

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

**Meeting Minutes October 11, 2022**

In Attendance: Julie Quink (JQ), Chair; Kelly Kemp (KK), Vice Chair; H. Robert Ruggles (HRR), Clerk; Nicole Parker (NP), Town Administrator; Ryan Wilkos (RW), Town Clerk; Alex Weisheit (AW), Counsel from K.P. Law.

Meeting was called to order.

JQ stated the purpose of the meeting is for the Board to be able to discuss their questions and to be able to talk amongst themselves. Alex, who is legal counsel from K.P. Law, attended the meeting.

**Horse Racing Facility Location**

JQ noted a letter received from Alex dated October 11, 2022 with the subject of *Great Meadowbrook Farm Horse Race Track Location Approval Pursuant to General Law, Chapter 128a, § 13a*.

**Motion**

KK made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the letter dated October 11, 2022 from K.P. Law, authored by Alex (AW) with the subject line of *Great Meadowbrook Farm Horse Race Track Location Approval Pursuant to General Law, Chapter 128a, § 13a*.

HRR seconded.

**Vote Taken**

KK yes

HRR yes

JQ yes

Motion passed (3:0)

JQ also said they were in receipt of a request to do an FAQ of all of the questions. Based on public forum there is a document that exists. JQ stated the Board would have to acknowledge receipt so it can be posted for the public.

**Motion**

KK made a motion to accept and acknowledge the letter dated October 7, 2022 to Julie Quink and the Selectboard regarding questions and answers regarding Great Meadowbrook Farm. HRR seconded.

**Vote Taken**

KK yes

HRR yes

JQ yes

Motion passed (3:0) acknowledging receipt of the FAQ and the Board will get it out so it can be posted.

KK asked AW to explain process for taking back a favorable vote from the Board and how it would affect the applicants. AW read from the *General Law*.

KK asked if the horse track moves forward in a direction the Board is not pleased with, is there an option for the Town to bow out? AW said it depends where things are in the process and what the specific issues are.

JQ reiterated the difficult position the Board is in.

HRR asked if this moves this forward would this still have to go to the Planning Board for a site review with regards to a different permit etc. AW responded it would have to go before the Planning Board. Planning Board has the authority to hold the vote for site approval and special permit.

JQ asked AW to shed some light in the way of a timeline perspective and the Gaming Commission. It is believed the Board will need to formally vote on this by the end of October. AW will look into it.

Discussion ensued regarding petition and timeframe.

RW said the following:

- 12% of registered voters can file petition with Town Clerk's office.
- Town Clerk has 5 days to certify names, total, percentage
- It is 45 days from the submission of the petition at which time the Board is required to immediately reconsider their decision.
- If Board does not rescind their decision then a special election must be held within 45 days of the submission of the petition; however, RW asks if it's 45 days upon submission to Town Clerk or to the Board after certifying the signatures.

## OTHER OLD BUSINESS

### **Cable Contract**

JQ opened discussion. NP stated the status is with Town Counsel who deals with cable contracts, and he said he would redline the contract with his recommendations including rates for the Board's review and recommend the Board vote on it at the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Treasure/Collector Department Update**

JQ recommended taking the report under advisement. It will be placed on the next agenda.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **New Employee for MART**

NP said the Board has paperwork for new employee, Pauline Supka, for the part-time MART bus driver. She will need to complete a drug test and take a course as well. Rate: \$14.25/hr. NP will need to confirm number of hours.

### **Motion**

KK made a recommendation the Board approve the prospective new employee (Pauline S.) for part-time MART bus van driver with the rate of other MART drivers as reimbursed from MART based on approximately 7 hours a week.

HRR seconded.

### **Vote Taken**

KK yes

HRR yes

JQ yes

Motion passed (3:0).

### **Ambulance Service Zone Plan**

NP stated Eric Vollheim, Emergency Management Director, Lieutenant Landine who works for 911 dispatch, Dan McCall who is our ambulance service for part of Hardwick, and NP had a meeting with Tina Dixon who would ultimately send documents up for other approvals. Tina Dixon completed most of the paperwork during the meeting. Discussion ensued with regards to the comprehensive plan handled by Captain Bert Diverny.

JQ stated the Board would take it under advisement to review and offer edits.

## OTHER NEW BUSINESS

### **Minutes from August 29, 2022**

KK voiced concerns regarding accuracy pertaining to the minutes and the importance of keeping accurate records.

### **Discussion Regarding Vote Relative to ARPA Funding**

NP received updated quote for meters for water from TiSales. Rates and regulations are still being reviewed. Also need input from professionals with regulations being updated as well.

NP stated the importance of getting the meters with accessibility for entry into houses or onto owner properties for readings being an issue. Quote was updated on 9/21 with install charge added in for East National Water and it comes up to about \$30,749.00 which comes to \$80.00 for them to install each meter. JQ mentioned it had been talked about at the last Water Commission Meeting with KK acknowledging it has been mentioned frequently.

### **Motion**

KK made a motion to fund all new meters and installation for the Hardwick Center Water District not to exceed an amount of \$32,000.00 to be funded through ARPA funding.

HRR seconded.

### **Vote Taken**

KK yes

HRR yes

JQ yes

Motion passed (3:0).

Pending projects were reviewed. There was a discussion about moving the offices and accessibility of phones. Most economical options are being reviewed.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

NP reviewed the report with the Selectboard:

- USDA update
- DPC to submit NOI for proposed pump station
- New applicants proposing horse farm and race track
- Council on Aging resuming office hours
- Ghost Walk October 15<sup>th</sup>
- Concern expressed pertaining to communication difficulties. Discussion ensued.

- JQ requested a joint meeting with Hardwick Board of Selectmen, Board of Health and Leceister. Board of Health Chair agreed.
- Youth Center Open House successful
- Explore a possible new position for maintenance coordinator/custodian possibly coordinating with other towns. Discussion ensued.

Ongoing:

- Retirement Insurance
- Personnel Policy
- DLS and financial reviews
- Hardwick Open Space & Recreation Plan update - grant received for \$10,875
- Accountant shared services
- Recycling container contract
- Community Compact Cabinet Grants
- Water Commission and updating technology

**Signatures and Approvals**

- NP stated signature needed on DEP Bureau of Waste Prevention and Recovery Program

**Motion**

KK made a motion to acknowledge and accept the Hardwick Open Space & Recreation Plan update project for \$10,875.

HRR seconded.

**Vote Taken**

KK yes

HRR yes

JQ yes

Motion passed (3:0).

**Selectmen Round Table Discussion**

JQ brought up Article 97 Insight Plan Assessment which will be discussed with Counsel tomorrow. Update will follow.

KK noted meetings with department heads, boards, etc. have started up once again with concerns voiced including the horse farm, police presence in Hardwick, condition of roadways, etc. Treasurer brought up a new payroll service system which was being considered, Conservation Committee working with natural heritage addressing endangered species needing to be moved plus Wheelwright Dam removal, Planning Board discussed solar and moving

forward plus rewriting marijuana by-laws, Board of Health brought up public health and the big picture regarding air, water, land etc., Recycling discussed \$10,000 grant with regards to mattresses.

Discussion ensued not every department has cell phones and computers. Going forward something will need to be done. Discussion followed having department meetings periodically.

### **Adjournment**

#### **Motion**

HRR made a motion to adjourn.

KK seconded.

#### **Vote Taken**

HRR yes

KK yes

JQ yes

Motion passed (3:0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.