



TOWN HALL | 39 SOUTH STREET | HINSDALE, MA | 01235 | 413-655-2300

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 6, 2019 at 7pm

Community Room - Downstairs

posted 8:25pm on 11/21/2019

Present: Select Board, Town Administrator Bob Graves, Asst. Lynne Baumgartner

7:00 PM, Vivian open meeting, Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Viv asked if anyone else was recording, no one was.

Ray made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented – October 23, October 25 & November 1; Rich seconded, all said Aye.

Communications and Reports from Department Heads, Boards and Chairs – Chief Rathbun said that the new cruiser is here. Construction is going well in the Police Department. Officer Miller is in his final stages of his application to Dalton.

Town Administrator – rescheduled Roads Meeting for Tuesday, November 19. We have the Street Scan material back. They are just finishing the pointers to all the data, so people can see the projection of all deferred maintenance on our roads. We have been working on grants and waiting for State Approval.

We made it through the first round on the culvert grant through Hazardous Mitigation Grant and it has been accepted; now we have until Dec. 13 to submit the final grant application.

The trees at our Transfer Station have been clear cut and chipped. Cook Forest Products should be completed by the end of this week. We have DEP's approval for the next steps. The project is on track.

New Business

Fire Association Proposed Agreement – McNamara Law Workaround proposal given to Select Board by the Fire Department to allow for limited use of members over 70, as firefighters and emergency personnel, EMTs. We sent this to our attorneys who replied it is not workable. Without insurance covering those members, the town would be liable to pay. Best practice is that most firefighters and police retire by 65 or—at most—70 years of age. We would need special legislation for the town. Rich made a motion to table the proposal as presented by the Firemen's Association and would like to encourage a meeting with both organizations together with counsel to hash out the question and possible solutions. We definitely need a Memorandum of Understanding between the town and the Emergency Services groups. We need to keep those services in town. Viv said we have cost analysis questions to answer. If we can pay for the added premium, it might outweigh the cost that would occur if we had to contract an ambulance service from another source.

Building Permits—Paul Greene proposed we raise the current rate to keep pace with other communities. These fees could help defray the cost of the department—not enough data was gathered at this time, this agenda item is on hold.

Street Light addition—a request from a local resident to install a street light at corner of Franklin and Charles Streets. Eversource said the cost would average about \$9.70 per month. This includes the monthly lease, maintenance charge and the energy supply cost. This light would be a 70 watt, high pressure sodium lamp similar to other streetlights in Hinsdale. After asking the Police Chief for her advice if this is a safety issue, and she didn't think so— Rich made a motion to deny this street light request, Ray seconded, all in favor said Aye. Bob will write a Town Policy on how to decide on street signs, traffic lights, and street lights in the future.

Viv reminded everyone the new date for Roads Discussion is Tuesday, November 19 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Vivian announced there is a winter No Parking overnight ban in effect.

She also went to a meeting at the school department to review Town of Hinsdale's motion to change the charter at the annual town meeting. It was a very interesting discussion. Dalton has a problem with the motion as voted on by the school committee in order to secure the bond for the new school. We are in a holding pattern. All the towns have to vote unanimously to change the charter.

Ray made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Rich seconded, all said Aye.

Respectfully submitted, Lynne Baumgartner