

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 23, 2021 at 6:00 PM
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chair Antanavica called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Chair Rick Antanavica, Vice-Chair John Shocik, Second Vice-Chair Herb Duggan Jr., Selectman Dianna Provencher, Selectman Allen Phillips, Town Administrator David Genereux and Assistant Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg were in attendance.

1. SCHEDULED ITEMS

- a. **6:00pm – FY21 Leicester & Barre Regional Community Development Block Grant Application Public Hearing. Application to the MA Dept. of Housing and Community Development Block Grant Program due 9/10/2021**

Mr. Antanavica read the agenda item and Ms. Forsberg read the public hearing notice aloud.

Motion 082321-1a-OPH: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to open the public hearing for the FY21 Leicester & Barre Regional Community Development Block Grant Application at 6:05pm. **Motion carries: 5:0:0**

Chris Dunphy from the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) presented a proposed grant application in the estimated amount of \$881,971 for the following 4 projects: Housing Rehabilitation (12 units), Leicester Housing Authority road, sidewalk, drainage, fence and wall improvements, South Barre infrastructure planning and a developing an ADA Transition Plan for Barre. Leicester would be the lead agency for this joint grant. CMRPC would administer the grant in conjunction with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission who would oversee the housing rehabilitation projects. One member of the public requested that \$10,000 in funding be allocated to a grant writer whose purpose would be to obtain funding for services for the disability community such as meal co-ops for those with dietary restrictions, structured support for daily activities and to hire a doctor or physical therapist to develop a concierge clinic model.

Motion 082321-1a-CPH: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to close the public hearing for the FY21 Leicester & Barre Regional Community Development Block Grant Application at 6:27pm. **Motion carries: 5:0:0**

Motion 032321-1a-APP: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the submission of the proposed FY21 grant application and their respective activities to the DHCD, authorize the Select Board Chair to sign required forms when prepared, and acknowledge CMRPC as the grant management entity. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

- b. **6:15pm - Charter Cable License Renewal Discussion**

The Board discussed complaints received and overall issues with Charter in Town.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public provided comment.

3. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. **Student Liaison Reports**

The Student Liaisons provided updates from the Leicester Public Schools.

b. Town Administrator Report

The Town Administrator discussed highlights from his written report.

c. Select Board Reports

The Select Board discussed various topics including Hurricane Henri, the upcoming Becker Open House, sending out a list of Town grants received with their current statuses, obtaining the status of the parks camera study, developing a local EOC, events at the Senior Center, draft Town Administrator goals, the Firefighters Association reflective house number fundraiser, recent robberies in town, removing standing water for mosquito control, kudos to the police department for helping residents at the concert on the common and doing an excellent job with community service, and structural & environmental issues with the Town schools.

4. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

a. Resignation – Ferol Smith – Commission on Disabilities

Motion 082321-4a: A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to accept the resignation of Ferol Smith from the Commission on Disabilities. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

b. Resignation – Brian Knott – Health Insurance Advisory Committee (Highway Union Rep)

Motion 082321-4b: A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to accept the resignation of Brian Knott from the Health Insurance Advisory Committee (Highway Union Rep). **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

c. Appointment – Billy Burt – Health Insurance Advisory Committee (Highway Union Rep)

Motion 082321-4c: A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to appoint Billy Burt to the Health Insurance Advisory Committee as the Highway Union Rep. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

d. Appointment – Michael Silva – ADA Coordinator

Motion 082321-4d: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Phillips to appoint Michael Silva as the ADA Coordinator for the Town of Leicester. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

e. Appointments – On Call Firefighter Recruits

i. Michael Griffiths, Kyle Hesselton, Jack Larson, Michael Albro, Jr., Shawn Honcharik, Riley Whalen

Recruits Michael Albro Jr. and Riley Whalen were not in attendance. They were therefore not appointed and were asked to attend a future meeting if still interested in being appointed.

Motion 082321-4e: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Phillips to appoint Michael Griffiths, Kyle Hesselton, Jack Larson and Shawn Honcharik. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

f. Appointment – Doug Belanger – Cable Advisory Committee

This item was passed over.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Discuss Funding for EMS Hiring and Training

Interim EMS Director Brian Kelley discussed outstanding ambulance collections since 2017. There are 513 outstanding accounts totaling \$504,188.18 that have not been sent to ComStar to be collected. Mr. Kelley recommended writing off 75 accounts totaling \$87,584.55 because facility did not pay, bad address, report submitted too late, hardship request, deceased/no estate, or bankruptcy. Mr. Kelley recommended pursuing collections on the balance of the 438 accounts totaling \$416,603.63. Additionally, last year, 79 transports were never billed because reports were not completed in time. This represents approximately \$28,000 in lost

revenue. Mr. Kelley also noted that over a 4-year average, only 45% of transports were ALS (paramedics). If the Town hires more paramedics and sends them out on more calls, there will not only be a higher level of care but the revenue will be higher as the payout for paramedic services is higher than that for EMT basics. Mr. Kelley noted the ambulance billing rates set in 2018 by the Select Board are close to where they should be. He will return with recommendations on rates at a future meeting.

Motion 082321-5a-WO: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to write off \$87,584.55 in uncollectable ambulance receipts and to move forward with collections on the remaining \$416,603.63 in outstanding receipts. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

Mr. Kelley discussed the lack of training pay for new EMS recruits. He recommended implementing a reduced rate this year and increasing it to a full rate next year. He requested \$12,840 for training.

Motion 032321-5a-PS: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the proposed FY22 candidate pay scale at \$13.50 for EMT candidates, \$14.50 for AEMT candidates and \$15.50 for Paramedic candidates for a total cost not to exceed \$12,840 to be paid from the EMS operating budget. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

b. Accept Senior Center Donation

Motion 082321-5b: A motion was made Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher to accept a \$1500 donation to the Senior Center from the Camosse Family Foundation. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

c. Award Bituminous and Cold Planing Bids and Execute Contracts - PJ Albert

Motion 082321-5c: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the bituminous concrete and cold planning contracts with PJ Albert. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

d. Sign Becker Special Town Election Warrant – September 21, 2021 from 12pm-8pm, Town Hall Gym

Motion 082321-5d: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to sign the Becker Special Town Election Warrant. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

e. Vote Recommendations & Sign Becker Special Town Meeting Warrant

Motion 082321-5e-BG: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to hold the Becker Special Town Meeting at the Becker Gym, 963 Main Street in Leicester. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

Motion 082321-5e-A1: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik not to recommend Article 1: **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

Motion 082321-5e-A2: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to recommend approval of Article 2. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

Motion 082321-5e-A3: A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to recommend approval of Article 3. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

Motion 082321-5e-A4: A motion was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Phillips to recommend approval of Article 4. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

Motion 082321-53-SW: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Phillips to sign the Special Town Meeting warrant. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

f. **Discuss/Vote on FY22 Town Administrator Goals**

This item was passed over.

6. MINUTES

a. **August 2, 2021**

b. **August 9, 2021**

Motion 082321-6: A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the minutes of August 2, 2021 and August 9, 2021. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**

Motion 0823-21-7: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Ms. Provencher at 9:52pm. **Motion carries: 5:0:0.**