

Selectboard Meeting Minutes February 27, 2023 Zoom Teleconference 5:30 pm

Call to Order: Andrew Baker called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Others present: Selectboard members Bob Manners, Margaret Payne, and Town Administrator Terry Narkewicz.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: A motion was put forth by Bob to approve the minutes of February 13. This was seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Bob – yes; Margaret – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Department Liaison Reports:

Senior Center – Spring programs are being planned.

Arms Library – Margaret said the working group has a report of their research and conclusions for sharing library expenses between Buckland and Shelburne. It is basically a 60/40 split. More information to come later.

Highway Department – The crew has been busy with several storms. They are keeping up with maintenance. Bob mentioned that crew member Ray Townsley is great with repairs and has saved the thousands of dollars.

Town Hall – Terry said the electricity aggregation group recently met with Colonial Power. The current rates will expire in January 2024. In the coming months the Selectboard will need to decide what types of power are offered to residents. Pricing options will be coming.

Police Department – An updated version of the rules and regulations handbook is at Town Hall awaiting review by the Selectboard.

Appointments:

5:30 pm Joe Judd, Town Clerk RE: Budget Presentation with Finance Committee (Deb Andrew, Terri Mitchell, Todd Dubreuil, Matt Popoli, Finance Committee) – Joe was out of town and unable to attend the meeting. His budget has not changed very much. He will come in at a later date if needed. The Selectboard had no questions about the budget and were able to answer questions posed by the Finance Committee.

6:00 pm Shelburne Free Public Library RE: Budget Presentation with Finance Committee (Deb Andrew, Terri Mitchell, Matt Popoli, Todd Dubreuil, Finance Committee; Ted Sicker, Tom Hale, Library Trustees) – The library's total budget has been increased by about \$6,000, primarily for a literacy program for young children and for furnishings. Those increases will be paid from grants, endowments, state aid, and interest. The town's share of the budget shows a 3.5% increase amounting to about \$2,000. Neither the Board nor the Finance Committee had any questions.

6:30 pm Meg Ryan & Carol Foote RE: Age Dementia Friendly Initiative – Age friendly communities is a response to the aging population. A needs assessment survey had been done last year. Working groups are in the process of analyzing the responses. Carol and Meg were simply reporting the data for the area and specifically for Shelburne. They were not attempting to draw conclusions. Margaret felt that there were many services offered through the Senior Center but inadequate communication prevented a lot of people from knowing about the various services. She also felt that there was a large difference between elders in the village and those in the rural portions of town. Meg agreed that information was not getting to where it was needed. Carol added that people are often hesitant to ask for help. The end results appeared to be that

people want to stay where they are. Some practical advice for making the town more age/dementia friendly was shared. Shelburne is already doing several of the things suggested.

Old Business:

Relocation of Veteran's Memorial at BSE – Nothing new to report.

Proposed Pavilion at 19 Bridge Street – The concrete piers should be installed this week. Pavilion designs are not yet ready for review. Sophomores from Franklin Tech are expected to start construction in March.

Frankton Road Intersection RE: Citizen's Request for Modifications – Mass Highway, as well as local police and fire departments could find no records of any vehicle accidents at the intersection. That disqualifies the intersection from the TIP program. The state suggested a MassWorks grant as a source of funding. Highway Superintendent Mark Shippee already has plans for the next round of MassWorks grants. MassHighway suggested lowering the speed limit in the area and having more police presence.

Discussion of West County Senior Services District Board of Managers Appointees – Margaret has submitted an article for the town newsletter, with a description of the position, inviting people to apply by March 15. Two Board of Managers members will eventually be appointed by the Selectboard. The district agreement, as signed by the Governor had a few changes from the original including the fact that the transition must be done by the Board of Managers, not by a working group. A motion was made by Margaret that the Selectboard approve the legislator's version of Section 3 of the West County Senior Services document. This was seconded by Bob. Roll call vote: Bob – yes; Margaret – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Eversource Streetlight Conversion – Nothing new to report.

Hager's Farm Market RE: Lease of Land – The town will make a proposal, regarding the lease, to the Hagers Farm Market and wait for their response. A motion was put forth by Bob to pursue a new lease with Hagers Farm Market for rental of the town property located behind their farm store at a rate of \$250 per acre. This was seconded by Margaret.

Andrew said the Energy Committee might be interested in using a portion of the property for a solar installation. He suggested that the lease be reduced from three years to two, which would give the town time to create a solar proposal. Bob felt it better to stick with three years, but said he would not vote against a two year lease. Andrew amended the motion to the following: to pursue a new two year lease with Hagers Farm Market for rental of the town property located behind their farm store at a rate of \$250 per acre. Bob and Margaret accepted the amended motion. Roll call vote: Bob – yes; Margaret – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

New Business:

Highway Department Pole Barn Bid Award Recommendations – Two bids were received. After checking a reference, it was the recommendation of Bob and Mark Shippee to award the bid of \$69,472 to the low bidder, Circle B, LLC, of Lancaster, MA. Bidders had been asked for bids on materials only. The installation was to be done in-house. It was unclear whether Circle B's bid included installation as well as materials. This will be confirmed. \$100,000 was appropriated at Town Meeting for this project, which will also include electrical work. A motion was made by Bob to award the bid for the pole barn to Circle B, LLC for \$69,472. This was seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Bob – yes; Margaret – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Habitat for Humanity RE: Review of Town-Owned Vacant Lots – Andrew met with Megan McDonough and a team from Habitat for Humanity and they looked at the three town-owned lots. Andrew said Habitat was interested but the process could take years. Habitat listed five things that could be done to improve the buildability of the lots, such as removing the barn on the King lot and changing the bylaws to allow building on the lots. Bob felt the King lot was the only real option and thought the other two properties should be auctioned. Terry thought it best to wait until the Planning Board's proposed bylaw change is ready and see if it passes at Town Meeting, before any more money is spent on the lots.

Annual Town Meeting, May 2, 2023 at BSE – What time: 6:30 pm or 7 pm – The Board discussed changing the traditional 7 pm start time with the hopes of having the meeting over before midnight. A motion was put forth by Margaret that the Selectboard, in consultation with the moderator, set the time for Annual Town Meeting at 6:30 pm. This was seconded by Bob. Roll call vote: Bob – yes; Margaret – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Any Other Business:

Congressman Jim McGovern – The Congressman will be at Town Hall on March 15, from 1 to 2 pm and would like to meet with the Board to discuss how he can be of service. Board members will plan to be there.

Correspondence:

Roland Giguere, Moderator RE: Finance Committee Appointment of Matt Popoli – The Board welcomed Matt and thanked him for stepping forward.

Pat Stevenson RE: Potential Public Forum with CSX Railways – Following the train derailment in Ohio, Pat is concerned about a similar problem happening in this area. Andrew met with Pat and suggested that she first gather some information by consulting with the EMD, as well as police and fire departments, before moving ahead with a public forum. Bob mentioned that a lot of the track is in Buckland. He also said that while local personnel could contain a spill, mitigation would be up to the federal government.

Next Meeting – The next Board meeting will be on March 13, 2023.

Public Comment:

Gabriel Maung said he had been hoping to see designs for the proposed pavilion. Those designs are not yet ready. He also mentioned that signing up for the town newsletter was difficult and hoped the process could be made easier.

Adjournment: At 7:36 a motion was made by Bob to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Bob – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Faye Whitney, Recording Secretary