

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 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 for May 12, 2015 – open session. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

**Hillside School Discussion with School Committee:**

Joel Keller didn't make the meeting and this will be rescheduled.

**Request for Additional Storage by the Monson Arts Council:**

Reed Coles didn't make the meeting and this will be rescheduled.

**Memorial Hall Update:**

Mr. Brassard noted they have made some pretty steady progress on the Memorial Hall Safety Improvement project. The only items left to do are to install four medallions on the ceiling around the lights that were replaced. There were four huge ceiling lights that took huge condense bulbs that cost about \$85 each and burn out all the time that are also very hot and while the scaffolding was there, the lights were replaced with four 1,000 watt LED's that use less electricity than a 100 watt bulb each that will also last a lot longer. Since the new lights aren't the same diameter as the old lights, plastic medallions need to be installed around the new light fixtures.

Mr. Brassard said the other project that needs to be completed is the door project. The contractor is still trying to figure out if that one leaf can be repaired or if it has to be replaced. If it has to be replaced Mr. Brassard said the cost goes up fairly exponentially, and if not it's a pretty straight forward repair to get Memorial Hall open to the public. This is the front door on the right hand side if you are looking at the main entrance to the building. This has already been bid and awarded.

Mr. Brassard noted the concrete work is all done at Memorial Hall. The walkway has been repaired and there is a new grade for the handicapped accessible ramp with new brick work.

Mr. Brassard said this brings us to the end of the initial safety improvements.

Mr. Brassard stated the major electrical work is done along with the alarms. The plumbing for the reroute for the electrical is done, which just leaves the sheetrock work on the stage to be completed, and this will continue to be a major issue.

Mr. Harrison asked about the curtain and Mr. Brassard responded the curtain is secondary and will only be a problem by those who want to use Memorial Hall for theatrical purposes. Dennis Swierad received a quote of \$35,000 for the fire rated curtain needed for that space, and it would have to be treated periodically.

Mr. Brassard noted the goal is to have Memorial Hall open for some usage during the Summerfest.

**Town Hall/Police Department Update:**

Mr. Brassard said we are real close now to finishing this project. The paving will be started on June 1<sup>st</sup>, and quickly following the paving will be the finishing of the landscaping and planting of trees, etc. They will also hydro seed that back area.

Dr. Smith asked if they could touch up the front area at that time. Mr. Brassard said they are working on that. He has been turning on the sprinkler pretty consistently, and added it's looking a little better. Mr. Brassard noted if they are going to negotiate re-spraying, he would recommend the re-spraying take place in the fall as we still won't get enough water in June or July to make it grow healthy.

Mr. Brassard said he would like to get a few quotes on an in-ground sprinkler system without the plumbing into the building, so it would still be operated manually from outside. Mr. Brassard said with one sprinkler going it takes about five hours to water the area in front of the building.

Mr. Morrell said he noticed the curb cuts by the Police Department and wondered if that was going to be the access to the skate park.

Mr. Brassard responded there is a curb cut right off the State Street entrance for emergency vehicles and Parks and Rec. There is also a pedestrian curb cut directly to the right of that with guardrails separating it, and that will be an accessible walkway for pedestrians. There is a third curb cut for Police evidence storage that goes to an outside fenced in area for vehicles, etc.

Mr. Brassard stated in less than 20 days he's hoping it will be all done, with the exceptions of a few touchups.

Mr. Harrison asked if we have a schedule for the skate park. Mr. Brassard replied it will have to be after phase three is completed. The basketball court still needs to be poured as this is part of the main project that was phased and bid. The insurance company will be paying the entire cost of the skate park.

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

- Mr. Brassard said he has been working with Chief Kozloski on utilizing the conference room for training. Mr. Brassard explained we need to send our School Resource Officer for training and after looking into the cost of this, Chief Kozloski said it is a minimum of \$1,500; you have the class which is for seven days, the motel, traveling expenses, and meals.

Mr. Brassard said he and Chief Kozloski started looking into other options and decided to offer the conference room up as a Resource Officer training location. If they are able to use this location as a Resource training spot we will not have to pay anything to send our School Resource Officer.

Mr. Brassard said the only issue they have run into is the tables we have are designed for our in-house training, Finance Committee meetings, Board of Selectmen meetings, etc. with room for two people per table that would severely limit the registration for any training sessions. The School Resource Officer training enrollment is currently up to twenty-one officers and will probably be higher, hopefully closer to thirty Mr. Brassard stated.

We currently have enough seating for fourteen people and enough chairs for a little over thirty. The alternative solution to that is they found some folding seminar tables that are 96 inches long that will seat three people per table.

The cost of these tables is \$90 each for a total cost of \$900. The tables are narrower at 18 inches, so they will all fit in the room.

Mr. Brassard noted we won't make any money on the trainings as the fees charged cover the trainers, we would be saving money on not having to send our own people to the trainings anymore.

Mr. Brassard noted Chief Kozloski said he has some money left in his training budget that was going to be used to send the School Resource Office for training this year, and said he will put up \$450 from that account if the town is willing to put up the other \$450.

Mr. Brassard said his rationale is he would also like to start pursuing some of the training he has to go through on a monthly basis by utilizing this space as well and saving on the enrollment and travel expenses, i.e. MMPA, MMA, etc. The tables will be stored in the closet located in the conference room.

Dr. Smith made a motion to provide \$450 from the Gifts to the Town Account for the purchase of ten folding tables to use for trainings in the conference room. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

- Mr. Morrell said he received a telephone call from a woman who lives on Hospital Road complaining about a train blocking the road for 30 to 45 minutes. The woman told Mr. Morrell this has happened several times.

Mr. Morrell said the rule is a limit of 15 to 20 minutes he believes, that a train is allowed to block a roadway. Mr. Morrell said the woman was out for a walk and had to walk all around the train to get back home.

Mr. Morrell said he worries about emergency vehicles if they get held up for any long periods of time. Mr. Morrell wondered if we could get in touch with the Department of Public Utilities to find out just how long a crossing can be blocked by the railroad.

Mr. Harrison said he felt it would be beneficial to get this in writing to give to the railroad executives. Mr. Morrell said he will speak to the woman again to get something in writing on this.

Fire Chief Laurent McDonald was in the audience and stated his drivers are familiar with the crossings and alternate routes around the railroad crossings, and therefore try to avoid the crossings during emergency calls as a general rule.

Correspondence was read and completed.

At 7:42 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 to discuss with respect to 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