

HARDWICK SELECTBOARD MEETING

**307 Main Street
Gilbertville, MA 01031
July 24, 2023**

Attendees: H. Robert Ruggles (HR), Chair; Kelly Kemp (KK), Vice Chair; Eric Vollheim (EV), Clerk; Nicole Parker (NP), Town Administrator; William Cole (WC).

Meeting was called to order on July 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Accountant Discussion

NP reached out to Marcum again regarding Laurie Dell'Ollio who previously worked for them. There is a clause in Laurie's contract with Marcum that doesn't allow Laurie to work for a competitor. However, Hardwick has requested the clause be removed from the contract thus allowing Laurie to work for the Town of Hardwick exclusively. Tanya from Marcum told NP she is OK with the Selectboard moving in that direction. Response from Marcum's legal team is pending. NP will get something in writing.

NP has reached out to two other towns for sharing accountants. Princeton has not only an accountant but also an AP clerk. NP made a suggestion of possibly getting a part-time AP clerk then possibly firm for higher end items. NP is looking into other accountants and finance directors that would be willing to bridge the gap. Another week or so she should have a definitive answer. NP will reach out again to Tanya at Marcum.

HRR asked NP status of year end closing items. NP stated Jessica has posted and is up to date through May, and Jenn is also pretty much there. It was recommended by DOR that we don't wait until the end of year for inputting things; however, Melanson was doing that. NP did reach out to current accountant at Marcum but haven't heard back. NP will follow up with her. HRR stated the importance to our grants that someone stay on top of that. NP assured him she is.

HRR asked if the accounting firm gave NP a reason why they wanted to step away so quickly. NP stated she believes the accounting firm is overwhelmed. There was no site visit from accountant this month. Our Treasurer and Collector are working diligently to ensure they can hit the ground rolling.

HRR said there should be a back-up plan if Laurie is not allowed to work for Hardwick. To reiterate, HRR said Plan A would be getting Laurie Dell'Ollio and Plan B would be having Marcum stay through August possibly Kinsharf. Concern is to make sure the Town is covered.

Appointments of Election Workers

Motion

KK made a motion to appoint the following people for election workers:

- Election Worker – Warden: Joyce Power - Term to 2024
- Election Worker – Clerk: Marilyn Shorrock – Term to 2024

- Election Workers Term to 2024:
 - Nancy Lemoine
 - Joanne O'Connell
 - Wendy Bolognesi
 - Gail A. Ashes
 - Frank Hanson

EV seconded.

Motion passed (3:0)

WPCF Superintendent Report

Scott Potter stated things are running good. Cannabis mill is now tied into the sewer system. Scott to send that to NP so they can be placed on the billing.

Generators were serviced which were major for the year (oil changes, etc.).

Jason Gerulaitis is interested in running a line up at Eagle Hill as previously discussed. Looking to start that within the next month. HRR asked if he gave Scott a price - he had not, but assumptions were made it would be less than quoted.

WPCF took in 36,000 gallons of leachate a few weeks ago from the landfill, and that information was submitted for billing. Equals approximately 4 loads about every 2 months.

Scott sent email to Selectboard regarding Blue Heron. EV asked for confirmation regarding a meeting to take place in the conference room the following day at 2:00. Scott reiterated Blue Heron's track record was not favorable.

Old Business

- NP stated various signatures needed for warrants and 2 grants.
- Morss Scholarship: WC presented a summary as authorized before and completed. Attached was the description of the original terms of the endowment from Elizabeth Morss for the purpose of scholarship. Details were explained regarding actual money accounts.

WC explained detailed by-law processes as reviewed earlier this year as well as other zoning by-law changes, Mullin Rule, etc. In addition, the Mullin Rule suggests public hearings be audio-taped or video-taped. Planning Board will present their findings to the Town Clerk. The process for zoning or re-zoning proposal can be presented to the Selectboard from many petitioners then goes to the Planning Board. There are processes with timetables.

New Business

- HRR stated Marty and his labor force (Highway Department) need help. NP stated currently under compensated. NP stated an ad can be placed with MMA and newspapers to draw attention. Suggested a meeting take place on the 16th at 5:30 to further discuss the issue.

WC asked about using Town newsletter for advertising, and if there was any provision for offering a finders fee or stipend as other places do. NP will post ads.

Adjournment

EV made a motion to adjourn.

KK seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.