

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at the Police Department. Dale Kiley, Jason Petraitis, John Tripp present.

Approval of Warrants:

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the following warrants: Payroll # 28 FY 21 for \$129,217.99, Payroll # 2 FY 22 for \$158,402.04, General # 1073 FY 21 for \$110,719.20, General # 1001 FY 22 for \$226,376.81 and School # 1072 FY 21 for \$30,360.65. So voted.

Financial Items:

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve COA transfer request of \$11,000 from Program Assistant Salary to Purchase of Service to encumber for next Fiscal Year. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve COA transfer request of \$499.25 from Senior Wheels to Supplies. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve Fire Department request to transfer \$1170.71 from Fire repair to Fire Salary for June payroll. So voted.

Old Business:

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve NB Helps Christmas in July Tollbooth fundraiser. So voted.

New Business:

FY 22 Appointments: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the Appointment list for FY 22. So voted.

Fire Report for May: Mr. Tripp read the report. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to accept the report. So voted.

Discharge of Liens, PVPC: Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve the discharge of liens for PVPC. So voted.

At 6:15PM the final report for the West Side Infrastructure Study began. Ian McElwee from CMRPC was present, along with representatives from Lenard Engineering. Lenard provided handouts and a copy of the Full Master Plan. This study was done through CDBG grant funds. In December there was a meeting, they explained what was found. Most streets were in rough condition, some were fair. To fund the whole project is an estimated 10.2 million dollars. All water lines would be replaced, all sewer services replaced, improvement in drainage, improvement in road conditions. These are conceptual plans, not final designs. We'll need to apply for grants over the next dozen or so years. CDBG grant funds are capped at \$800,000 a year. Lenard broke the plan into phases that fit with CDBG schedule. All roadway and sidewalks to be reconstructed, about 10,000 feet of roadway. Mt. Pleasant Street would be a good place to start, road is poor, needs drainage and water repair. This would happen in two phases; 1 water and patch, 2 drain and service improvements. Lenard suggested we apply for the Fall grant for those projects.

Mr. Tripp asked about the Sewer system, Lenard said it's in good condition, just plan to replace service lines. Summer/Union Street sewer pipes are not lined, would have to apply for design funding. Mr. Kiley asked if the project has to be done in a specific order. Lenard said the low side, Spring St drainage outfall between Spring and Evergreen St, there's a blockage or broken pipe. Mr. Kiley asked if they analyzed which project would benefit the most people. Ian said there was a survey done in the Spring of 2019 that still applies. The issue is how much work we can get done with \$800,000 limit. Additional programs could benefit a wider number of people, and he'd be happy to alert the Town to any opportunities. Mt. Pleasant St contains the Housing Authority, projects have to income qualify and Housing Authorities are usually lower on the threshold. Mr. Tripp asked about piggy backing other grant opportunities, Ian said it's possible but timing of grants is an issue because things have to mesh together. Lenard gave a list of phasing; the Town doesn't have to follow that. Mr. Kiley asked if Ian was aware of DDC plans, he is in the loop and will reach out. Ian said CDBG grants have to benefit residential neighborhoods, not business areas or downtown. We will have to tie into Main St, but outside of that intersection we are limited.

Lenard stated that these aren't fully designed plans, just a head start. The next steps: Ian said future CDBG applications, he's working on FY 22, which is due September 9th. Nothing is set in stone and he plans on listening to Town Officials, but the grant will cover design and construction. There are other smaller grant opportunities and possibly new grants will come out in the Spring. We need to figure out the best project to start with, get the application ready, Ian will be back in August for a hearing for CDBG FY 22 application.

Ian stated the Master Plan is available on the website and a copy has been provided to the BOS office.

Public Comment of Hearing:

Resident asked if the parameters of the project what determined the boundaries for the project area. Ian explained the boundaries were established before he engaged with the project, but because Town grant funds are used it has to stay on the public right of way, which would include Town Sewer and Water users. Resident asked about Summer Street, Lenard pointed out the boundary stops at High Street. Jason Benoit stated he played a part in identifying the boundaries, it was based on roadway conditions, very poor in the West Side area.

Resident pointed out that drainage issues were identified as a problem, he has issues at his property down Summer Street and wondered who would look at the lower section of Summer St and fix that issue. Ian said more grant opportunities could address the issue, but this study grant is wrapping up so we can't include that area, but may be able to address intersection of Summer and High streets.

Resident said the Town attempted to make repairs but the problem is worse now.

Bruce Arnold asked if there was a committee working with Lenard Engineering, Mr. Kiley said Pioneer Valley Planning Commission works with North Brookfield and Lenard stated they worked with Sewer, Highway, and Water. There is no committee specifically but CMRPC and PVPC both work with town departments and apply and administer grants for us.

Bruce Arnold asked about finding grants and making sure someone is writing grants for the Town. Mr. Tripp said CMRPC helps us write them but the Town does not have a grant writer. Ian said CMRPC will continue to work with the town and actively pursue grant opportunities that make sense for residents and town departments.

Ian concluded the hearing for the West Side Infrastructure Study and mentioned a new grant through MEMA. There's been flooding recently with heavy rains in the last couple weeks and MEMA has some funds available to address damages. Mr. Tripp asked if its for residential properties, Ian said no, its for Town infrastructure. Ian will get the information to Jason Benoit.

Road Materials Bid: Jason Benoit summarized and made a recommendation along with handouts. Mr. Kiley asked when it needs to be awarded, Jason said today. Kim George said used MassDOT for procurement, we did not go out on our own to bid. Mr. Kiley asked if there were any factors beyond lowest bidder. Jason said yes, past history with the lowest bidder was terrible. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to approve Jason's recommendation for road materials bid. So voted.

Gasoline/Diesel bid: Jason went through MassDot and CMRPC for gas/diesel bid, the state numbers were significantly lower than CMRPC. D.K. Burke does bids for both the state and CMRPC. Jason recommended awarding the bid to D.K. Burke.

Public Comment:

Tina Floria asked if Maria B Tucker sent notice of Deb Maggio's resignation from the School Committee. Mr. Kiley said they received an email, but no resignation letter. There is a question on timing, the Board believe Deb left Town in June but the School Committee stated it was July 3rd. Tina said there are some interested candidates. Mr. Kiley said based on the statute we'll need to meet with the School Committee, has to be posted for a full 7 days. Interested parties should send letters to the School Committee and Selectmen. Based on Mass General Law if Board is not notified within 30 days of resignation the Board of Selectmen will appoint a new member.

At 7:03PM there being no further business, Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to enter executive session to discuss complaints against an employee. So voted. Roll Call: Dale Kiley, yes; Jason Petraitis, yes; John Tripp, yes. Mr. Petraitis noted that we will on enter executive session adjourn.

At 8:22PM the Board came out of Executive Session. Roll Call: Dale Kiley, yes; Jason Petraitis, yes; John Tripp, yes. Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre