

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
NOVEMBER 6, 2017  
TOWN HALL, SELECTMEN'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER/OPENING**

Chairman Brooks called the meeting to order at 6:36pm. Chairman Harry Brooks, Vice-Chair Dianna Provencher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Sandra Wilson, Selectman Douglas Belanger, Selectman Brian Green, Interim Town Administrator Jim Purcell, Assistant to the Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg and Student Liaisons Alyssa Pupillo and Robert Kemp were in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No members of the public provided comment

**1. SCHEDULED**

**a. 6:30pm – (2) Pole Hearings – Paxton Street & McNeil Highway**

Paul Davis with UC Synergetic presented a petition for joint pole relocation on Paxton Street on behalf of Verizon. The purpose of this petition is to accommodate for the MassDOT Route 56 project. Three poles need to be relocated in order to widen the road. A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the joint pole relocation petition on Paxton Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Pedro Cardosa representing National Grid presented a petition for joint or identical pole locations along McNeil Highway. The purpose of this petition is to install five new poles for the new solar farm. John Miczek from Breezy Gardens stated there were many problems during the construction stage of the solar farm over the summer and stated he needs to be guaranteed this stage will not impact his business. Mr. Miczek further requested a start date in writing, noting there will be traffic issues if the project starts after March 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Miczek requested National Grid provide 3 police details and put this in writing. Mr. Miczek cited a number of issues he had over the summer when the solar farm was installed including a lack of a commercial curb cut, lack of a proper staging area for equipment and workers, obstruction of visibility pulling in and out of his business, lack of police details and parking on Route 9. Mr. Cordoza assured Mr. Miczek that National Grid would work with him. Mr. Belanger stated he did not want to delay the property but the property owner wants assurances that there will be police details and this won't interfere with his business. Mr. Green noted the problems cited had to do with the solar farm not National Grid. Ms. Wilson stated per the Chief's policy, any work done on Route 9 requires a detail and National Grid always calls and schedules the details. A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the petition for joint or identical pole locations along McNeil Highway with the assurance that National Grid will provide a police detail and follow all Town policies and rules. The motion carried unanimously.

**2. CORRESPONDENCE**

**a. Student Liaison Reports**

The boys soccer team won 7-2 Friday and the girls soccer team won 4-1. The football team won Saturday 28-13 against West Boylston and they are playing Blackstone on Saturday at 2pm at Foley Stadium in Worcester. Boys soccer is playing tonight against Clinton and the girls soccer team is playing tomorrow night.

**b. Senior Center Donations**

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Ms. Wilson to accept \$350 in donations to the Senior Center for the Veterans Breakfast. The motion carried unanimously.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. Resignations**

None

#### **b. Appointments**

##### **i. Economic Development Committee –Carol Pappas & Jim Reinke**

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Belanger to reappoint Carol Pappas and Jim Reinke to the Economic Development Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

##### **c. Builder Systems Inc. Change Order #6 – Fire & EMS Headquarters**

Ms. Wilson presented change order #6 for the Fire & EMS Headquarters to remove organic soils found when the contractor started to build the westerly parking lot. These soils are similar to what was found at the Library and it appears people dumped items such as lawn clippings, leaves and tree stumps over the years onto the site. The cost for these soils to be removed and replaced with gravel for stability is \$38,683. A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Green to approve change order #6 with Builder Systems Inc for the Fire & EMS Headquarters. The motion carried unanimously.

##### **d. Professional Services Contract – James P. Purcell**

Mr. Purcell noted that David Genereux will become the Town Administrator on November 13, 2017 but since Town Meeting is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Purcell presented an agreement to continue his services to the Town through November 14<sup>th</sup>. This will enable Mr. Purcell to indoctrinate the new Town Administrator in Town operations and to work through the end of Town Meeting. This is a two-day service contract. A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the two-day professional services contract with Mr. Purcell. Under discussion, Mr. Belanger thanked Mr. Purcell for going above and beyond and filling this position better than he believes anyone else could have. Mr. Purcell noted while the original services contract stated he would work approximately 20-24 hours per week he has worked an average of just under 26 hours per week over the 16 weeks he was here. The motion carried unanimously.

##### **e. 2017 Annual License Renewals**

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Ms. Wilson to approve the license renewal requests as presented contingent upon applicable fire inspections and Tatnuck Driving Range paying outstanding taxes first before receiving their license. The motion carried unanimously.

### **4. DISCUSSION/OLD BUSINESS**

#### **a. Special Town Meeting**

Mr. Purcell noted that the Cupola article (article 6) will be passed over as more information is needed and the compressor has been moved to Article 2. Mr. Purcell discussed changes to Article 2 including adding \$5,000 for Town Hall oil as a precautionary measure based on a 3 year analysis of fuel consumption at the Town Hall and changing the amount to be requested for liability and bonding insurance to \$5,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to support Article 2. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Purcell noted the Town has a recent practice of transferring ambulance receipts for reserve at town meeting to pay back the Town for carrying this account over the first 3 months of the fiscal year. Ambulance Reserve Receipts now on hand are \$411,00 but only \$285,000 were on hand in the spring when the budget was approved.

**b. Town Hall Renovations and Relocations Presentation**

Ms. Forsberg presented the attached presentation on renovations to and relocations at the Town Hall.

**5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Purcell noted interviews for the Assistant Collector are underway and interviews for the Highway Superintendent will occur on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup>. John Knipe, the Shrewsbury Highway Superintendent has agreed to participate in the Highway Superintendent interviews as well as new Town Administrator David Genereux. Mr. Purcell discussed options for repairing the retaining wall at 1 Paxton Street including asking MassDOT to pay for the repairs along the stretch of the roadway they are improving and perhaps using Chapter 90 funds to pay for the Main Street side of the wall.

**6. MINUTES**

- a. October 2, 2017**
- b. October 16, 2017**
- c. October 30, 2017**

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the minutes of October 2, 2017 and October 16, 2017 and to pass over the minutes of October 30, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

**7. BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS**

Mr. Green asked who grants the license for solar farms and Mr. Purcell responded it would be the Planning Board. Mr. Green requested the Town Administrator reach out to the Building Inspector, Police Department Highway and the Planning Board to discuss the issues raised by the owner of Breezy Gardens regarding the solar farm.

Ms. Wilson reported on Trick or Treating, noting kids were lined up at 6pm and she had over 280 kids but only 6 kids from 7:30-8pm. Ms. Wilson noted the hours seem to work and moving it to a Saturday would just double the number of kids. Ms. Wilson asked if the Boston Post Cane would be given out at fall Town Meeting. Ms. Forsberg responded that per the Town Clerk, it will be given out at Annual Town Meeting in the spring.

Ms. Provencher noted dry food donations can be dropped off on Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> from 9-10am at St. Joseph's church and there are many other places around town that food can be dropped off including the Primary and Memorial Schools and the Hair Force.

Mr. Brooks noted this Thursday is the Veterans Breakfast at the Senior Center. The breakfast starts at 9am but Mr. Brooks recommended arriving by 8:30am. Everyone in Town is invited. The breakfast is free for veterans and \$3 for non-veterans. Saturday at 2pm boys soccer will play Blackstone Valley Tech at Foley Stadium.

Ms. Provencher noted the veterans have a quick ceremony at Bean Square on Veterans Day at 11am. Ms. Provencher stated it would be good if residents would come out and show their support for the veterans.

**8. FUTURE MEETING TOPICS**

The 2018 Tax Classification Hearing will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Ms. Wilson to enter into executive session at 8:06pm and to resume in open session only for the purpose of adjournment. The Chair declared that to discuss these matters in open session would compromise the position of the Town. Roll Call: All Ayes. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Provencher at 8:48pm. The motion carried unanimously.