

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2020 at 6:30pm
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chairwoman Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Chair Sandra Wilson, Vice-Chair Harry Brooks, 2nd Vice-Chair Rick Antanavica, Selectwoman Dianna Provencher, Selectman John Shocik, Student Liaisons Katheryn Stapel and Jacob Stolberg, Town Administrator David Genereux and Assistant to the Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg were in attendance.

1. SCHEDULED ITEMS

a. 6:30pm – Public Hearing – FY2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application

The Chair read the public hearing notice. A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Brooks to open the public hearing at 6:34pm. The motion carried 5:0:0.

Andrew Loew with the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission discussed the proposed grant application to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for Community Development Block Grant funds. Proposed projects include housing rehabilitation, accessibility improvements at Russell Park and neighborhood improvement in Cherry Valley. Mr. Loew noted that approximately 30 units of housing rehab have been completed in the Town since the first application to the State. This year's application would request approximately \$235,000 for 7 units of housing rehab. The application also requests approximately \$70,000 in funds to design accessibility improvements at Russell Park. Mr. Loew noted that the CDBG Advisory Committee has recommended the proposed neighborhood improvement projects in Cherry Valley be deferred to a future application due to lack of response from residents, which is required for eligibility, despite substantial outreach and the fact that it would pull the overall application score down. The application is due March 6th and grants will be awarded in mid to late summer 2020. A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Provencher to close the public hearing. The motion carried 5:0:0.

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Shocik to support and approve the submission of an FY20 CDBG application as discussed, with allowance for minor budget or program adjustments as needed and to authorize the Chair and CFO to sign all documents required for the application. The motion carried 4:0:1 (Ms. Provencher abstained).

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

3. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Student Liaison Reports

The student liaisons presented updates from the Leicester Public Schools.

b. Select Board Reports

The Select Board members discussed a variety of topics including icy roads this past Friday, the Agricultural Commission Forestry workshop on Jan 28th and looking into harvesting at Town parks, the sale of 15 Water Street for \$140,000, the crosswalk at Giguere Gymnastics, Rep LeBoeuf is looking into the crosswalk issues at Giguere's and the Library Children's Room dedication in memory of Carol Fauerbach.

c. Town Administrator Report

The Town Administrator presented highlights from his written report.

4. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

a. Veterans Services Officer – Jason Main

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Antanavica to appoint Jason Main to the position of Veterans Services Officer for the Town of Leicester. The motion carried 5:0:0.

b. Development & Inspectional Services Department Assistant

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Shocik to appoint Tiffany Peters to the position of Department Assistant for the Development & Inspectional Services Department. The motion carried 5:0:0.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Final FY20 License Renewals

CV	Families Together, LLC	1601 Main Street, Leicester 01524
CV	Karol's Corner Take-Out	610 Pleasant Street, Rochdale 01542
CV	London's Ice Cream & Sandwich Shoppe	724 Main Street, Cherry Valley 01611
BYOB	Karol's Corner	610 Pleasant Street, Rochdale 01542

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the licenses as listed on the agenda. The motion carried 5:0:0.

b. \$1,000 Swan Tavern (1 Paxton Street) Donation - Leicester Historical Society

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Provencher to accept a \$1,000 donation from the Leicester Historical Society for Swan Tavern. The motion carried 5:0:0.

c. Statement of Interest – Mass School Building Authority – High School Boiler Replacement

Dr. Tencza noted that the boilers at the high school are over 25 years old and asked the Board to support the School Committee's request to seek future funding consideration from the Mass School Building Authority for their replacement. Submittal of the Statement of Interest does not commit the Town to fund this project. A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Brooks to authorize the School Committee to submit the Statement of Interest to the Mass School Building Authority for the high school boilers. The motion carried 5:0:0.

d. Construction Administration Contract – Fuss & O'Neill – Waite Pond Dam Replacement Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Antanavica to authorize the Chair to sign a construction administration contract with Fuss & O'Neill for the Waite Pond Dam Replacement grant. The motion carried 5:0:0.

e. Design Contract – VHB – Fire & EMS Headquarters Ponds and Drainage

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Shocik to authorize the Chair to sign a design contract with VHB to address water issues at the new Fire & EMS Headquarters. The motion carried 5:0:0.

f. Conveyance of Property - Lehigh Road - Hillcrest Water District

Ms. Wilson noted that many years ago, the Hillcrest Water District water tank was built on the other side of Lehigh Road on Town owned property and the land ownership needs to be swapped. A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Shocik to convey the property on Lehigh Road to the Hillcrest Water District. The motion carried 5:0:0.

g. Police Sergeant Assessment Center Discussion

Mr. Genereux noted that there is an opening for one sergeant upon promotion of two former sergeants to Chief and Lieutenant. This would bring the total number of sergeants to four as one position was given away to fund

the lieutenant. The assessment center would allow the 8-10 officers interested in becoming a sergeant the opportunity to be tested and put on a list that would be valid for 3 years. A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to set up a police sergeant assessment center. The motion carried 3:1:1 (Mr. Brooks abstained, and Ms. Wilson opposed).

h. FY21 Budget Discussion

The Board discussed the FY21 budget including two positions being funded out of free cash (Economic Development Coordinator and Highway Truck Driver/Laborer), the reserve fund, the proposed use of a lock box in the Treasurer's office to free up time for employees to handle employee benefits in-house rather than contracting out for services at a cost of \$8,000 per year, additional postage funds to send out quarterly bills rather than semi-annual bills and the accounting request to fund Vadar cloud at an additional cost of \$6,000 per year.

i. Set Town Meeting Date, Time and Location for School Building Project Vote

Mr. Brooks presented a request from the school building committee to hold a special town meeting on Saturday, June 6th, 2020 at the high school (time TBD) to vote on the proposed new school. The fine arts center at the high school can accommodate 550 people with overflow in the cafeteria on live feed if needed. LCAC is not able to broadcast live from the high school at this time. Town Clerk Debbie Davis requested the Board place the school vote on the annual town meeting warrant and use the evening meeting rooms for overflow. Ms. Davis noted that the meeting could be continued to the next evening or the following Tuesday if needed and that June 6th is too close to the town election for voters to make an informed decision. Ms. Davis also expressed concern about the acoustics at the fine arts center. Paul McCarthy at 56 Charlton Street noted he put the June 6th date out as a save the date and apologized for the confusion. Mr. McCarthy noted that approximately 500 people showed up for the new high school vote and expressed concern about room at Town Hall and getting people to come back for a second night. Greg Buteau at 2 Merrick Street noted that 512 people voted for the former high school at a two-hour stand-alone 1pm Saturday meeting and over 500 people attended the recent vote on a new school in Millbury. Mr. Armington noted the last time a major town meeting was held in the town hall gym it was mayhem and severely overcrowded. Mr. Armington requested this meeting be held on a separate day from Annual Town Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Wilson to hold a special town meeting on May 30th. Under discussion, the lack of air conditioning in the town hall gym, the sound system in the fine arts center received a \$15,000 upgrade 3 years ago, the screen allows for viewing of people sitting on the stage, concerns about graduations at the end of May/beginning of June, concerns about spring sports on weekends in May, pushing the vote out to fall special town meeting, etc. Mr. Brooks rescinded his motion to hold a special town meeting on May 30th. A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Shocik to hold the school vote at the annual town meeting on May 5th and to continue the meeting to May 9th if needed. Under discussion, Mr. Armington stressed that the school building committee requested a stand-alone date for this vote and urged the board to respect this request. Mr. Antanavica amended his motion to hold a special town meeting on May 9th at 10am for the school vote and Mr. Shocik seconded this amendment. Under discussion, the building committee expressed concern for the early may date given approvals needed by MSBA, parking issues at the Town Hall. The motion carried 3:2:0 (Mr. Brooks and Ms. Wilson were opposed). A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Wilson to hold the meeting at the high school. The motion carried 3:2:0 (Mr. Shocik and Mr. Antanavica were opposed).

The Board took a ten-minute recess.

j. Memorial School Disposition and Fields Discussion

Mr. Wilson noted the fields were not part of the Memorial School disposition vote that was taken at Town Meeting and the fields are the property of the town. Mr. Genereux noted that selling the building land without

the fields results in the fields becoming landlocked and eliminates public access. The board discussed the possibility of placing disposition of the fields on the next town meeting warrant. Mr. Genereux noted the Memorial School Disposition Subcommittee requested the building be emptied so photos could be taken for the RFP. This cleanout is taking longer than expected and remains ongoing. Teachers are going back through the building to select any items they would want to keep and then the schools will have their custodians remove the remaining items from the school by April vacation.

6. MINUTES

a. January 27, 2020

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the minutes of January 27, 2020. The motion carried 4:0:0 (Mr. Brooks stepped out of the meeting).

b. Executive Session Minutes of January 15, 2020 and January 27, 2020

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the minutes of January 15th and January 27th, 2020. The motion carried 5:0:0.

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

a. Exception #3 – Discuss strategy with respect to litigation (Fire & EMS Headquarters)

b. Exception #3 – Discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Police Union)

A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to enter into executive session at 9:32pm under Mass General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21A, Exception #3, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation (Fire & EMS Headquarters) and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Police Union). The Chair declared that to discuss these matters in open session would compromise the position of the Town. Roll call: 5:0:0.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Brooks at 11:19pm. The motion carried 5:0:0.