

## **HARDWICK SELECTBOARD MEETING**

**307 Main Street  
Gilbertville, MA 01031**

**March 25, 2024**

**Via Zoom**

Attendees: Eric Vollheim (EV), Chair; Kelly Kemp (KK), Vice Chair; H. Rob Ruggles (HRR), Clerk; Nicole Parker (NP), Town Administrator; Colleen Mucha (CM), Interim Superintendent for QRSD; Cheryl Duval (CD), Business Administrator; Justin Skelly (JS), DPC; Dave Prickett (DP), Owner of DPC; William Cole (WC), Resident.

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

EV explained the reason for a Zoom meeting stating last Thursday Casella employees dropped off draft documents from Casella. EV stated Zoom was the fastest way to get it out into the public. At this time, the Selectboard has not looked at the documents.

### **Acknowledge Receipt Only Casella Proposed Documents**

EV called for a motion to acknowledge receipt of the following Casella proposed documents:

- Draft Host Community Agreement
- Draft Agreement for the Provision of Leachate Treatment Services
- Termination and Reconfiguration of Patrill Hollow Road

### **Motion**

HRR so moved.

EV seconded.

### **Roll Call Vote Taken**

Erik Vollheim agreed.

H. Rob Ruggles agreed.

Motion passed (2:1:0). K. Kemp recused herself.

### **QRSD Budget Discussion with Superintendent Mucha (Joint Meeting with Finance Committee)**

CM stated they were reaching out to the towns and have shared budget documents which can be found under QRSD's website (Business Administration tab). There is a compilation of various presentations and the status of the budget.

CM acknowledged it has not been a good budget year across the State. Their ESSER III funding package has ended. A brief introduction regarding current challenges was presented with CD explaining specifics pertaining to those challenges.

All materials are on the QRSD website. Comments, questions or concerns can also be emailed to [budget@qrsd.org](mailto:budget@qrsd.org).

**Bid Award: Gilbertville WPCF**

EV requested more time to review.

KK stated she had been following the project all along and noted she would like to move forward.

EV questioned if alternatives were adjustable following the signing of the contract. JS of DPC explained base bids and alternates. Strategy on USDA projects is to award what can be awarded on day 1. Pricing could change after 30 days. A recommendation was made by DP to move ahead.

HRR stated he agreed and believed the bid should be awarded.

**Motion**

KK made a motion to award the project to W.M. Schultz Construction, Inc. for the total Base Bid and Additive Alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$10,202,900 contingent upon USDA and Town approvals to Award and receipt and review of the necessary bonds and insurance certificates from W.M. Schultz Construction, Inc.

HRR seconded.

**Roll Call Vote Taken**

Erik Vollheim agreed.

Kelly Kemp agreed.

H. Rob Ruggles agreed.

Motion passed (3:0).

**Discussion: Morss Scholarship**

WC explained Betty Morss gave \$20,000 to be used as a scholarship fund for college education for male and female high school graduates that reside in Town each year. He also discussed there are monies currently available should the Selectboard decide to make one or two awards.

KK commented the funds should be awarded sooner than later so students know they would have the funds to fall.

EV commented a decision should be made regarding the amount for each scholarship. KK suggested possibly an essay as to why they are deserving of the scholarship, she also liked the idea of a \$500 award each to a female and male.

NP said she would reach out to Pathfinder and Quabbin to see what the process is determining the awards in the way of essays etc.

To be reviewed at the next Selectboard Meeting.

**Appointment: Richard M. Budney – Highway Labor 2 Position**

NP stated Marty interviewed the applicants and felt Richard Budney would be the best fit. It's a Labor 2 position at \$19.40/hour for 40-hour work week starting April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Motion**

KK made a motion to hire Richard Budney for the Labor 2 position based on Marty's recommendation with pay rate at \$19.40/hour starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 pending all pre-employment checks.

HRR seconded.

**Roll Call Vote Taken**

H. Rob Ruggles agreed.

Erik Vollheim agreed.

Kelly Kemp agreed.

Motion passed (3:0).

**Appointment: April M. Gardner – Part-Time MART Driver**

**Motion**

KK made a motion to approve the hiring of April Gardner as a part-time MART driver at \$15.51/hour pending all pre-employment checks.

EV seconded.

**Roll Call Vote Taken**

Kelly Kemp agreed.

H. Rob Ruggles agreed.

Erik Vollheim agreed.

Motion passed (3:0).

**Complete Streets Policy for Adoption, Review and Discussion**

NP had stated she and Marty had attended a session on Complete Streets which was the next step in getting to Tier 2 which allows access to funding for roads more on the service level (e.g. extension of sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.)

NP and Marty attended the training session and proceeded to create the Complete Streets Policy for submission to the Selectboard. CMRPC is also assisting and has already approved the document. This is

a supplement to other money and grants the Town currently receives. Note: Selectboard signatures needed on document.

**Motion**

KK made a motion to approve and adopt the Complete Streets Policy dated March 25, 2024.

EV seconded.

**Roll Call Vote Taken**

Kelly Kemp agreed.

Erik Vollheim agreed.

H. Rob Ruggles agreed.

Motion passed (3:0).

**Annual Dog Warrant**

EV said he would sign it and requested the other Selectboard members come in to sign as well.

**Motion**

KK made a motion to accept the Annual Dog Warrant.

HRR seconded.

**Roll Call Vote Taken**

Kelly Kemp agreed.

Erik Vollheim agreed.

H. Rob Ruggles agreed.

Motion passed (3:0).

**Meeting Minutes Approval**

- March 11, 2024
- February 26, 2024

**Motion**

KK made a motion to approve March 11, 2024 meeting minutes.

EV seconded.

### **Roll Call Vote Taken**

Kelly Kemp agreed.

Erik Vollheim agreed.

H. Rob Ruggles agreed.

Motion passed (3:0).

### **Motion**

KK made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of February 26, 2024.

EV seconded.

### **Roll Call Vote Taken**

Kelly Kemp agreed.

Erik Vollheim agreed.

H. Rob Ruggles agreed.

Motion passed (3:0).

### **Adjournment**

### **Motion**

KK made a motion to adjourn.

HRR seconded.

### **Roll Call Vote Taken**

Kelly Kemp agreed.

H. Rob Ruggles agreed.

Erik Vollheim agreed.

Motion passed (3:0).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.