



TOWN OF HADLEY
SELECT BOARD
February 1, 2012
Meeting Minutes

Meeting convened at 7:00p.m., Room 203, Town Hall.

Present: Joyce Chunglo, Gloria DiFulvio, Daniel Dudkiewicz, David Moskin and Brian West (Chair).

Absent: None

Also in Attendance: David Nixon (Town Administrator); Peg Jekanowski (Administrative Assistant); Richard Trueswell (TV-5); John Allen, Linda Sanderson, Glenn Clark, Frank Aquadro (Finance Committee Members); Molly Keegan, Robie Grant, Jim Michalak (School Committee); Susan Glowatsky (Town Collector) Kevin Michaelson, Leonard Buck; Ben Storrow (Daily Hampshire Gazette)

Approval of Minutes: A motion made by Dan Dudkiewicz, seconded by Joyce Chunglo to approve the Select Board minutes from 01/18/2012 and 01/25/2012 passed unan. with a vote of 4-0-0. (David Moskin not present at time of vote.)

7:05 PM Appointment – Budget Discussion

Brian West stated that the goal of the Town is to have a level service budget. Representatives of the School Committee presented the current state of the School Budget –Robie Grant stated that the school budget proposal is a product of the present environment, which includes increasingly competitive school choice environment. The committee is still working on the line by line details. Molly Keegan stated that with a level service budget, there is a budget increase of \$475,000.00. Discussion ensued regarding the school choice funds, including the fact that school choice funds are being used for the operational budget. It was reported that the year started with 1.1 million in school choice funds, and that slightly under \$400,000.00 is being brought in. However, more than \$600,000.00 will be spent, leaving an approx. balance of \$900,000.00. (It was noted that there should be a policy that schools have a stabilization account of \$500,000.00.) The School Budget consists of local appropriation, grant money (which has gone down and is not expected to go up), and school choice funds, and thus the School Committee expects to have to ask the Town for increase in funds, the question is to what extent.

The goal of the School Committee is to work through the process and be able to provide more detailed information.

The Finance Committee stated that they have current information regarding the budget in front of them, but until they receive the Town's balanced budget they have nothing to discuss.

Chair West stated that as of this time, with all budget requests in, there is a \$480,621.00 short fall. It was decided that the School Committee will come to the next Select Board meeting on February 15th to discuss their findings. Mr. Nixon maintained that there is no further state aid coming in under the Governor's budget proposal, and more educational expenses going out, so it will be difficult for the Town to provide more support.

7:30 PM Appointment – Capital Buildings

Chair West had asked members of the Board to share their thoughts on the future of the various buildings for the Town. Dan Dudkiewicz stated that the buildings that need immediate attention are North Hadley Hall, the North Hadley Fire Substation, the Library and the Russell Street School. He cited the feasibility study done on North Hadley Hall and stated that the cost would be over \$1 million to bring the building up to modern standards, and there would be additional costs to modernize the North Hadley sub station and current fire station. Due to these high costs, he suggested the Town look into selling North Hadley Hall (with input from the Historical Commission to maintain the building's historic integrity) and use the proceeds from the sale of the building to build a modest fire substation. This would eliminate the need to spend money to enlarge the current fire station and provides for future storage needs. He went on to list costs for the upgrades to the present library, which were over a million. Further, he stated the need for renovation of the Russell School, and went on to state "why fix one building for one use." He proposed to renovate Russell School for two uses, relocation of the Park and Rec



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department (Second Floor), and moving the Library to this building (1st Floor and Basement). He further proposed allowing the Historical Society use of the entire current library to house their extensive collections, and charge them for utilities and costs for that building. He also proposed the possibility of moving DPW offices to the Hooker School (Senior Center) in the future.

Joyce Chunglo shared her point of view is that the Senior Center is currently the most viable building, and that is what the Town should concentrate on. She also felt that Parks and Rec could be housed in available space at the Senior Center once repairs have been made. She further stated that Russell School is in dire need of many repairs, and that Town Hall is in need of some repair. She also recommended going forward with getting some quotes so that CPA money could be pursued.

Gloria DiFulvio stated that she thought the focus should be on the Senior Center, but that she did not want to have further discussion until talking to Towns people about their thoughts and needs.

David Moskin asked what the process is now in order to move forward-and suggested going out to departments to find out what their needs are in order to best house them. Chair West stated that the Board needs to make some decisions before going to the departments. He went on to state that there are two buildings in question, the Russell School and the North Hadley Hall, and that we need to have a clear direction on what the Town is going to do with these buildings. Mr. West discussed the possibility eliminating two problems by selling the North Hadley Hall and providing an adequate fire station storage space. He went on to state that the Board needs to make the decision now in order to put a plan in place about the future of various Hadley departments. Mr. Moskin asked if we are writing off possibilities for building preservation by not pursuing partnerships that could be financially beneficial. He further maintained that he wants to talk to Town Departments before moving forward with decisions. Dan Dudkeiwicz stated that in his vision of moving Park and Rec, along with the library, is to give them both more space. He also stressed the need for a substation in North Hadley in the event that something happened to our one public safety complex. Gloria DiFulvio stressed the need for community space in the Town.

Next steps include getting input from the Capital Committee and starting the process to move the forward. Joyce Chunglo stated that in this economy we need to be mindful of cost to the taxpayer as decisions are being made. Mr. Moskin asked the Board to keep in mind the possibility of other funding options, such as Federal money available for a scenic byway way station.

8:00 PM Class 2 License Application for Save a Buck Auto Sales Inc.

Kevin Michaelson presented his idea to have what he described as a virtual car lot as his opinion is that a traditional car lot does not work. He said that he spoke with Tim Neyhart (Zoning Enforcement Officer) and David Nixon regarding this concept and that he was told that although his intention is to store cars in another location (Northampton), under Massachusetts State Law (not Town law) he must have at least one display car. He further stated that in his original site plan he was allowed a display area, and that both Mr. Neyhart and Mr. Dwyer from the Planning Board stated (to him) that "a display area is a display area" so there should not be a problem. He went on to state that he has accommodations for 5-6 cars in Northampton, and any repairs would be done there. The business he proposes would be primarily Internet (E-bay, international auctions etc.) Mr. Moskin asked why a Class 2 License was needed; Mr. Michaelson responded it was for auctions and dealer plates. He also stated that Cahillane Auto in Northampton, (where some cars would be stored) is grandfathered in for any automotive use. Ms. Chunglo asked if this had been sanctioned by the Planning Board. Mr. Michaelson stated that he had notified the Planning Board of his intent, but that there is some history regarding completion of a building on the site. (He will be meeting with the Planning Board next week regarding their concerns.) Mr. Michaelson introduced Mr. Leonard Buck who was in attendance and is his business partner in this venture. Discussion ensued about the legality of granting a license to sell cars in one Town for cars stored in another town. Mr. West suggested that the Board take the matter under advisement until



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Mr. Nixon can speak to the Town Counsel, and also that clarification is obtained from the Planning Board regarding the display of the car.

Mr. Dudkiewicz asked for Mr. Neyhart's written opinion on this. Mr. West stated that in order to avoid future problems, he wants to make sure that any and all legal questions are clarified before proceeding. Mr. Michaelson stated that the business is not going to sell cars anywhere but in Hadley, but that cars may be stored in other locations. It was decided to take this issue under advisement and continue at the next Select Board meeting on February 15th 2012, at a time to be determined.

Old Business

1. Mission Statement for Town Website

Joyce Chunglo made a motion to accept the Select Board mission statement for the new town website as written by David Moskin, seconded by Brian West, and passed unan. by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. Senior Center Roof

Joyce Chunglo made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the contract with US Metal Roofing to repair the Senior Center Roof, seconded by Brian West. Motion passed unan. by a vote of 5-0-0.

New Business

1. Manny's TV & Appliance - Water

Water Department has been misreading the water meter at Manny's TV & Appliance for a total overage of \$16,925.91. Town Collector was present to discuss the matter and explained that the meter was a six digit meter read as if it were 7 digit meter. Discussion ensued as to how to pay this – Mr. Nixon explained that it would have to go to town meeting. Ms. Glowatsky stated that for first cycle of 2012 an abatement could be made in the amount of \$276.95 from Water and \$244.26 from Sewer, and the balance to be refunded (\$8,112.93 from Water Reserves and \$8,291.77 from Sewer Reserves) would go to Town Meeting. No action will be taken at this time in order to prepare proper documents for action at next Select Board meeting on February 15th. Mr. West asked Mr. Nixon to turn the matter of the incorrect meter readings over to Mr. Girouard at DPW.

2. Appointments to Hadley Cultural Council

The Board reviewed letters of interest in serving on the Hadley Cultural Council from Brent Auerbach and Nancy Craker-Yahman. *Dan Dudkiewicz made a motion to appoint Brent Auerbach and Nancy Craker-Yahman to the Hadley Cultural Council, seconded by Joyce Chunglo. Motion passed unan. by a vote of 5-0-0.*

3. Land Preservation

The Board reviewed a letter from the Town of Sunderland exploring preserving farmland known as Brown and Regan that straddles the Towns of Sunderland and Hadley. The parcel is for sale and the Town has funds through scenic byway grant that must be used or lost. The Town of Sunderland would like to meet with the Hadley Board and are proposing a meeting on Monday February 6th at 7:15 PM in Sunderland. David Nixon and Brian West will attend this meeting; others may attend if they are available.

4. Common Victualer License for L & B Enterprises Inc dba Chicken Now and China Max.

Joyce Chunglo made a motion, seconded by Brian West to approve a Common Victualer license for Chicken Now. Motion passed unan. by a vote of 5-0-0.

Joyce Chunglo made a motion, seconded by Brian West to approve a Common Victualer license for China Max Now. Motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1. (David Moskin abstaining.)



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5. 2012 Mass Dash (July 14, 2012) – Permission to use Hadley Elementary School as a transition area.

Mr. West read a letter from Susan Norris who is seeking to be appointed to the Hadley Cultural Council. *Joyce Chunglo made a motion to approve the Mass Dash use of the Hadley Elementary School, seconded by Brian West, and passed unan. by a vote of 5-0-0.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Joyce Chunglo offered condolences to the families of Robert Bonneau and Mr. Banas.

Mr. Nixon congratulated Representative John Scibak for receiving the Legislator of the Year Award at the MMA conference.

At 8:35 pm Dan Dudkiewicz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Joyce Chunglo, and passed unan. by a vote of 5-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret J. Jekanowski
Administrative Assistant

Approved 02.15.2012