

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MAY 02, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chairwoman Provencher called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Chair Dianna Provencher, Vice Chair Douglas Belanger, 2nd Vice Chair Sandra Wilson, Selectman Harry Brooks, Selectman Thomas E. Buckley, III, Town Administrator Kevin Mizikar, Assistant to the Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg and Student Liaisons Jaymi-Lyn Souza and Robert Kemp were in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Senator Moore thanked Mr. Mizikar, Mr. Belanger and Ms. Provencher for attending the meeting with MassDOT regarding funding for the Rawson Street Bridge. When the new administration took over and assessed all bonds, funding was dropped for this project. Based on the meeting two weeks ago, MassDOT has agreed to reinstate the funding. This project was very important to John Binienda and the bridge will now be named after him. The anticipated completion date for the project is November of 2017. Mr. Belanger thanked Senator Moore for being very passionate and leading the charge to address this public safety issue as the temporary 5 year bridge is now approaching 20 years. Mr. Mizikar stated when he reached out to the Senator he addressed the issue right away and he looks forward to the groundbreaking ceremony and project completion next year.

1. SCHEDULED

a. 6:30pm – Massachusetts Water Resource Outreach Center Presentation

Mr. Mizikar presented the findings from the project undertaken by MassDEP and WPI which began last fall to look at water resources in the Town of Leicester. Student researchers from WPI, Shanel Chisom, U Shwe Thein and James Commisso, worked with DEP, the Town and the Water Districts to help recommend a path forward for sustainable quality drinking water for the Town.

The main findings were that the Town has an inadequate supply of water for residents and businesses along with aging infrastructure. Resource sharing and collaboration amongst the Town's three independent water districts (Leicester, Cherry Valley/Rochdale and Hillcrest) is key to help eliminate the water quality and quantity issues. Moose Hill should also be looked at as a possible source of water and the State Revolving Fund/Mass Works Grants should be looked to for funding. A Water Prioritization Committee should be created to develop a water future plan to propose to DEP. Finally, there should be public outreach to help residents understand the issues and get involved.

Jaymi-Lyn Souza asked how the group recommended engaging the schools. The WPI researchers responded by getting information out to the parents and encouraging them to get involved and attend meetings.

Ms. Wilson noted that Hillcrest and Leicester Water Districts are working to consolidate in their long range plans and that the estimated \$18M to build a treatment plant for Moose Hill does not include the cost for pipes or address the issue of 60% of residents having wells.

Mike Knox, Superintendent for the Cherry Valley/Rochdale Water District, noted that during the focus groups no representative from Hillcrest nor Leicester Water Districts attended so the students' presentation and recommendations reflects their lack of participation despite having been invited.

Mr. Belanger thanked the WPI researchers for producing a valuable professional tool to move the Town forward and asked if Moose Hill was the golden ticket. The WPI researchers responded that the cost of construction and

construction materials are rapidly increasing to it needs to be used asap or not at all and collaboration is key to reducing costs.

Mr. Buckley asked Mr. Knox if he sees the need to consolidate districts. Mr. Knox stated he has since the inception of the Moose Hill Water Commission and there is a more urgent need for it today as Cherry Valley/Rochdale does not have the resources to stimulate economic development since the daily supply is difficult to provide. Mr. Mizikar stated if we don't start today it will only take longer and cost more in the future even though this is a 10-15 year timetable but future generations will be disappointed in us if we don't start. Mike Knox recommended the Board authorize the Town Administrator to put together the recommended groups in order to expand the Town's economic base. Mr. Belanger recommended Mr. Mizikar come back with a plan for how to fulfill the recommendations of this study.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Student Liaison Reports

Jaymi-Lyn Souza will moderate the Board of Selectmen and School Committee candidate debates to be held on Thursday, May 12th and 19th. Both debates are open to the public.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Resignations

None

b. Appointments

None

c. Jurisdictional Authority Agreement – Regional Dispatch – City of Worcester

This addresses one of the concerns the Police Department had regarding what happens when a police officer is in transit to the regional dispatch center from Leicester or Worcester. The agreement is a big step forward and Mr. Mizikar asked for the Board's support. Mr. Belanger stated the agreement is very well planned out and professionally done.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Buckley to sign the Jurisdictional Authority Agreement with the City of Worcester. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Use of 1 Paxton Street - Temporary Library

The Library Building Committee is working through schematic design on the Library expansion and renovation project and plans to break ground in early April of 2017. The project will take approximately 18 months to complete. 1 Paxton Street was acquired to use a portion of the land for the Fire Station project. However, the house on site could work well as a site for the temporary library. Mr. Mizikar has done a walk through with the Fire Department, discussed this option with staff and looked at minor upgrades that would need to be done to meet ADA compliance. There is a \$40K budget for a temporary space for the library and if not all of it is used the rest can go back into funding the renovation. Approximately 1/3 of the collection can fit and the remainder will be stored in a climate controlled container and a trailer that staff can access.

A motion was made by Mr. Buckley and seconded by Mr. Belanger to allow the use of 1 Paxton Street as a temporary library during the library expansion and renovation project.

Under discussion Mr. Brooks asked about a plan B. Mr. Mizikar stated there is no plan B at this time. Ms. Wilson asked about the Town Hall gym. Mr. Mizikar said it had been discussed but not yet explored.

The motion carried unanimously.

e. Memorandum of Agreement – Police Offices – Narcan

Mr. Mizikar presented an agreement with the Police Officers to carry the opioid reversing drug Narcan.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Brooks. The motion carried with one opposed (Ms. Wilson).

f. High School Roof Replacement Project - Solar Panel Removal Agreement – Nexamp

The Town is working with Nexamp to coordinate the removal of the solar panels on the High School roof so it can be replaced. The roof is scheduled to be replaced on June 20th. The agreement is conceptually there and have been approved in form by Counsel but it's not finalized because the Town is waiting on assurances that we are exempt from prevailing wage and public bidding requirements. However, this agreement must move forward as quickly as possible so as not to delay the roof project so Mr. Mizikar asked the board to allow him to execute the agreement at a not to exceed amount of \$200,000. Mr. Belanger asked that a provision be included to protect the new roof when the solar panels are reinstalled. Mr. Mizikar responded there are procedures for reinstallation and the roof will be recertified for its warranty after the panels are reinstalled.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Brooks to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into an agreement not to exceed \$200,000 with Nexamp for the removal of the solar panels on the high school roof. The motion carried unanimously.

g. Memorandum of Agreement – Snow Removal Support –MassPort Authority

Mr. Mizikar presented an agreement with MassPort relative to snow removal operations on Mulberry Street which is at the end of the airport's main runway. MassPort requires this area always be open for access and the Town is not always able to get to it right away.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Wilson to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with MassPort for snow removal support on Mulberry Street. The motion carried unanimously.

h. Declare Water Tower Land Excess

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Brooks to declare the 15,000 square feet around the Hillcrest Water Tower excess land in preparation for the Town Meeting vote to dispose of this land. The motion carried unanimously.

i. Assign Annual and Special Town Meeting Motions

Ms. Provencher assigned the reading of the motions to the Board members.

4. DISCUSSION/OLD BUSINESS

a. Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

Mr. Mizikar noted that there are minor budget changes largely due to increases in insurance. No funds have been spent out of the reserve fund yet this year. Mr. Mizikar noted that the position in the Selectmen's office is back in the budget but only 2/3rd funded at this point.

b. Annual and Special Town Meetings

No additional discussion

5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The Town Administrator presented highlights from his written report.

6. BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS

Mr. Buckley went to the opioid meeting put on by the DA's office and said it was very well done and eye opening.

Mr. Brooks thanked Ashley Daige, Joanne Bernier, all the volunteers who helped and the businesses who made donations to the Earth Day cleanup which collected over 300 bags of trash.

Ms. Wilson noted that May 14th is the postal food drive and the postal service will pick up donations from your home. The Fire Station Building Committee voted Wednesday to put the construction documents out to bid and plan to award a contract by the end of June and start construction in July. Ms. Wilson recommended policies be developed regarding using reverse 911 only for true emergencies and not public announcements and requiring funding allocated for a specific purpose to come before the Board of Selectmen for approval if that purpose is changed.

Mr. Belanger found the opioid meeting very educational and encouraged residents to participate in the postal food drive. Mr. Belanger encouraged residents to attend Town Meeting on May 3rd at 7pm.

Ms. Provencher asked residents to come out and vote at Town Meeting and wished everyone a happy mother's day.

7. MINUTES

a. April 4, 2016

b. April 25, 2016

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Brooks to approve the minutes of April 4, 2016 and April 25, 2016 with the following change:

- Mr. Buckley was not in attendance at the April 4th, 2016 meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Mr. Brooks at 8:26pm. The motion carried unanimously.