

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2016 AT 6:30PM**

**CALL TO ORDER/OPENING**

Chairwoman Provencher called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Chair Dianna Provencher, Vice Chair Douglas Belanger, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Sandra Wilson, Selectman Harry Brooks, Selectman Thomas E. Buckley, III and Town Administrator Kevin Mizikar were in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No members of the public provided comment

**1. SCHEDULED**

**a. 6:30pm – Representative Kate Campanale**

This item was rescheduled

**b. 7:00pm – Worcester Regional Airport Easement**

Peter Austin with Massport presented a request for two easements across Mulberry and Earle associated with the Worcester Regional Airport landing improvement project. The existing system allows landings with up to 1800ft visibility and installing a category III system will allow landings with up to 600ft visibility. There will be additional and denser lighting. Massport will purchase the equipment and FAA will maintain it. In order to install the equipment, easements are needed for installing the conduit system and for accessing power across Mulberry and Down Earle Streets. Mulberry Street would be a 450 ft. easement to construct the conduit system which FAA will alter maintain and Earle Street would be a 1300sq ft., 25 ft. wide easement to run cable and conduit down the side to feed the light system. This is a two year project which is expected to start in late June and be operational in December of 2017.

Mr. Belanger asked about the process to install the systems along Mulberry and Earle. Mr. Austin responded that they would trench down in the street and install underground piping 3-4 inches in diameter to run cables in which would result in 20 individual pipes encased in concrete. Mr. Belanger asked once completed what will be the change or inconvenience to the public. Mr. Austin responded the system will only be turned on during seven weather conditions during which time there would be additional lighting.

Mr. Mizikar stated he has a map from earlier in the year and noted it appears the road crossing is further north. Mr. Austin stated this is correct as additional power must be obtained from National Grid so the easement had to move up to meet the connections. Mr. Mizikar asked if any improvements were being made up grade as there is an issue moving snow from east to west due to the fence. Mr. Austin noted that there will be 3 small towers on the edge of the right of way and stated it was likely that the FAA will clear Earle street because they will need access to the towers and substations on Earle Street at all times. Mr. Belanger suggested an agreement be formalized where the airport be responsible for clearing Earle Street. Mr. Buckley asked how long the roads would be closed down for work. Mr. Austin responded that work would be done by half lane at a time so they would always be passable. Ms. Wilson asked if it is Mulberry Road or Street. Mr. Austin responded by deed it is Mulberry Road but he would check. Mr. Mizikar stated Earle Street is a designated snowmobile trail that is part of a larger State trail and asked if it would need to be plowed down to bare pavement which is not preferable. Mr. Buckley asked if Town Meeting does not vote to approve the easements if the airport can get the category III system based on this plan and Mr. Austin responded in the negative.

**c. 7:15pm - Liquor License Hearing & Common Victualler Application – Eagles Club**

At 7:15 pm the Chair read the public notice for the Eagle's liquor license hearing. A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Buckley to open the public hearing.

**Vote by Roll Call:**

Provencher - Aye

Belanger – Aye

Wilson – Aye

Brooks - Aye

Buckley – Aye

Scot Peterson, past president of the Eagles, presented a request for a liquor license and a common victualler license for the Eagle's Club to be located at 850 Main Street. The Eagles is a national organization founded in 1898 with over 1500 local clubs and 850,000 members in North America. The closest club is in Worcester. The Leicester/Spencer club was instituted in 2012 and met at Hillcrest Country Club two times per month until moving to Pineridge Country Club to have more space. The Eagles are a philanthropic club and give money to community organizations.

Mr. Belanger noted the PD recommended putting a no left turn sign at the end of their driveway and asked if this was an issue. The Eagles in attendance stated this would not be an issue. Ms. Wilson noted this is a just a recommendation and stated the recommendation was never made for the last 3 businesses in this location.

Mr. Buckley asked how many liquor licenses are still available. Ms. Forsberg responded that there are 14 on premise liquor licenses and 9 are currently in use.

Mr. Brooks thanked the Eagles for their work with Secret Santa and the food pantry

Mr. Mizikar stated that the property owner, who also owns several of the surrounding properties, submitted a letter stating he has no issue with this license request. Mr. Mizikar asked the Eagles about their outdoor seating plan. Mr. Peterson responded it would be member only seasonal bistro tables where members could have a drink.

Mr. Brooks asked if the space would be rented out. Mr. Peterson responded in the negative.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Brooks to exit the public hearing.

**Vote by Roll Call:**

Provencher - Aye

Belanger – Aye

Wilson – Aye

Buckley – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Brooks to approve the liquor license for the Eagles Club at 850 Main Street. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Brooks to approve the common victualler license for the Eagles at 850 Main Street. The motion carried unanimously.

## **2. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **a. Police Department Donation**

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Ms. Wilson to accept the donation of rubberized pellets to the police department. The motion carried unanimously.

### **b. Fire Department Donations**

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Buckley to accept the fire department donations. The motion carried unanimously.

## **3. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Resignations**

None

### **b. Appointments**

#### **i. Per Diem/On Call EMT Basic – Megan Cooney**

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Buckley to appoint Megan Cooney to the position of per diem/on call EMT basic. The motion carried unanimously.

### **c. Purchase 1 Paxton Street**

Mr. Mizikar presented an agreement to purchase 1 Paxton Street as approved at Town Meeting in the fall to provide access to the new Fire and EMS Headquarters.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Buckley to sign the purchase and sale agreement for 1 Paxton Street and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute all related documents including closing documents. The motion carried unanimously.

### **d. Purchase 3 Paxton Street**

Mr. Mizikar presented an agreement with Becker College to purchase 3 Paxton Street as approved at Town Meeting in the fall to construct the new Fire & EMS Headquarters for \$1 with the right of first refusal on the Town Hall and Middle School and a parking agreement at the Town Hall.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Belanger to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the purchase and sale agreement for 3 Paxton Street with Becker and execute all other related documents once the deed is conveyed. The motion carried unanimously.

### **e. Renewal Contract for Electricity Supply**

The Town competitively purchases the supply of electricity out on the market and is often able to obtain a much lower rates. All Town buildings use solar and 93% of the Town's electricity currently comes from solar. Mr. Mizikar watches the trends and asked for the authority to continue to monitoring and lock in pricing when it is in the Town's best interest and prices must be locked in within a 24 hour period once they start to level off (they are currently dropping).

A motion was made by Mr. Buckley and seconded by Ms. Wilson to authority the Town Administrator to monitor electricity trends and lock in a price when it is in the Town's best interest.

Under discussion, Mr. Belanger asked who assists Mr. Mizikar in this process. Mr. Mizikar stated he has an energy advisor through Constellation and relies also on his colleagues in other towns who all lock in around the same time. The contract goes to the attorney general for review as well. Mr. Buckley asked if he wanted the authority to enter into a 1 year agreement. Mr. Mizikar stated he would like the authority to enter into an up to 4 year agreement. The last agreement was 24 months and this agreement will likely be a 2-3 year agreement to manage the risks. Mr. Brooks stated he has a lot of experience in this area and that Mr. Mizikar needs that immediately response ability.

The motion carried unanimously.

**f. License Agreement Hillcrest Water District**

Mr. Mizikar presented a request from Town Counsel via the Hillcrest Water District's counsel for a license agreement to use the land around the water tower near the Memorial School. The district is looking to refurbish the tower with State revolving funds and need a formal legal agreement giving them access to the land which should have been done many years ago to provide the district the ability to use the land and area around the water tower.

Mr. Belanger asked if this would be an IMA. Mr. Mizikar responded it would be a conveyance of land which the Board has the authority to do.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Buckley to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a license agreement with the Hillcrest Water District to use the land around the water tower at the Memorial School. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. DISCUSSION/OLD BUSINESS**

**a. FY17 Budget**

Mr. Mizikar stated the draft budget for FY'17 is still showing a \$108,000 deficit. Next week the first formal budget with narrative will be presented to the board. The current budget does not include Town salary increases. However, since the school budget was developed earlier and does show salary increases, the budget will be adjusted to include Town salary increases to be fair and not balance the budget on the backs of the employees. Mr. Mizikar stated that the deficit must be borne by both sides. Mr. Mizikar noted the Health Insurance Advisory Committee had an initial meeting to discuss adding deductibles and how much to increase rates to address the \$800,000 increase in health insurance costs.

Mr. Brooks asked how many Town employees there are. Mr. Mizikar responded 60-65 including PT EMS employees and added not including raises was a timing issue with the schools and once the budget was in the red he did not want to add further to the deficit by adding them in.

Mr. Belanger stated that he would not support a budget that did not provide an annual wage increase for non-union Town employees.

**b. Proposed FY17 Capital Plan**

Mr. Mizikar discussed the proposed capital plan for FY'17 which is a thin plan and includes two ongoing obligations (ambulance and fire truck leases) in addition to three new CPR compression devices, replacing the highway foreman truck and replacing an unmarked cruiser for a total of \$210,922.

Ms. Wilson asked if the high school roof bid comes in under will there be more funding for the capital plan. Mr. Mizikar stated no, borrowing would first be reduced. Ms. Wilson asked if money was being budgeted for

stabilization. Mr. Mizikar responded not at this time but the Town is not drawing on stabilization and further discussions can be had if snow and ice comes in less than expected.

Ms. Wilson asked if new police officers are included in the FY'17 budget. Mr. Mizikar stated they are not because dispatch funding was kept in to be conservative. Mr. Belanger stated it is important to get to a complete safe and operating PD and would not be opposed to using one time stabilization funds to bridge the gap rather than losing staff because we are not in a long term recession. Mr. Buckley stated we have a really busy slate with so many projects which has brought pride to the community and congratulated Mr. Mizikar on his hard work and remaining calm. Mr. Belanger stated he is impressed with how frugal and innovative all departments have been in order to address the budget deficit.

## **5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

The Town Administrator presented highlights from his written report

## **6. BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS**

Ms. Wilson hopes everyone enjoys the weather.

Mr. Belanger reminded everyone about the Presidential Primary on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Provencher noted that Mr. Mizikar submitted a Community Compact Grant application in the areas of financial management budgeting and economic development. Ms. Provencher also mentioned new state laws regarding sick time pay and Mr. Mizikar stated they do not apply to municipalities.

## **7. MINUTES**

### **a. February 1, 2016**

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Buckley to approve the minutes of February 1, 2016. The motion carried by a majority with one abstention (Mr. Brooks).

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

None

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Wilson at 8:03pm. The motion carried unanimously.