town will be responsible to do that.

Police storage container.

Board of Selectman received three quotes from Hardwick Police for the storage containers that will hold evidence and be located on Lower Road where they can easily access the files.

The Police have decided to go with Island Industries as they are local and we will use ARPA funding for the containers.

KK made a motion to use ARPA funds for 20 ft container for the Police Dept for a total amount \$5330 from Island Industries out of Brookfield MA

HRR seconded.

Roll call.

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

Sewer commitment

Three new sewer connections were missed when the November bills went out. The bills equal a total of \$1756.59.

KK made a motion to approve the sewer commitment for 3 additional hookups in the amount of \$1756.59 for the first bills.

HRR seconded.

Roll call.

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

Q drug

Q-drug sent an email to the Board of Selectmen, that they would like to place the purple ribbons around town in support of Q Drug.

The Board approved Q-drug to place the ribbons on the town common and around town.

Hydrant abatements

We have hydrant bills that are sitting in account in the amount of \$8050 and were never given to tax collector. Marcum, our Town accountant said we need to abate those bills.

KK made a motion to abate the outstanding hydrant maintenance bills in the amount of \$8050 which is the outstanding receivables for fiscal year 2022.

HRR seconded.

Roll call

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

CBGC

The town of Hardwick is partnering with Ware for the CBGC grant. Ware being the lead on this grant we can work on community development and maybe set up a community development committee.

Master planning committee

The Board has received a lot of emails of interest to be on the Master Planning committee. The Master Plan we have is outdated and needs to be updated. There was a meeting with Central Mass Regional Planning Committee (CMRPC) and they will be working with us to update the Master Plan.

We have a Capital planning committee and would like to know when this committee was created.

If Nicole can reach out to Ryan Witkos to see if he has any information on this committee.

Sewer project change order

Need to update the address on the original easement that has been relocated just north of the common where it was originally located.

Tax map maintenance approval

We received a proposal from Jen Kolenda, Assessor as we do every year to approve GIS for our tax map maintenance in the amount is \$1900.00

KK made a motion to accept Tax map maintenance proposal for the town of Hardwick from CAI technologies maintenance agreement of \$1900 additional \$20 Per building added or changed for Calendar year 2023.

HRR seconded.

Roll Call

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

One day license for Stone Church

Stone church will be having a Irish luncheon fundraiser on March 11th from 2-4. Stone church will be providing the beer and they need a one-day license.

Friends of stone church will be pulling out the permit and will need to get us all necessary paperwork or the license.

Selectmen Round Table

We are holding Monthly meetings with the dept heads as The Board is trying to stay connected to town employees,
We will hold a meeting, Wednesday February 15, at 2:00.

Covid Vaccine

There is a Vaccine clinic that will be held at the town house February 22nd from 3-6 pm. Each Individual who receives a vaccine will be awarded a \$75. Gift card.

DPU and National Grid will be having public hearing to allow DG facilities to interconnect in, and around Brimfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monsoon, Palmer, Wales, Ware and Warren. The meeting will be held March 8 at 2 by Zoom. (See Attached)

Wellness Grant

Town of Hardwick was awarded a wellness grant. The old treasurer/collector room has been converted to our break room and relaxation room. Picnic tables were purchased for Highway and Fire to use for outside their buildings.

Vacant town owned parcels.

The former Senior Center, Paige Building and Ruggles Hill School are now covered under insurance. They previously were not covered so if anything had happened to these buildings the town would have been responsible for cost to fix them or take them down. These buildings are costing the town money and not sure what The Board of Selectman will want to do with them.

Hardwick/Barre Senior Center

There is a coffee hour at the Hardwick/Barre senior center the first Wednesday of each month at 9 am. So please come in and learn about things going on in town.

New website.

We are currently working on our new website to be launched the end of February. Julie Murkette has been working with them to make sure everything we need is on the new website and would like to thank Julie for all her help.

Building Inspector resident complaints

HRR brought to our attention some residents are having an issue with Bill Cantell, Building Inspector, with getting permits or being able to reach him. If we can have a meeting with Barre about this and maybe see if he needs help and maybe we can find him help with someone who already works at the municipal building and needs an extra 5 hours.

KK wanted to bring to our attention the issues we will be facing with our upcoming budget. At first glance at the budget we are \$571 thousand dollars over two and a half. People need to recognize this and we as a Board must be creative on where we need to find this money.

Pathfinder Regional School Budget Meeting

The budget meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15th at 6:30 pm. Hopefully someone from our Finance committee, Selectmen and Nicole can be there. The meeting is also offered by Zoom if you can attend this way.

Motion to adjourn.

HRR seconded.

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

Meeting is adjourned 8:20