

## **HARDWICK SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**307 Main Street  
Gilbertville, MA 01031  
November 27, 2023  
*Amended***

Attendees: Eric Vollheim (EV), Chair; Kelly Kemp (KK), Vice Chair; H.R. Ruggles (HRR), Clerk; Nicole Parker (NP), Town Administrator; Scott Potter (SP), WPCF Superintendent; Ryan Wilkos (RW), Town Clerk.

Executive Session was called to order at 6:30 p.m. regarding Open Meeting Law Complaint. Reason #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

### **OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Visitation: Mr. St. Laurent – Affordable Cars, Greenwich Road**

Mr. St. Laurent made an appeal to the Selectboard regarding non-renewal Class II used car sales and repair license owned by Brian Gillespie.

Mr. Gillespie, Affordable Cars, addressed Mr. St. Laurent's concerns and stated he has 7 years left on his lease.

RW provided additional details pertaining to notice of decision, certificate of no appeal, notice of special permit and the notice of the decision from 2002.

Discussion ensued regarding ownership of vehicles and number of cars allowed on the property.

#### **Motion**

KK made a motion to take this under advisement and try to ensure there is nothing the Selectboard is missing.

NP stated with a Class II license there cannot be junk cars, only used cars for sale or ones that are being repaired for sale, but there cannot be junk cars (cars without engines) in Class II.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

##### **Visitation: Mark Korzec – Capital Planning Committee Recommendation**

Mr. Korzec discussed Phase 1 with various departments and their Capital needs over the next 5 to 10 years. Capital Planning Committee voted on 2 recommendations:

1. Ruggles School Building – discussion ensued.

#### **Motion**

KK made a motion to move forward for NP to contact several local Realtors requesting Market Analysis reports.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

2. Comprehensive Asset List – discussion ensued.

#### **Sewer Report**

- SP reported a tour of the facilities by the EPA and DEP for review before the upgrades are done.
- Alarm system was upgraded at Wheelwright.
- SP voiced opposition to the oversight during construction. Discussion ensued.
- Odor complaint at 23 High Road. Discussion ensued. Homeowner responsibility.

#### **Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant – Hardwick Police Department**

##### **Motion**

KK made a motion to accept the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant for \$35,126.58.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

#### **RFP Peer Review**

##### **Motion**

HRR made a motion to move forward.

KK seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

#### **Discussion Regarding Fire Chief Replacement Due to Retirement**

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of a local intern replacement for possibly 6 months or a shared Chief from another town. The Selectboard will reach out to others to gain additional information.

#### **Letters from Town Clerk Regarding Vacancy for Paige Memorial Library Trustee**

EV stated Ned Kelly resigned his position and turned the discussion over to RW for further clarification of the process pertaining to a replacement.

##### **Motion**

KK made a motion to put the vacancy on the next municipal election.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

#### **Conservation Restriction on North Road – Chester Boronski**

East Quabbin Land Trust representative stated their Board has accepted the conservation restriction and was seeking approval of the Hardwick Selectboard by signing off.

**Motion**

HRR made a motion to accept the conservation restriction as presented.

KK seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

**Meeting Minutes Approvals****Motion**

KK made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 3, 2023.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (2:1:0) E. Vollheim abstained.

KK made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 13, 2023.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

**Selectboard Roundtable**

- EV wanted to thank Lagrant Electric for their help and stated the generator at the Fire House was received as a gift from Eagle Hill School.
- EV stated the Poinsettias were a big success and forwarded a recipients thanks. KK expressed her thanks as well to all who contributed or donated their time.

**Town Administrator Report**

- NP shared the USDA update. Weekly updates are available on the Wastewater web page.
- Public Information Meeting for DFW for removal of the Patrill Hollow Dam on November 29 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.
- EVIP grant was approved. Stations to be installed soon.
- Green Community grant was approved. Weatherization at Town Hall, Fire Station and Highway garage will begin soon.
- Work on FY23 audit progressing.
- Christmas on the Common was a success.
- Snow plowing season has begun.
- Ryan Wilkos is recognized as a certified Massachusetts Municipal Clerk. Congratulations to Ryan!

**Adjournment****Motion**

HRR made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

KK seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.