



SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2023

SLADE BUILDING

Attendance:

Members Present: Jeff Williams – Chair, Katie Young – Vice Chair, Heather Munroe – Clerk, Peter Walker–Member, Kris Pareago – Member

Staff Present: Nathan Boudreau – Town Administrator,

Members absent:

Additional Attendees: Mike Stoll, Judie O'Donnell,

Session opened at: 6:30 pm Chair Williams reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded.

Announcements, Communications, Liaison Reports – Vice Chair Young stated that the Tree Lighting Event went really well and thanked everyone involved that helped make this a great event. This past Saturday, December 2, the Christmas Fair and the Gingerbread Fair were held. There was a good turnout and there were a lot of great items. This past weekend was the first weekend for Hubbardston Light Fight. The list is online and there are paper lists at the gas station in Hubbardston. There are 18 different entrants. and voting will close in a couple of weeks. This coming Saturday, December 9th, there will be a Brunch with Santa at Hubbardston Center School from 10 AM – Noon. Vice Chair Young again thanked all who help with this event as well. There is a \$10 donation which helps to continue these events each year. Santa also will come on the Fire Truck directly to your house on December 10th. You can contact Hubbardstonfire@gmail.com. There is also a \$10 donation and you will need to bring a wrapped toy to the Fire Station before that. There will be one other chance to see Santa on December 16 which is sponsored by the Lion's from 4:30 – 6:30. Santa will be there and you can take pictures with him on the bandstand. This is the last weekend of the Country Roads Tour. There are three businesses in town which are participating and they are Giacomo's, Plain View Farm and Tyme and a Place. Frozen Assets will be coming soon.

Judie O'Donnell BOH – Discussion town Nursing Position - Ms. O'Donnell passed around a job description for a Public Health Nurse that she had written. The Board of Health felt they didn't need a complicated job description so they looked at Rutland's which was comparable to Hubbardston. Things don't come up often but over the years, there has been several instances which a Public Nurse would be helpful. In this job description, there is an Essential Functions page which Ms. O'Donnell feels is pretty straight forward as far as expectations go. Member Walker asked where funding would be coming from. Ms. O'Donnell stated that the BOH has some funds available for this. This position would be 16 hours a month. The Select Board would need to determine a pay rate. The BOH would be an advisory role for this position. Clerk Munroe asked where the 16 hours a week came from. Ms. O'Donnell stated that she felt this would be a good number. Clerk Munroe asked which communities that are similar in size to

Hubbardston have a Public Nurse. Ms. O'Donnell stated that Public Nurses are few and far between and Ware is the only town in the area which has a public nurse. TA Boudreau asked the Select Board not to vote on this tonight since the BOH asked if they could come in to see the Select Board and TA Boudreau hasn't had time to look into this properly. The Select Board continued discussion with Ms. O'Donnell and asked about different situations. Clerk Munroe asked if it would be possible that Hubbardston regionalize with Rutland and then see how it goes. Ms. O'Donnell stated that this position would be per diem and reminded the board that this position was voted on months ago. Vice Chair Young stated that this position needs to be able to be funded from somewhere and asked TA Boudreau to look into this. Chair Williams stated that he would like to see this put on another agenda until more research has been done. The Select Board thanked Ms. O'Donnell for coming in and for the information she provided.

Forecast Presentation – TA Boudreau presented the FY25-FY29 Forecast. His complete presentation packet can be found on the Town Website as well as in the Select Board meeting video on YouTube.

Consent Agenda: Chair Williams read the consent agenda. There were minutes from November 6, 2023 as well as November 20, 2023. Also, to appoint Brian Colwel to the DPW as a temporary laborer/driver effective 12/5/23 and approving a wage authorization for Brian Colwel at a rate of \$22.36 To appoint Paul Sweeney as a Seasonal Plow Driver effective 11/21/23 at a rate of \$16.90 and to appoint Edward Gallant as a Seasonal Plow Driver, effective 11/21/2023 at a rate of \$16.25. Clerk Munroe asked if the minutes of November 20, 2023 can be pulled from the consent agenda and voted on separately so she could vote on the rest. Chair Williams asked that the minutes of November 20, 2023 be removed from the consent agenda.

Motion made to accept the Consent Agenda except for the minutes of November 20, 2023 by K. Young. 2nd by H. Munroe. Discussion: None. All in favor. Yes – 5. No – 0. Motion Passed.

Motion made to accept the minutes of November 20, 2023 by K. Young. 2nd by P. Walker. Discussion: None. All in favor. Yes – 4. No. – 0. Abstain – 1 (H. Munroe). Motion Passed.

New Business: None

Old Business:

A.) ARPA/MA Dot Invoice – Request made to table this

TA Report : TA Boudreau stated that the Volunteer Appreciation Night was a he success and thanked Bobbie Thibault, Toni Walker and Vice Chair Young for their hard work in putting this together. TA Boudreau stated that he went to the Stars & Stripes Diner for the inaugural coffee and community conversation and is hoping more people attend as this event continues monthly. The Rural Communities Round Table with Ann Gobi was a success and there were 25-30 people in person and 15-20 online. TA Boudreau attended the STAMM meeting and reviewed and approved a legislative survey which will be sent out to everyone in hopes to gather priorities from different communities and brought to the STAMM day on the hill in April. The town held an employee benefits fair with Shawn Klingaman and was well attended.

Policies to Review:

Flag Policy – TA Boudreau proposed two different Flag Policies for the Board to review and choose which one they would like to place in a policy. Due to an increase in different organizations asking to have their flag flown, a number of communities are now writing flag policies to clearly state the Town's position. The first option is stating that only Federal, State, and town flags would be allowed on government flagpoles as well as flags ordered to be flown at half-staff by the governor or president such as POW/MIA/MILITARY flag. No other special interest flags would be allowed. The second option is Limited Flag Requests, which under this approach, the Select Board could entertain requests and vote on flying additional flags submitted by community groups. Vice Chair Young stated that she says no to allowing other flags to be flown as it opens up a can of worms and it would also require personnel to put these flags up and the town doesn't have enough personnel to do this. Member Walker stated that he likes the official flags on the flag poles and if there is a flag that people want to fly, they can do it on their own property. Member Pareago stated he wants to go with the stricter option as well. Chair Williams stated that allowing any other flags besides that comprehensive list of what is allowed, would open a can of worms and only wants the stricter policy. Clerk Munroe stated that she agrees with a stricter option.

Motion made to approve option 1 of the Flag Policy which is the stricter policy by H. Munroe. 2nd by K. Young. Discussion – None. All in favor. Yes – 5. No – 0.

Mike Stoll of Lombard Road asked when a resident can make a comment on a motion. TA Boudreau stated that it is the liberty of the chair and that there is an Open Session at the beginning of the meeting which would allow residents to discuss/comment on things. Mr. Stoll stated that he would make his comments at the end of the meeting when there is an opportunity for Public/Press questions.

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the chair – Member Pareago asked for an update on Chapter 90 money. TA Boudreau stated it is still in the legislature and there is no update as of yet.

Public/Press Comments/Questions – Mr. Stoll of Lombard Road asked the board to read the section of the policy that talks about who can half-staff the flags. Chair Williams stated that if there were a town flag that he would have the authority have it flown at half -staff. Mr. Stoll asked that TA Boudreau clarify the statement in the policy to say Town Flags instead of just flags. The Select Board agreed to this.

Motion made to change the policy to read town flags for clarification purposes of the Town Flag policy by K. Young. 2nd by H. Munroe. Discussion: None. All in favor. Yes – 5. No – 0. Motion Passed.

Motion made to adjourn at 7:50 pm by K. Young. 2nd by H. Munroe. Discussion: None. All in favor. Yes – 5. No – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Toni Walker
Executive Assistant

