

HARDWICK SELECTBOARD MEETING

**307 Main Street
Gilbertville, MA 01031
January 22, 2024**

Attendees: Eric Vollheim (EV), Chair; Kelly Kemp (KK), Vice Chair; Nicole Parker (NP), Town Administrator; Josh Pease (JP), Interim Fire Chief; Scott Potter (SP), Superintendent, WPCF; Ryan Wilkos (RW), Town Clerk; Anne Barnes (AB), Town House Committee; Brian Gillespie (BG), Affordable Cars; H. Rob Ruggles (HRR) absent.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion – Interim Fire Chief Salary

EV stated this was not about a contract yet, but compensation for services.

JP suggested keeping the remaining money in the Fire Chief Salary account which would reflect the last half of the year at the previous Fire Chief's original salary.

Discussion ensued regarding years of service and compensation.

Motion

KK made a motion to base the Interim Fire Chief's salary at a pro-rated rate of \$21,000 for the fiscal year 2024 and compensation for calls.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

Sewer Abatements

NP stated there were different amounts on the abatements due to EDU's.

Motion

KK made a motion to grant abatements for:

- 54-58 Mechanic Street for \$214.38
- 92 High Street for \$321.57
- 441 Main Street for \$214.38
- 41 Church Street for \$214.38

EV seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

New Pump Station Color Scheme

The colors discussed were Autumn Brown building color with flat Black trim as well as black louvres and doors.

Motion

KK made a motion for the colors of the Pump Station on Rte. 32A to be Autumn Brown with the louvres, doors and trim to be flat Black (LF19).

EV seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

CAI Technologies Mass GIS Services Agreement

NP stated the agreement was typically signed annually by the Board for the Assessors.

Motion

KK made a motion to accept the proposal put forth by CAI Technologies for Map GIS Maintenance Service \$2100; and if necessary, building footprints \$20/building added.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

Mayflower Valuation, Ltd. Cyclical Inspection Services

Motion

KK made a motion to accept the Mayflower Valuation, Ltd. Cyclical Inspection Services for 2025 in the amount of \$17,800.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion

KK made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from January 8, 2024.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

OLD BUSINESS

Reconsideration – Whistle Stop to All Alcohol License

- EV asked why the reconsideration?
- NP responded there were a couple of errors on the application, and the ABCC returned the application having taken no action.
- Errors need to be resolved, and the Board needs to reconsider.

Due to the applicant's inability to attend the meeting, it was decided to table this until the next Selectboard Meeting.

Affordable Cars – Class II Reconsideration

Discussion ensued with BG offering explanations to questions/concerns as presented by the Board.

EV noted the Board was presented a letter generated by Mr. St. Laurent's attorney for review.

Motion

KK made a motion to allow the license renewal with a stipulation of 10 cars on the Affordable Cars side and 60 days to clean up the area.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

Committee Reports

Sewer:

- SP stated there have been a lot of meetings with new construction going on, a lot of alarms at the Wheelwright Pump Station (which seems to be an annual occurrence possibly due to the weather).
- The homeowner with sewer odor concerns was visited by Plumbing Inspector and SP and was told the same thing as previously stated by others. No indication that the town would be paying the bill.

Town Clerk:

- RW stated it's a busy time of the year – censuses, dog licenses, vote-by-mail. Everything is proceeding smoothly.

RW noted there will be in-person voting at the end of February: Saturday the 24th; Monday, the 26th; and Wednesday, the 28th at the Municipal Building. Nomination papers are available at the Town Clerk's office.

Town Administrator Report

- NP mentioned the USDA update is a weekly update. Project 2A will be starting soon.
- Gilbertville will be going out to bid this week or next.
- January 30th from 6:45-7:25 p.m. there will be a Zoom public meeting regarding the Patrill Hollow Dam removal also noted on the Town website and Facebook page.
- NP attended the Mass Municipal Association (MMA) annual conference where there were discussions pertaining to forthcoming changes. Rural concerns were also addressed. Five Town Administrators met with school administrators. Enrollment is down and needs are up.

Selectboard Roundtable

- EV noted the Capital Planning Committee has been getting closer to the sale of buildings. They will begin to get an RFP together starting with Ruggles Hill School.
- EV is eager to have an auction in order to liquidate materials, equipment, vehicles etc. which would generate some revenue. He mentioned spring would be a good time.
- EV and KK stated there needs to be a Personnel Committee Meeting and schedule one for 4:00 p.m. on February 26th.
- EV stated it had been suggested the Selectboard specify the budgets deadline is February 16th by 5:00 p.m.
- EV noted the old Town Hall was discussed at the previous Capital Planning meeting. The attic roof rafters were repaired with some outstanding items such as the eaves needing to be done. Slabs on the walkway still need to be repaired in order to resolve a tripping hazard. Discussion ensued regarding making enhancements to the stone steps as well.
- AB stated Mass Preservation wants Hardwick to apply for a grant which is being done.

Motion

KK made a motion for the meeting to adjourn.

EV seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.