

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 1, 2019 at 6:30pm
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chairwoman Provencher called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Chair Dianna Provencher, Vice Chair Sandra Wilson, Selectman Harry Brooks, Selectman Rick Antanavica, Town Administrator David Genereux, Assistant to the Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg and Student Liaisons Alyssa Pupillo and Katheryn Stapel were in attendance. Selectman Green was absent.

1. SCHEDULED ITEMS

a. 6:30pm – Devin Kravitz Memorial Race – Request to Use Town Roads

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Brooks to authorize the use of town roads for the Devin Kravitz Memorial Race on August 31, 2019. The motion carried 4:0:0.

b. 6:35pm – Library Expansion & Renovation Update

Mr. Genereux provided a brief update on the library expansion and renovation project. The project remains at 98% completion. The Building Committee has expressed some frustration regarding the completion of the last remaining items. The furniture is on order and will be delivered within the next 60 days. The committee voted to authorize February and March payments to the General Contractor but hold the checks until further progress is made. The estimated opening is in May.

c. 6:45pm – Cultivate Host Community Agreement

Rob Lally and Sam Barber with Cultivate discussed their proposed expanded cultivation facility to be located at 22 Burncoat Street. Cultivate has reached an agreement with the property owner and has begun preliminary site work. Mr. Lally noted the proposed site would have more office capacity, additional processing and distribution space in addition to the primary use as a cultivation facility. Mr. Barber stated he anticipates adding 25-30 employees at the new site and the facility would be built out in two phases. The projected size of the facility is still being discussed. Mr. Genereux stated the agreement calls for \$100,000 upon facility completion, \$125,000 in year 2 and \$150,000 per year for the final 3 years of the agreement in addition to new taxes estimated at \$100,000 per year. A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Brooks to approve the Host Community Agreement with Cultivate Holdings, LLC for a cultivation facility to be located at 22 Burncoat Street. The motion carried 4:0:0.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Steven Palauskas discussed the water rates in Cherry Valley and the working group of districts, legislators and town officials. 1000 cubic feet is \$174.20 water – may have overlooked \$29 flat fee. Website called monkeybutler.com put in a rate calculator for any water or sewer district in town. Clarification was made that Hillcrest water and Hillcrest sewer are separate districts with their own unique boundaries and board of commissioners.

Mike Shivick stated Towtaid Park cleanup went well and thanks to highway for their assistance. Blackstone River Valley plaques have been vandalized – funding is an issue – can someone with the board follow up – what would the price be?

3. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Student Liaison Reports

Topics discussed included Primary wellness fair, freedom trail at memorial, ELA MCAS upcoming, middle school 6th grade trip to nature's classroom, international club trip to London and Italy, evening with the arts on April 4th at the High School.

b. Select Board Reports

The Select Board discussed several topics including:

- Nomination papers for elected offices being available as of today and due April 23rd;
- The most recent joint water/sewer meeting went well, DEP, Governor's media coordinator was there;
- Rabies clinic Sat April 13th 10am to noon – Town Clerk's office open as well;
- Recommended that ads for Highway summer help be issued;
- Availability of natural gas – getting an updated cost estimate on cost to get it to Town Hall – as for expanding it down Rte. 56, Mr. Genereux explained that they stated unless you have an end user that will use enough gas to make it worth their while they will not build
- Memorial school deeded to the town from the Smith family,
- MMA legislative breakfast meeting on DY2020 budget, chapter 70 and charter school finance reform
- Marijuana, public records, funding OPEB.

c. Town Administrator Report

Work on Church Street bridge will commence May 6th – set to be open to traffic by August 16th, agreement with Little League and Girls Softball will be reviewing – had at least 3 groups present at the site visit – bids due April 16th.

4. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

a. Appointment – Election Workers

Motion made by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Antanavica, to appoint the election workers as presented. Motion carried 4:0:0.

b. Appointment – Cheyenne Cusson - Assistant Treasurer/Collector

Assistant Collector Ms. Cusson introduced herself to the Board. She stated that she was crossed trained by the previous Assistant Treasurer before she left, and she feels comfortable moving into the new Assistant Treasurer/Collector position based on what she was taught so far. Motion made by Ms. Wilson to Appoint Ms. Cusson to Assistant Treasurer/Collector, seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion carried 4:0:0.

c. Department Assistant Position – Treasurer/Collector Office

Mr. Genereux stated that he was posting the position internally for period of 10 days – notifications go out to all departments and on website. Assuming no suitable candidates come forward will post externally. This would be a Level 2 position; main role will be customer service and data entry. Originally the office had one level 4 and two level 3 positions. The new configuration is level 4, 3, and 2, which will create a succession plan in the office.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Revote to Expend \$122,000 from the School Special Education Stabilization Account in FY20

Mr. Genereux asked the Board to reword a vote taken a previous meeting. Motion made by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Ms. Wilson. Voted carried 4:0:0.

b. Amendment #3 – Finegold Alexander Contract – Middle School Feasibility Study

Mr. Genereux explained that this amendment was for hazardous materials inspection services for existing middle school as part of MSBA feasibility study. Mr. Antanavica requested that the existing buildings, including the

Memorial School be considered. Motion made by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Ms. Wilson to authorize the Chair to sign the contract amendment. Motion carried 5:0:0.

c. Vote Hours for Annual Town Election – June 11, 2019 from 12pm to 8pm – Town Hall Gym

Motion made by Mr. Brooks, Seconded by Ms. Wilson to set the hours for the Annual Election as written. Motion carried 4:0:0

d. Sign Annual Town Meeting Warrant and/or Vote Board Recommendations

Mr. Brooks stated that he wanted to wait for the Finance Advisory Board recommendations.

Mr. Genereux walked the board through the draft warrant – key topics of discussion included the proposed highway/ed position, the FY20 budget, and vocational tuition

e. 1 Paxton Street Reuse Discussion

Dianna Calvano, President of the Leicester Historical Society was present and discussed having the building restored via donation of craftsmen work, and grant opportunities. Representatives from the Historic Society and the Historic Commission met to discuss the possibility of the museum, and establishing a friends group. They are also almost ready to submit for a \$5,000 grant.

Historical Commission voted on January 20th to recommend the town retain ownership for one year working in partnership with the Leicester historical society to create a historical museum – By August of 2019 Historical Commission will notify board if this isn't working out and work with the board to ensure preservation of property

Motion made by Mr. Antanavica, seconded by Mr. Brooks to allow the Historic Commission to take control of the building. Voted 4:0:0.

6. MINUTES

a. March 18, 2019

Motion made by Mr. Brooks, Seconded by Mr. Antanavica to accept the meeting minutes as written. Voted 4:0:0.

b. March 25, 2019

Mr. Brooks request that we had language regarding the discussion of economic development position – the Board was in agreement that the Town needs this position. Motion made by Mr. Brooks, to vote the amended meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Antanavica. Motion carried 4:0:0.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. Executive Session Minutes

b. Exceptions 3 & 7 – Discuss strategy with respect to pending litigation in the case of BSI v. Town of Leicester, Civil Action No. 1885CV00985 pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) and (7) and Suffolk Construction v. DCAM, 449 Mass. 444 (2007).

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Brooks, at 8:57 pm to enter into executive session under Mass General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21A, Exceptions 3 and 7, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation (BSI Litigation); meeting with Town Counsel pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) and (7) and Suffolk Construction v. DCAM, 449 Mass. 444 (2007) to discuss pending litigation in the case of BSI v. Town of Leicester, Civil Action No. 1885CV00985 and to review executive session minutes. The Chair declared that to discuss these matters in open session would compromise the position of the Town. Roll call: 4:0:0.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Brooks at 10:14 pm. Roll call: 4:0:0.