

**HARDWICK SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**307 Main Street  
Gilbertville, MA 01031  
April 8, 2024**

Attendees: Eric Vollheim (EV), Chair; Kelly Kemp (KK), Vice Chair; Nicole Parker (NP), Town Administrator; James Ayotte (JA), Chief of Police; Anne Barnes (AB), Town House Committee; Mark Korzec (MK), Capital Planning Committee; H. Robert Ruggles, Clerk was absent.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Conservation Commission**

EV stated Janet Skagerlind's interest in serving on the Conservation Commission.

**Motion**

KK made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Conservation Commission to appoint Janet Skagerlind to the Conservation Commission term ending June 30, 2024.

EV seconded.

The motion passed (2:0).

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

EV stated receipt of a letter from Mr. Comerford noting Lucas Wright and Curtis Stillman would like to be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**Motion**

KK made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Glenn Wojick to resign from the Zoning Board of Appeals effective March 25, 2024.

EV seconded.

The motion passed (2:0).

**Motion**

KK moved to appoint Lucas Wright and Curtis Stillman to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending June 30, 2024.

EV seconded.

The motion passed (2:0).

#### **Morss Scholarship Essays**

EV noted NP developed a model for the essay submissions; however, EV suggested omitting the SAT score portion. A conversation ensued regarding distribution to Quabbin and Pathfinder schools as well as students who are homeschooled. KK also recommended a notification be placed on social media (Facebook, town website, etc.).

#### **2023 Annual Report Dedication Recommendation – Lillian Holden**

EV noted Ryan Witkos' recommendation to dedicate the Annual Report this year to Lillian "Pinky" Holden.

#### **Motion**

KK made a motion to dedicate the Town Report this year to Lillian "Pinky" Holden.

EV seconded.

The motion passed (2:0).

#### **Hardwick Rod and Gun Club Rimfire Rampage**

EV explained the Rod and Gun Club wants to have a shoot in the evening on April 20, 2024. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. and conduct it under the lights lasting only a few hours.

KK questioned if there were any issues in the past with similar events. JA stated the usual comments from select neighbors. KK suggested the Club notify the neighbors as a courtesy.

#### **Motion**

KK made a motion to allow the Hardwick Rod and Gun Club to hold their Rimfire Rampage Night Owl on April 20, 2024 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

EV seconded.

The motion passed (2:0).

#### **Set Annual Election Time – May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Per the warrant, 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

#### **Motion**

KK made a motion to approve the Annual Town Election Warrant for May 4, 2024.

EV seconded.

The motion passed (2:0).

**Budget Assessment: Pathfinder**

KK asked NP what the increase was in the budget by Pathfinder. NP responded it was approximately \$44,000. The Finance Committee will review the budget.

**Capital Planning Committee – Roof repairs to the old Highway Barn**

MK stated the Capital Planning Committee has been working on a town inventory:

- 41 parcels of land
- 22 structures
- 178 acres

The old Highway Department building is occupied by the Highway Department, Fire Department, Hardwick Fair Committee and the Historical Society. MK distributed photos of the building showing the hole in the roof, and vehicles in storage at that location. MK has been working with Marty who has been obtaining bids with bids being under \$40,000.

The Capital Planning Committee wants to recommend the entire roof be replaced with a metal roof. The Finance Committee has also recommended replacing the whole roof per MK. Discussion ensued regarding financing the project.

**Motion**

KK made a motion to move forward on the repair of the old Highway Barn roof.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

**Revolving Account Transfers: Town House & Recycling**

NP stated the Town House and Recycling have gone over their limits. As a result, the Finance Committee and Selectboard need to approve the transfers. Once approved, the accountant will then transfer funds over. A discussion ensued with comments from AB explaining overages for the Town House.

**Motion**

KK made a motion to transfer \$6,236 to the Recycling Commission out of their revolving account to clean up overspending.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

**Motion**

KK made a motion to transfer \$700 to the Town House Committee out of their revolving account to clean up overspending.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

#### OTHER NEW BUSINESS

#### **Meeting Minutes Approval**

- March 25, 2024 meeting minutes.

#### **Motion**

KK made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 25, 2024.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (2:0)

#### **Miscellaneous Correspondence**

- Correspondence was received from the Mass Central Railroad regarding vegetation control via herbicide applications:
  - Rights-of-Way: May 17<sup>th</sup> - June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024
  - Brush Application: July 19<sup>th</sup> – August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- Correspondence was received from massDOT pertaining to a business in town and parking on the state highway.

#### **Town Administrator Report**

- USDA update is available on the WPCF web page on website.
- 94 Main Street Mill update.
- Creamery Road Bridge update.
- Planning Board Public Hearing regarding Casella property.
- Recycling Bulky Day.
- Book and bake sale at Paige Library.

#### **Town Administrator Departure**

NP has been selected to be the new Town Administrator in Southwick. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the Town of Hardwick for the past 3 years.

#### **Adjournment**

#### **Motion**

KK made a motion to adjourn.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.