



TOWN OF HADLEY
SELECT BOARD
March 20, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Meeting convened at 7:00 pm, Room 203, Hadley Town Hall

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

Absent: None

Also in Attendance: David Nixon (Town Administrator); Peg Jekanowski, (Admin. Assistant); Richard Trueswell, (TV-5); Dennis Hukowicz (Police Chief), Michael Spanknebel, James Kicza, (Fire Department); Molly Keegan, Robie Grant (School Committee); Tom Cohan (Charter Communications); Wilfred Danylieko; (Electrical Inspector); Linda Sanderson, Frank Aquadro (Finance Committee) Guilford Mooring

Approval of minutes of 03/06/2013

Motion: *Dudkiewicz* **Second:** *Chunglo* **Vote** 5-0-0.

Approval of warrants:

Motion: *Chunglo* **Second:** *Dudkiewicz* **Vote** 5-0-0.

Old Business #1 S & J Land Trust APR concurrence: Mr. Nixon explained that this is concerning property that straddles land in Sunderland and Hadley. Last year the Board requested CPA funds to place this property in APR. However, the Franklin County Council of Governments acquired a grant through MassDOT to preserve the property, and this will save the town of Hadley CPA funds.

Town of Hadley concurs on the proposal from the Franklin County Council of Governments to use federal grant money to preserve land parcel known as S & J Land Trust:

Motion: *Moskin* **Second:** *Dudkiewicz* **Vote:** 5-0-0.

Old Business #2 RFP Buildings

Member West explained the process and summarized the RFP Evaluation Committee's process of scoring and ranking proposals for building studies. D.R.A. Inc. had the highest non-price ranking, at a price of \$35,000.00. They also received glowing references on DRA. The subcommittee recommends awarding the building study to.

Award the Town of Hadley Building Study to D.R.A. Inc. of Waltham, MA:

Motion: *Moskin* **Second:** *Chunglo* **Vote:** 5-0-0.

The proposals are available for viewing from the Select Board office.

Appointment

7:05 pm: Cable License Renewal: Ascertainment Hearing

Public Access Television (TV-5) coordinator Richard Trueswell presented that Board results of a survey of Town residents regarding their satisfaction with Charter TV service. 76 people took the survey (5% return rate). Results were mixed by subject matter.

Charters license expires in October 2013. This hearing is part of the process for potential renewing of the license, to see what people in Hadley think of current service and what they are looking for going forward. Hadley resident David Elvin was present and requested that Charter provide internet service at no cost to all town buildings, or at least the library and the schools. He also stated that the license should expire in 10 years, not 5. (The license renewal process is a three year process.) Charter representative stated they will respond to survey issues brought forth tonight in writing. Charter's financial stability was questioned and response was that they are in good financial shape. There was also a request for mandated reporting of service levels from Charter on an annual basis. There was also discussion about Charter's involvement



TOWN OF HADLEY
SELECT BOARD
March 20, 2013
Meeting Minutes

with emergency management, and it was stated that there are plans for future involvement with emergency management in communities, and they are working with electric companies to better coordinate efforts. It was also noted that this hearing is pertaining to Charter television only and not internet or telephone service. Next steps include going in to negotiations with Town Administrator and Mr. Trueswell.

At 7:42 Chair DiFulvio closed the public hearing. Anyone else with further comments is welcome to contact Town Hall.

7:15: Budget

Chair DiFulvio stated that the budget discussion will be a process: the Board will deliberate budget items without public comment; at the end of deliberations she will open the discussion to questions. Department heads may speak to their individual budget as warranted.

Discussion ensued regarding how to address the \$817,039.00 shortfall in the FY2014 budget. Chair DiFulvio stated that she was in agreement with Town Administrator David Nixon's proposal to reduce the budget shortfall except for the removal of the Fire Captain position. Further discussion outlined a plan to transfer every capital expense from the operating budget to capital. The Board also heard requests from the Council on Aging and Police Department relative to their budgets. There was also discussion about newly proposed positions helping to eliminate overtime expenses. Also, Mr. Aquadro from the Finance Committee strongly advised not to use any money from the Town's stabilization account, not even interest from the account. The Board further identified several reductions to their department budget. Discussion ended with the Select Board committed to reducing the remaining shortfall in the amount of \$42,000.00 in order to achieve a balanced budget.

New Business #1 Veterans Services: Reserve Fund Transfer:

The Board reviewed a reserve fund transfer request for Veterans' Benefits in the amount of \$15,000.00:
Motion to approve reserve fund transfer request: Chunglo Second: DiFulvio Vote: 5-0-0

New Business #2 Special State Primary Warrant:

Senator in Congress, April 30, 2013, 7:00 am – 8:00 pm, Hopkins Academy
Motion to sign Warrant: Dudkiewicz Second: Chunglo Vote: 5-0-0

New Business #3 Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School: Rural development loan
(Passed Over)

New Business #4 Appointment of new member to Council on Aging: Marguerite Wilson

The Board reviewed a letter from the Council on Aging recommending the appointment of Marguerite Wilson to the Council on Aging
Motion to approve appointment: Chunglo Second: Dudkiewicz Vote: 5-0-0

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (9:35 PM)
Dudkiewicz Second: Chunglo Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret J. Jekanowski
Administrative Assistant