

**Hardwick Board of Selectmen
Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building
307 Main Street
Hardwick, MA 01031**

Meeting Minutes August 8, 2022

Location of Meeting: Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, 307 Main St, Hardwick, MA 01031

In Attendance: Julie Quink, Chair, H. Robert Ruggles, Vice Chair, Nicole Parker, Town Administrator

Kelly Kemp Clerk (absent)

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Cable Buildouts/Contract Renewal

- Received a new contract from Eileen Leahy.

Budget review for Special Town Meeting (Joint Meeting with Finance Committee)

- Fincom, looking to cut to balance budget to pay the school Budget.
- (JQ) Not happy with the school budget process, not collaboration and (KK) has stated the same. FY23 is an increase of \$95,000. Feels that Hardwick can handle the budget, but other regional towns cannot, especially Hubbardston.
- (NP) Informed the school that she was going to recommend that the BOS not cut anything.
- Fincom believe that by cutting Snow & Ice and underfunding Town budgets they can support the school Assessment.
- (NP) Stated that the school is hiring 10.2 new positions.
- (JQ) Stated that if the school budget passes, Town will need to look at what reductions will be needed. Noted that If cuts are made to IT, Legal, Town Building, they will overspend. No issue with cutting Snow & Ice.
- Fincom discussed the Police cuts and (NP) stated that they could not be made as they were contractual.
- Town Clerk stated that he could reduce Election Compensation by \$1,000.

- Clarification was given by (JQ) that the BOS planned to not approve the school Budget but if that motion failed, a revised Town budget would be presented with cuts in several departments including Police, Fire, Selectboard, Town Building, IT, Assessors, Town Election and the largest in Snow & Ice of \$25,000.
- (NP) New Braintree and Hubbardston are planning not to support the school budget.
- (JQ) Meet on August 16th with worksheets ready for the STM. (NP) will contact the school to attend.
- Fincom member wanted to approve the school budget, so that they don't need to go back to Town Meeting.

Appointments/Reappointments

- Town Clerk provided revised list and stated that if a committee no longer exists, don't need reappoint.
- Motion (JQ) seconded (HR) to accept the list of appointments as submitted by the Town Clerk, with the exception for the Broadband Advisory Committee and any New Braintree residents under the emergency management. All in favor
- Motion (HR) seconded (JQ) to appoint Liz Riley to the Town House Advisory Committee. All in favor

New Business Meeting Minutes

- Motion (HR) seconded (JQ) to accept Minutes of 2/28/22, 3/14/22, 3/28/22, 6/27/22, 7/11/22, 8/1/22. All in favor.

Recycling

- Acknowledge receipt and accept \$10,000 for a mattress collection container under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant Program from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.
- (NP) BOH are going to get a container for these mattresses, cost will be under \$10,000.
- Motion (HR) seconded (JQ) we accept the municipal grant under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. All in favor.

Old Business ARPA Funding

- (NP) Informed Sarah (Mass Munifin) to concentrate on high level items and start reining things in as there were already three invoices totaling \$25,000 to June 30, 2022. She stated that she had detailed reports of who is working, whether it is Sarah or another employee.

- (NP) Believe the amount will be \$35,000, for the work that is remaining and one day a week for the next month.
- Motion (HR) seconded (JQ) to allocate ARPA Funds of \$35,000 towards Mass Munifin. All in favor.

Town Warrant Signing Process

- Motion (JQ) seconded (HR) to authorize two signatures on the warrant one being a Selectboard member and the other (NP) for the warrant to be processed and the check to be generated before the warrant submitting to Melanson. All in favor.
- (HR) Stated that he had been informed of Water needs, (NP) informed him that for ARPA reporting, all funding requests need to be in writing.
- (JQ) Asked that ARPA be included in the next meeting agenda.

Committee Reports

- (NP) Received several reports that will be sent along to the Selectboard, can discuss at the next meeting if needed.

Town Administrator Report

- USDA has re-released the funding for the Sewer Project, and we are moving forward again. Working with Joe Delvo, the lead on the project. Have a spreadsheet that we are going to be using for reporting.
- DPC has submitted a NOI to Conservation because where the proposed pump station is in their jurisdiction. Waiting on a title research, will follow up with Town Counsel.
- Retirees Insurance, writing the policy for the personnel review. Will call a meeting of the personal committee in the near future to incorporate it into the handbook that is currently being typed up. Will be in front of the Selectboard at some point when it's done
- DLS visit was supposed to be July 1st, I will follow with them to see when they will visit.
- OSRP, we have an Open Space and Recreation Plan that we want to update so that we can apply for grants for equipment at the Gilbertville Park. We will need to appoint a committee to work with CMRPC at some point.
- Harvest Fair is August 19th and 20th hope to see everyone there.
- Town House, so many inspections including building fire extinguishers, elevator security system and now we need a fire escape inspection. Called a few companies and finally was able to secure an inspection for tomorrow. If it does not pass inspection, an emergency repair will need to be made to enable the fair to hold events on the 19th. Supposed be inspected every five years.
- CM Geeks received all the equipment this week. Have installed two computers in my office and the old Collector/Treasurer's office. Don't know we

- STAM, I joined a small committee to work on a bylaw committee and legislative committee for the Commonwealth.
- Today met with two other Town Administrators and all agree that the assessment is unsustainable and realize that it is based on formulas. So have requested a meeting with DESE.

Signatures and Approvals

- (NP) Made copies of keys and postage. Receipts of \$32.50 presented for signature.

Selectmen Roundtable

- (HR) Not sure if Selectboard should be part of Sewer meetings. Basically, don't have a Sewer Commission.
- Sewer Meeting arranged for August 16th. Will keep on the Selectboard's agendas in case there is any business regarding sewers.

Motion (HR) seconded (JQ) to adjourn meeting at 7:28pm. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L. Riches

Carol L. Riches
Executive Assistant