

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015

The regular meeting for the Board of Selectmen convened at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at 110 Main Street. In attendance were Edward S. Harrison, Dr. Richard M. Smith and John R. Morrell. Also present were Town Administrator Evan Brassard and the media.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:**

Dr. Smith made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of April 14, 2015 – open session. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

**Appointment of New Full-Time Officer:**

Police Chief Stephen Kozloski and Peter Levesque approached the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Levesque explained his background and noted he graduated from the full-time Police Academy in 2013 and has been a Police Officer for the past four years for the Town of Brimfield.

Chief Kozloski explained this position will fill the vacancy that resulted from the creation of the School Resource Officer position.

Mr. Morrell made a motion to appoint Peter Levesque as a full-time Police Officer contingent upon the successful completion of his physical and psychological screening, through June 30, 2015. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

**Set COLA for Non-union Employees:**

Mr. Morrell noted he wanted to be as fair to the employees as possible.

Mr. Morrell made a motion to give a 2% increase to all the non-union employees. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

**Reinstatement of Previous Stipends Discussion:**

Mr. Harrison explained the stipends issued to three Boards were stopped in 2008 due to the budget crunch, which saved the town \$9,491. Since 2008 there hasn't been any compensation for the Board of Selectmen, Board of Assessors and the Water and Sewer Commissioners.

Mr. Morrell noted over the last seven years since the stipends have been stopped, there were only four contested races out of twenty-one openings on the Board of Selectmen, Board of Assessors and the Water and Sewer Commission, and felt the more residents who want to run for open seats the better our town will be. Mr. Morrell said he feels reinstating the stipends will enhance the position so more people will want to run for the positions, also this will give back a little to the people who are elected as

the Board of Assessors need to attend training, and the Board of Selectmen need to come in quite often to sign documents, etc., and the Water and Sewer Commissioners have weekly meetings and a lot to do.

Mr. Morrell noted he isn't eligible to collect a stipend for being Selectmen as he is paid for his position as the Highway Surveyor.

Dr. Smith felt it might be a slight conflict of interest, but felt the reinstatement of the stipends is worth it after seeing the number of hours they put in over the years, especially during the whole year following the tornado when meetings were held once a day.

Mr. Morrell felt it isn't really a conflict as these stipends existed before 2008, and you have to consider the other departments effected.

Mr. Morrell made a motion to recommend to the Finance Committee the reinstatement of the stipends at the amount they were in 2008 when they were suspended. The Board of Selectmen Chair \$1,757 and the other Selectmen receiving \$1,624 per year; the Board of Assessors Chair \$1,530 with the other Assessors receiving \$1,478 per year; and the Water/Sewer Chairman \$912 and the other Commissioners receiving \$844 per year, for a total of \$9,491. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

#### **Memorial Hall Update:**

Mr. Brassard said the concrete was poured at Memorial Hall this week for the steps. Also the grade wasn't correct for ADA compliance on the accessible ramp to the right of the front of the building, and this has been corrected.

Mr. Brassard said the doors and hardware project is moving forward and we have the initial specifications for the hardware. The only thing we are waiting on is one door is potentially in worse shape than anticipated and this is being checked out to see if it can be repaired or if it has to be replaced. Mr. Brassard noted the replacement of the door will be very expensive as it has to be built to match the other door that's there, while meeting both the historical specification and the building code, and he is very hopeful it can just be repaired.

Mr. Harrison asked if once the door and hardware project is completed, if the building will be ready for use with a fireman on watch. Mr. Brassard responded yes.

This will bring us to the end of the project, until money is secured for the sheetrock.

Mr. Morrell asked about grant funds and chasing any that might be available, especially since that building is on the National Register. Mr. Brassard replied at the Memorial Hall Committee meeting yesterday, part of the discussion was on chasing some more grant funding and seeing what's out there. The state will be giving out \$780,000 in grants, but you need to have a plan and funds in place to get the grant, and this will be looked into more globally.

Mr. Harrison said there isn't a lot of money out there and suggested pursuing organizations that might be interested in restoring historic Civil War buildings and felt all avenues should be explored, but he feels we might stand a better chance with this.

**Town Hall / Police Department Update:**

Mr. Brassard noted most of the interior work and the building work is complete; there are only a few things kicking around and some small items on the punch list left, and either the contractor will fix those items or they'll monetize them giving us the money back.

Phase three will be beginning soon with the driveway for the Police Department, the grading of the back property along Veterans Field, and the basketball court will be set. Following the setting of the basketball court, we will move on to doing the skate park. The skate park is being done outside the scope of the building project through our insurance carrier, but they can't get in there until everything else has been completed. Once the contractor has begun Phase three, he has 30 days to finish it.

Mr. Brassard urged people to not park in the construction zone.

Mr. Harrison asked about the completion date for the skate park. Mr. Brassard replied he doesn't know as it's really contingent upon how long Phase three takes, but did say once the skate park is started it should go pretty fast as what they are looking at doing is all pre-cast off site, and when it is brought here it will be set on either a paved or asphalt pad.

Mr. Brassard said the site for the storage shed for the Parks and Recreation Department has been laid out by the Fire Department and coring was done today to test the soils at that location.

Dr. Smith asked about the joint building for Water/Sewer and Park and Rec. Mr. Brassard responded the town will be going with just a shed for Parks and Rec. as the insurance Company, MIIA, wants to build a 30 x 30 building for \$100,000. If it weren't being handled by the insurance company, it would have to go out to bid at prevailing wages, absorb any change orders, etc. driving costs higher. Once the Parks and Rec. shed is completed, the Water and Sewer Department might do a car port or something smaller to keep the generator that sits on a double wheeled trailer in. The generator is 8 or 9 feet tall and approximately 10 feet wide and about 15 feet long and it's used to run the pumping station if the power goes down.

Mr. Morrell wondered if the front portion of the Smith and Wesson property could be utilized. Mr. Brassard said that's a thought. There are two pieces of pavement on the property that can't be disturbed as they are the capped areas. It was noted this is valuable property for the town to hold onto for municipal use and explained it is still a brownfield site. This past winter the property was used to hold the snow that was trucked there by the Highway Department and approved by the DEP.

Dr. Smith noted the open house went very well. Mr. Brassard added the ceremony was a good length and he has received a lot of good feedback.

**Commonwealth Connect Update:**

Mr. Brassard said the Commonwealth Connect is live, and he strongly urges the public to use this. A slide show will be presented by Mr. Brassard, at the Town Meeting. There are three ways to access this: 1) go to the town's website and click on the Commonwealth Connect link on the lower right. 2) or through the town's Facebook page. 3) or download the app on a smart phone.

**In Other Business to Come Before the Board:**

- Mr. Morrell noted the Finance Committee will be meeting next Monday night and wondered if any of the Selectmen should attend just in case they have any questions.  
Mr. Brassard responded that would be a good idea if one or more members could attend. The Selectmen can't vote or discuss anything amongst them due to the Open Meeting Law, but they can answer any questions.
- Mr. Morrell noted Tennessee Gas will be doing work on their high pressure gas line, and they will be going across Pond Road in Monson near the Wales town line. Pond Road will be closed for about one week while this work is going on. Mr. Morrell said the Police Chief and the Fire Chief will be notified, if they haven't been already. Detours will be set up.

Mr. Morrell said the Highway Department will be doing resurfacing work on Wilbraham Road on Monday and Tuesday; weather permitting, from the Upper Hampden Road intersection to the Wilbraham town line.

About a week later, the Highway Department will be doing paving work on Cedar Swamp Road. And about two to three weeks after that they will be applying some of the pot hole money to about a mile on Bumstead Road from Route 32.

Dr. Smith asked about Cote Road. Mr. Morrell replied they are working on this. The environmental issue has been holding this up as the DEP said there is a culvert there that about ten gallons of water flows through every year, and they need to file paper work with the Army Corp. or Engineers. Mr. Morrell said he spoke with his consultant last week and he informed Mr. Morrell the DEP came out with new regulations where if we design that area a certain way we can avoid the Army Corp. of Engineers and deal with only the DEP. Mr. Morrell said he is holding some of the money for this project as he wants to get this done during this construction season.

- It was announced Bulky Day will be held this Saturday at Quarry Hill School. Pro Shred will be there from 9:00 to 12:00 to shred any important papers people wish to dispose of.

Correspondence was read and completed.

At 7:55 p.m., Dr. Smith made a motion to adjourn from open session to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to non-union personnel pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Sec. 21 (2) and collective bargaining or litigation pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Sec. 21 (3), not to return to open session. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

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John R. Morrell, Clerk