

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
AUGUST 29TH, 2017 AT 6:30PM
TOWN HALL, SELECTMEN'S CONFERENCE ROOM

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chairman Brooks called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Chairman Harry Brooks, Vice-Chair Dianna Provencher, 2nd Vice-Chair Sandra Wilson, Selectman Douglas Belanger, Selectman Brian Green, Interim Town Administrator Jim Purcell, Assistant to the Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg and Student Liaison Alyssa Pupillo were in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public provided comment

1. SCHEDULED

a. 6:30pm – Recognition of Leicester Students

The Board presented certificates of recognition to Abi Johnson, Sarah Brouillard, Rian Fadden and Grace Guinee for their work collecting school supplies for kids in need.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Student Liaison Reports

The liaisons wished all students good luck starting school.

b. Harvest Fair Judging

Mr. Brooks read a letter from the Harvest Fair inviting the Board to judge the food at the Fair. Harry Brooks will judge and Jim Purcell and Kristen Forsberg are invited to judge if they would like as well.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Resignations

None

b. Appointments

None

c. Disposition of Land – Parcel in Russell Park – Purchase & Sale Agreement

Mr. Purcell presented a Purchase & Sale Agreement with Kurt Parliment and Sharon Nist for the sale of land within Russell Park as approved at Town Meeting. One proposal was received at the minimum opening price of \$3100 and was determined to be a qualified bid.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to sign the Purchase & Sale Agreement for the parcel in Russell Park with Sharon Nist and Kurt Parliment. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Set Date, Time and Location for Fall Special Town Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Wilson to set the date, time and location for Fall Special Town Meeting as November 7th at 7pm in the Town Hall Gym. The motion carried unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION/OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Administrator Search Update

Mr. Brooks provided an update on the Town Administrator search. Interviews of candidates are scheduled for Thursday and Friday with the Town Administrator Search Committee and consultant Bernie Lynch. The committee is whittling down a little more than 30 applications. Mr. Purcell noted the candidates' names are protected until the finalists are decided upon.

b. Farmers Market Regulations

Ms. Forsberg presented information relative to Board regulations for Farmers Markets. Ms. Forsberg noted that the farmers market at the Castle Restaurant has been required to have an Outdoor Business License for years but the Board has never drafted specific regulations governing licensing of farmers markets. The zoning bylaws allow the Board to regulate farmers markets if they so choose. Ms. Forsberg also noted that this is a Right to Farm community and Board of Health permits are already required. Mr. Belanger stated he did not see any reason for overregulation and that there aren't enough farmers. He stated if there is an issue the Board does have a legal right to regulate but that the Board of Health approval is the number one concern and if that is covered he doesn't see a need for additional regulations. Ms. Provencher noted either all or no farmers markets should be regulated. Ms. Wilson noted many businesses with farmed goods are already paying license fees. A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Wilson to remove the licensing requirement from farmers markets. The motion carried unanimously with one abstention (Ms. Provencher).

c. Update on the Fire & EMS Headquarters

Ms. Wilson provided an update on the Fire & EMS headquarters construction. The siding on the building is moving along well and the retaining wall will be finished by the end of September. Ms. Wilson noted that there will be no parking at the library except for one handicapped space but there are temporary marked off spots along Washburn Square. Ms. Wilson stated everything is going along very well and the opening should be at the beginning of November. Mr. Green asked what the original opening date for the building was. Mr. Purcell responded May 15th, then September 11th, then November 17th and now its back down to November 7th as they are working hard to get things done faster. Mr. Purcell added it is a superior product.

5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Purcell noted the library construction is very nearly on schedule and is going great. All interior demolition has been completed in the existing building and footings for the expansion have been poured almost the entire length of the westerly and northerly borders of the side. The site work is going very well and the site should be in good shape for the October rains and winter weather. Agreements have been secured with abutters to allow entry onto their properties.

Great progress has been made on the Church Street bridge grant application. VHB has been hired as consulting engineers as they did the original bridge work. The grant application has been changed from the original request for the Auburn Street bridge to the Church Street bridge which is in more dire need of replacement and the application is complete. Meetings have been held between Tom Wood, the project engineers and MassDOT and the Town received a letter of support from Senator Moore's office. Everything possible has been done to ensure our application will be competitive.

Progress is being made on the Town Hall Renovations Project. The CDBG Committee met earlier today to discuss the accessibility project to include the elevator and accessible bathrooms. The 3rd floor renovation project is moving forward as well. There is now one architect for both projects. \$40k of the \$50k proceeds from the sale of 1078 Main Street will go into the 3rd floor renovations project while the remaining \$10k will be used to pay

for the leaseback. The Town Administrator's office is working hard to get the School Department over to the Town Hall by the end of the fiscal year.

6. MINUTES

a. July 31, 2017

b. August 14, 2017

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Belanger to approve the minutes of July 31, 2017 and August 14, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

7. BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS

Mr. Belanger asked that a note be made to look at licensing fees down the road and look at what other towns charge. Mr. Belanger added that his thoughts and prayers are with the victims of Hurricane Harvey and urged residents to give even \$10 if they can.

Mr. Green stopped by the highway department and saw the staff being trained on how to use the new backhoe. The new one-ton dump truck is coming in tomorrow and will help with winter cleanup. Mr. Green noted the staff was grateful for getting the equipment they need but there still need to be more people to run them.

Ms. Wilson attended the preconstruction meeting for the Rt 56/Paxton Street roadway improvement project which will work on improving the road from Hyland Ave to Main Street over the next 12 months. The project will start at Winslow Ave and work its way towards Hyland Ave this fall with some minor utility work from Winslow Ave to Main Street. MassDOT has stated the road will not be totally closed except a few times for 1-2 hours during non-peak hours at which time road detour signs will be put up. At no time will the road be left open overnight; plates will be used during the day and it will be closed up every night. Tonight is the last Concert on the Common. Yesterday the Board toured the new medical marijuana facility which is still planning to give hiring priority to Leicester residents. About 30-35 employees will be hired and jobs are advertised on Indeed.com. ST Joseph's/St. Pius is having a Family Fun Fest Saturday which is open to the public and includes raffles, vendors, games for the kids and a chicken bbq.

Ms. Provencher said the walkthrough of the new medical marijuana facility was quite interesting. Ms. Provencher stated she will be participating in the Family Fun Fest. As school opens tomorrow, Ms. Provencher reminded residents to be aware of their surroundings and watch for kids.

Mr. Brooks cooked at a Senior Center bbq. Mr. Brooks went to MSBA in Boston yesterday to discuss the Middle School project with the Town Administrator, school officials and the Middle School Building Committee.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION, MGL CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 21A

No executive session was held.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Belanger at 7:21pm. The motion carried unanimously.