

**Select Board Meeting
Minutes
March 1, 2023**

Select Board Chair Mr. Kobus, Select Board member Ms. Dickhaut, Select Board member Ms. Perusse, Select Board member Mr. Kerrigan, Select Board member Mr. Devault were in attendance. Attendees were Town Administrator Ward and Assistant Town Administrator Snell. Chair Mr. Kobus opened the meeting at 7:02PM.

Public Comment

Attorney William O'Neil was before the board on behalf of the owner of Dicon Auto Sales. Attorney O'Neil explained at the end of the year the board didn't renew the Class II Auto Dealers License, due to a Board of Health order to install a bathroom at the premises. At that time he did not represent the business. They have since retained him for services for assistance with the business and compliance. They have done some work to install the sewer pipe, receiving a quote from Sean Kilcoyne. The recommendation at this time is to hire a company to run a camera to the line to confirm it is the correct line, so they haven't signed the contract with Mr. Kilcoyne yet for the project. They also have had a tussle with the landlord on who is responsible for this. He had a chance to review the minutes and realizes there was no action taken on renewal, the business must comply with the Board of Health statute. He asked for an update on the status of the license. Chair Mr. Kobus explained regarding renewal it was left once they satisfy the Board of Health and they approve, they can come back and be reconsidered for approval of renewal for license.

Review of Minutes

The board received minutes from February 15, 2023 Select Board meeting for review and approval. Mr. Kerrigan made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Mr. Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Motion to Continue Out of Agenda Order

Mr. Devault made a motion to continue out of agenda order with agenda item 7, ARPA recommendations with representative Dave Sullivan of the Worcester Chamber of Commerce after item 3 Phil Duffy, CDBG grant application review. Mr. Kerrigan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Director of Community & Economic Development Phil Duffy

2023 CDBG Grant Application

Chair Mr. Kobus explained Mr. Duffy is before the board this evening seeking authorization of the Chair to sign the 2023 CDBG grant application as presented. Mr.

Kerrigan made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the 2023 CDBG grant application due on March 3, 2023, in the amount of \$162,956.00. Mr. Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

ARPA Business Assistance Outreach

Mr. Duffy introduced Dave Sullivan from Worcester Chamber of Commerce Economic Development and is the liaison to Clinton and its businesses. He explained in Worcester they conducted a lot of outreach to businesses regarding ARPA funding and their needs. He would be able to assist with offering guidance to Phil to set up the education and outreach. Mr. Devault stated he'd like to see the town replicate what they did in Worcester. He would like to set goals of establishing outreach through the web page and flyers, he wants to make the businesses aware. He explained this will provide information to plan for the amount of funding needed for business assistance. He is happy to work on the campaign to create the outreach and awareness. Mr. Sullivan stated he will be able to work with the Downtown Coordinator and Mr. Duffy, this will identify the business need in the community.

Student Recreation Center

Mr. Devault explained he would like to work with the school department to create a student recreation center. This would be a teen center at a location to be determined, in town in area to increase traffic to the downtown. The center would provide gaming and entertainment for students. He would like to continue this discussion at future meetings.

Joint Meeting with Bigelow Library Board of Trustees

Library Director Marie Latiere, along with Library Commissioners Gloria Parkinson and Karen Nugent were before the board. Ms. Latiere opened the discussion stating the library recently turned 150 at its current location established in 1902. She wanted to inform the Select Board on the unanimous decision by the Library Board Commissioners to submit an application to the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program. At this time the request is for the Select Board approval of this by submitting a letter of interest to the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program. She reviewed a focus group was formed to determine the building needs. In 2021 a consultant was hired to perform a building assessment. She presented the summary report, which highlights the updates needed. She explained the letter of interest to apply for the program is due by April 28th. If the town proceeds with the letter they would then move forward with a warrant article for town meeting to approve the matching funds needed for participation. The amount of matching funds to support design of project would be \$150,000, if accepted the state will provide up to 50%. She explained if the application doesn't receive approval then the funding isn't spent. If approved the funded would be used towards the design in October 2024 with a projected project date of June 2026. Administrator Ward stated the ask is for the Select Board support to move forward with application process with a letter of intent and the presentation of the warrant article at annual town meeting. Mr. Devault

made a motion to support a letter of intent endorsed by the Select Board to have the town move forward with the application process for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction program. Mr. Kerrigan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Mr. Kobus stated he will continue out of order with the approval of the

Old & New Business

Reserve Fund Transfer – Building Department

Chair Mr. Kobus explained the Building Inspector has made a request for a reserve fund transfer for \$1000.00 for unexpected needed expense for an updated codebooks and unexpected engineering expenses. Mr. Kerrigan made a motion to approve the transfer request as presented. Mr. Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Federal Law Enforcement Fund Transfer

Chair Mr. Kobus invited Chief Coyne before the board regarding this request. Police Chief Coyne explained he is requesting approval of a transfer of \$48,000 from the Federal Law Enforcement Fund to the State Law Enforcement Fund to be used for narcotic investigation and a new security system. Mr. Kerrigan made a motion to approve the transfer of \$48,000 from the Federal Law Enforcement Fund to the State Law Enforcement Fund to be used for narcotic investigation and a new security system as presented. Mr. Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Joint Meeting Finance Committee to Discuss ALS Service

Chair Mr. Kobus explained the purpose of the joint meeting of the Select Board and Finance Committee was to review questions and concerns regarding ALS service. Chief Lutes explained he was at an educational conference and asked Fire Captain PJ Chamberlain to help with providing information and answers through research he has completed as part of the ALS subcommittee. Chair Mr. Kobus stated the boards received the information, members should ask questions as we go through the presentation. Chief Lutes began the presentation explaining there are 25 staff in the department currently; he has a limit of 29 for the building. By year three, there would be eight paramedics added but 12 would work better. Captain Chamberlain explained the department has four staff out on injury, he explained 28 are needed to run the department. Mr. Devault asked if there is any interest in the current department to become a paramedic. Chief Lutes explained no, he explained it is a huge commitment of giving up 2 years of your life. Discussion continued with the amount of staffing needed for the department. Chief Lutes discussed by adding personnel it will elevate a rise in the overtime numbers; He discussed the funding need for the start of the implementation of ALS is dependent on the salary. He has done some research a 15% increase over the BLS personnel salary is fair. Finance Committee members discussed a cost projection for the department if this were

implemented. Finance Committee member Mr. McGrail recommended hiring an outside consultant to assist with planning and budgeting. Finance Committee members felt it is important to gather information on the cost to the community as a whole, including the impact on the tax rate and budget. They are in search of more information regarding the amounts presented to show confidence in approving the addition of ALS. Fire Captain Chamberlain explained Assistant Town Administrator Snell and HR were researching salaries in surrounding communities to have a comparison of the area rates. Chief Lutes explained the ARPA funding will cover cost of the fly car purchase and about \$400,000 is an estimated budget number. Mr. Devault asked if \$400,000 cost is the best guess to use for budget. Administrator Ward explained this could be added to the operational budget as a separate line item for the department. Discussions will continue with the Fire Department budget review discussion scheduled after March 20, the next union negotiation session. Finance Committee and Select Board agreed they would meet with the Fire Chief for budget review towards the end of budget discussions. Captain Chamberlain and Chief Lutes thanked the boards.

Municipal Electricity Aggregation Program Presentation

Prior to the Presentation Chair Mr. Kobus made announcement that the score the score for the CHS basketball game was 63/41.

A representative from Colonial Power Mr. Stuart Ormsbee was before the board. He explained he represents an energy company based in Marlboro, MA. He shared a presentation with the board about the Community Choice Electricity Aggregation program available to the town. He stated there is no liability or financial obligation to the town; it groups customers into a larger buying pool. He explained 2/3 of the Commonwealth are doing it, surrounding communities of Berlin, Bolton, Lancaster and Harvard. He reviewed how it works, residents would have to opt out of the program; the benefits include price stability and better rates. Mr. Ormsbee explained there is a service fee added into the program. Administrator Ward asked if the service fee is paid as part of the rate and if there is a certain period for the town to decide to opt in. Mr. Kerrigan asked how long a resident would have to stay in before they have the ability to opt out. Mr. Ormsbee explained that would be set as terms & conditions of the agreement set of the program. Administrator Ward asked once a warrant article is created and then adopted as part of the Annual Town Meeting held in June, what are the next steps for the town. Mr. Ormsbee agreed then the town and the company work on a plan, it is filed with the DPU, the wait can be up to 2 years. Once the plan is approved then you are ready to go to get pricing from the power suppliers. Then the board will review contract once signed the outreach and education to the community will begin. Chair Mr. Kobus asked what would you need from the board tonight. Administrator Ward state this is an introduction of the program to determine if the board would like to mover forward and work with Colonial Power.

Administrative Business

There was none.

Old & New Business

Reserve Fund Transfer

Chair Mr. Kobus explained the Building Inspector has made a request for a Reserve Fund Transfer for \$1000.00, to cover expenses for a needed updated codebook and unexpected engineering expenses. Mr. Kerrigan made the motion to approve the reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$1000.00 as requested by the Building Inspector. Mr. Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Donation Request FY 23 Summer Concert

Assistant Town Administrator Snell explained this request has been withdrawn. Administrator Ward stated the Park & Recreation had secured the funding to support the concert series.

High Street Sidewalk Discussion

Mr. Devault explained he would like to move forward with hiring an independent consultant to review the High Street sidewalks. He stated there is more going on down there and we need to explore it. We owe it to the taxpayers to find out, is it a bad design or poor workmanship, we need to know. Mr. Devault made a motion to hire an independent consultant to review the area. Mr. Kerrigan seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Mr. Kerrigan asked where we would get the funding to support this. Administrator Ward stated the board could request a reserve fund transfer or put the funding into next year's budget, under the boards miscellaneous expense. Chair Mr. Kobus asked if remaining project funding could be used to cover this cost, if additional needed, we could get more in July. He asked why Superintendent McGown only walked a portion of High Street when questions arose in September. Now it is past the warranty and we are not sure if it is workmanship or poor design. Mr. Devault agreed stating it is not fair to the taxpayers they were not done right in the first place. The vote was unanimous. Discussion continued the board explained they want more information on the lack of oversight to the job and why the issues have occurred. Administrator Ward stated he would draft an RFP and have it ready for the next board meeting for the board to get a cot estimate of the needed repairs. Mr. Devault made a motion to fund an RFP to move forward with the project. Mr. Kerrigan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports

Mr. Devault stated the Government Affairs Committee is in the middle of scheduling a meeting to review the donation policy.

Community Announcements

Clinton Middle School Project Community Forum

Chair Mr. Kobus stated there will be an update on the Clinton Middle School Building Project which will take place as part of the Select Board's next meeting on March 15, 2023, from 6:00PM to 7:00 PM.

Clinton High School Basket Ball

Chair Mr. Kobus announced the Girls Varsity Team has a game on Friday in Tyngsboro and the Boys have one the same night against North Bridge.

The next Select Board meeting is scheduled for March 15 at 7:00PM.

Mr. Kerrigan made a motion to adjourn at 10:15PM. Mr. Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Corbosiero

Executive Assistant Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator