



SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2024

SLADE BUILDING

Attendance:

Members Present: Jeff Williams – Chair, Katie Young – Vice Chair, Heather Munroe – Clerk (via video), Peter Walker–Member, Kris Pareago - Member

Staff Present: Nathan Boudreau – Town Administrator,

Members absent:

Additional Attendees: Cindy Schlener, Karen Moore, Maria Tourigny, Susan Breagy, Nancy Afonso, Susan Meagher, Francois Steiger, Rosemary Southwick, Walter Morris, Eric Goodhart, Diane & Stephen Smith, Morgan Brinker, Mike Stoll, Mike Foley, Ed Blanchard (on line), Susan Mitchell (on line),

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

Open Session: Francois Steiger stated he was here for Open Session. Mr. Steiger asked the Chair if at some point and time, they could hear an update on 248 Gardner Road. The situation there still remains and would like some kind of update. Chair Williams agreed to provide an update and asked TA Boudreau to speak with Mr. Steiger as to when that could be done.

Announcements, Communications, Liaison Reports – Vice Chair Young stated that this weekend there is a luncheon at the Senior Center which is a fundraiser for the deck. It's on Sunday, February 11th from 10 – 2. The suggested donation is \$20.00 for the lunch. There is a raffle going on as well for gift cards to local establishments as well as the big box stores. There will be a Roast Beef Dinner being put on by the Hubbardston Scholarship Committee on February 17th from 5 – 8 pm at the Rod and Gun. \$15.00 for adults and \$8.00 for kids 8 and under. There is an ice fishing derby on February 24th from 7 am – 2 pm being put on by the Rod and Gun on Sawyers Pond. Information can be found on the Rod & Gun website. Keep Hubbardston Beautiful is coming up on April 20th from 8 am – 12 pm. The Hubbardston Fair is coming up on June 8th from 9 am – 2 pm with a rain date of June 9th. There are a lot of scholarships coming up in the Town of Hubbardston and encourages students to apply for these.

Legislative Priorities Forum with Senator Peter Durant and Representative Donald Berthiaume:

Chair Williams welcomed Senator Durant and Representative Berthiaume and thanked them for coming out tonight. This was an opportunity for residents to ask questions that they may have and see what can be done about their concerns. Ansacomet Pond was spoken about at length as well as budgets with the school and the impacts on the town, as well as bill H139. The video is online and can be watched there to view the whole discussion. Chair Williams thanked Senator Durant and Representative Berthiaume for taking their time and thanked the residents who came to discuss the state of the town with them.

A five minute break was taken to allow those who wanted to leave to do so at this time.

Consent Agenda – Chair Williams stated that there were minutes from January 22, 2024 on the consent agenda.

Motion made to accept the Consent Agenda by K. Young. 2nd by K. Pareago. Discussion: None. All in favor. Yes – 5. No – 0. Motion Passed.

New Business:

Capital Improvement Plan Presentation– Chair Williams stated that this would be moved to the next meeting.

Green Communities Competitive Grant Authorization Request: TA Boudreau stated that Hubbardston became a Green Community in 2019. One of the aspects of this program for funding for Green Communities was at the very beginning the town got to do improvements at the school and police department. The original amount given was \$350,000. Once the Town spent all the designee money, then the Town becomes eligible for competitive grants. This year the town put a grant in for a \$188,000 project to put heat pumps at the library to create efficiencies on the boiler as well as \$10,000 worth of heat and temperature efficiencies to help with what the school did last year. The grants have been received. There is a \$12,000 matching fund and the library asked we take that amount back as they had to cover the cost of the new boiler for the library. The \$12,000 is within the capital plan with endorsements from the Finance Committee as well as the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. TA Boudreau asks for permission to accept and sign the grant.

Motion made to authorize TA Boudreau to accept and sign the necessary contracts to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by K. Young. 2nd by P. Walker. Discussion: Clerk Munroe asked what would happen if the town couldn't get the \$12,000 matching portion at the Town Meeting. TA Boudreau stated that if that happened, he would then have to find the \$12,000 in the operating budget. All in favor. Yes -5. No – 0. Motion Passed.

Senior Deck Project Contract Authorization– TA Boudreau stated that this has been a long time coming as Senior Center Director Claudia Provencal has put a lot into the process of getting the deck funded. TA Boudreau is seeking to enter into a contract with Rob Depres Landscaping & Excavation. Clerk Munroe stated that the completion date states 12/31/2023 and should say 2024 and asked whose language the contract is? TA Boudreau stated it's K.P Law's language. TA Boudreau stated that the contractor is following the procurement process for the Town.

Motion made to authorize TA Boudreau to sign any necessary contracts with Rob Depres Landscaping and Excavation by K. Young, 2nd by P. Walker. Discussion: None. All in favor. Yes – 5. No – 0. Motion Passed.

Emergency Management Planning Grant (EMPG) Contract Authorization – TA Boudreau stated this is a \$2,700 grant received annually matched by Judie O'Donnell's volunteer time and allows her to do some of the activities she does with CERT and Emergency Management.

Motion made to authorize TA Boudreau to sign the EMPG contract on behalf of the Town of Hubbardston by K. Young. 2nd by K. Pareago. Discussion: Member Walker asked if this was a grant for trainings and TA Boudreau stated it was. All in favor. Yes – 5. No – 0. Motion Passed.

Old Business:

Coordination of ARPA funds to reconcile unpaid allocations: TA Boudreau stated that it has been unfortunate that the town wasn't able to stay with the original allocations as outlined by the ARPA Committee a year and a half ago. As different projects came to light, there turned out to be \$46,920 agreement that was made in 2020 by the then Select Board that did not have any funding source. Additionally, if this is approved, then at town meeting there will be a \$7,000 allocation request to get the rest of the easements out of the ARPA roles. The amount of time the town needs to keep the funding available for the easements is longer than the window of the ARPA commitment. It is cleaner to get the funds out of there. Once the window of easements is closed then we may be able to move those funds elsewhere. The proposal right now is to keep the Senior Center Deck project at \$50,000, keep the ambulance radio's (the invoice is currently pending) for \$3,415, reduce the Public Safety feasibility study from \$60,000 to \$30,000, pay \$46,920 to Amarillo for the Town Center/Rt. 68 project, and reduce Open Space Trails from \$16,000 to \$15,000 with the board's blessings and they will come up with the extra \$1,000. Member Walker asked why they don't table the feasibility study and use the money towards the boiler for the school. TA Boudreau stated that he received a rough number of \$28,000 for the feasibility study. Discussion ensued regarding the need for a feasibility study, if the money should be used elsewhere, etc.

Motion made to accept the proposal of the allocation of the remaining ARPA funds by K. Young. 2nd by K. Pareago. Discussion: None. All in favor. Yes – 5. No – 0. Motion Passed.

TA Report: TA Boudreau stated that with respect to time, there is nothing that he has not at least alluded to this evening. However, TA Boudreau requests a motion on behalf of the Select Board to write a thank you note to Representative Berthiaume and Senator Durant.

Motion made to have TA Boudreau write a thank you note to Representative Berthiaume and Senator Durant on behalf of the Select Board by K. Young. 2nd by H. Munroe. Discussion: None. All in favor. Yes – 5. No – 0. Motion Passed.

Policies:

Citizen of the Year: TA Boudreau stated that around this time last year, he brought up the idea of how Hubbardston didn't have a formalized way of recognizing individuals in the community who have taken pride in their civic involvement or do great non-profit work or just contribute greatly to their community. Due to the timing last year, it was too late to do anything with this idea and the Select Board asked TA Boudreau to bring it up this year for consideration. TA Boudreau kept this process very simple and explained this to the Select Board.

Motion made to accept the Citizen of the Year policy by K. Young. 2nd by P. Walker. Discussion: None. All in favor. Yes – 5. No – 0. Motion passed.

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the chair : TA Boudreau stated that there has been a request from Q-Drug, which is a non-profit associated with QRSD ,which encourages people not to use drugs and

speaks in favor of recovery. Q-Drug is asking to put purple ribbons on the Town Common and Curtis Rec Field during 2 weekends in March to bring awareness to this growing problem in our communities. This will coincide with programs happening at QRSD. Chair Williams stated in the past, previous boards have voted not to do this as it opens the door for various other organizations. General consensus among the Select Board is that this is not something they would like to do and asked TA Boudreau stated that he could have a policy speaking to these things drafted at some point for the Select Board. No further discussion.

Public/Press Comments/Questions – None .

Motion to adjourn at 8:41 pm by K. Young. 2nd by H. Munroe. Disussion: None. All in favor. Yes – 5. No – 0. Motion Passed.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Toni Walker
Executive Assistant