

HARDWICK SELECTBOARD MEETING

**307 Main Street
Gilbertville, MA 01031
September 11, 2023**

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

OPM (Owner Project Manager) Discussion

Erik Fleming commented from the floor regarding an RFQ for an Owner Project Manager (OPM). He handed out a copy of the State Guidelines and questioned where the money was coming from for payment. HRR stated it was initially in the documents for the USDA to have one pertaining to the \$55,000 oversight. KK stated the Board is looking for someone to act as a liaison between the project and the Town - not to micromanage but for some accountability to the Town. KK stated USDA is acting on the premise that DPC is in fact that person, and as a Town with a Board wants someone to act as a liaison between them and the Board.

Erik Fleming handed out a document from the Town of Scituate for a \$25MM wastewater treatment plant to give the Board an idea of what he believes the request for an OPM should look like.

NP stated if the Town was using their own funding and getting their own contractor, then the Town would have an OPM to oversee the everyday project. DPC is the OPM on this project. NP stated she is an MCPPO and is very well aware of thresholds.

HRR made a recommendation the Board review the documents and put it on the schedule for the following Board meeting.

Thanks to the Highway Department

Judy Kohn wanted to commend the Highway Department for their outstanding assistance in cleaning up damage from a microburst that occurred on Friday at 7:01 p.m. in the Greenwood Plains Road area (2 large trees were down along with wires resulting in power outages). By Saturday at 7:30 p.m. the power was restored. Judy expressed her sincere thanks.

New Business

- Trail of Treats – Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, October 29 at 5:30 p.m. KK stated the Chief was OK with those times and, the Board was also in agreement.

Meeting Minutes Approvals

- Executive Session: August 28, 2023

Motion

KK made a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes from August 28, 2023.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

- Open Session Meeting Minutes: August 28, 2023

Motion

KK made a motion to accept the Open Session Meeting minutes from August 28, 2023.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

Committee Reports

- Assessor's Report
- Fire Department
- Highway Department
- Paige Memorial Library
- Police Department

Miscellaneous Correspondence

- Comcast: Letter noted channel changes.

Town Administrator Report

- USDA
 - Wheelwright Wastewater Treatment Plant went out to bid on Wednesday, September 5, 2023. Bids are due back October 18, 2023 by 9:00 a.m.
 - RFQ for sub-bidder and general contractor for Gilbertville was advertised.
 - Debt repayment is still being discussed, as a result of the oversight.
- Highway Department
 - Approved jobs for the Highway Department have been posted. The full description is on the website. NP stressed the importance of needing additional help and asked if anyone knew of someone looking to become a highway worker to please apply.
- Myron E. Richardson Building
 - Exploring new heating options for the building; however, current heating system will remain in place for this winter season. R.J. McDonald will be coming next week to look at the system.
- W-A-R-E Radio (97.7 FM) Town Manager Segments
 - NP stated she delivers Town Manager segments while rotating with 4 other Town Managers. The segments occur at 8:45 a.m. on Thursdays, and NP's next segments will take place on September 14 and October 19.
- Cannabis Control Commission Public Hearing – New Draft Regulations
 - Cities and Towns in Massachusetts are opposed to the draft regulations as they impede the local jurisdiction. Written testimony was sent to be read.
- Central Mass Rail Trail
 - There will be a formal ribbon cutting for the extension of the Central Mass Rail Trail at the end of September. There will be invitations sent out, and the date will be September 26th; however, no time has been designated yet.

Signatures and Approvals

- NP presented a reimbursement request for approval.

Selectboard Roundtable

- KK stated there had not been a Selectboard Department Head meeting in a while. KK asked EV if, as a new member, he wanted to conduct a meeting to which he agreed. KK suggested EV coordinate a date with Nicole.
- EV stated he is on the Capital Planning Committee. They're going to have a meeting next week to discuss numerous needs and wants listing priorities, years, estimated costs, as a way to start looking at what is needed in the future.
- EV stated he would like to discuss Mr. Richard Romano who is hoping to be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals. HRR said he feels there's a conflict due to an email he received pertaining to the landfill. KK said someone had also reached out to her asking if there was going to be another conversation pertaining to that. If that occurs, it will need to be on the agenda. KK said perhaps the Selectboard could obtain legal opinion on that, and then have it on the next agenda.

Adjournment

KK made a motion to adjourn.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.