**Selectboard Meeting Minutes September 26, 2022 Zoom Teleconference 5:30 pm**

**Call to Order**: Andrew Baker called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Others present: Selectboard members Margaret Payne, Bob Manners, and Town Administrator Terry Narkewicz.

**Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** A motion was put forth by Margaret to approve the minutes of September 12. This was seconded by Bob. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Bob – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Department Liaison Reports:**

**Highway Department** – Bob reported that Little Mohawk Road has been paved and now the crew is working on the edging. The mowing tractor is back from being repaired, which cost less than expected. Roadside mowing is now being done. The Iron Bridge was closed today and was reopened at 3:30 p.m. Funds for the message board sign have arrived and the sign is now in the process of being ordered.

**Arms Library** – A committee is looking into the history of how costs have been split between Buckland and Shelburne. The plan is to come up with a formula for splitting the costs.

**Senior Center** – An “out to lunch” program has started where seniors go out to a restaurant together. Director Julie Moreno will be meeting with the towns’ Councils on Aging and hopes also to meet with the Selectboards of the three towns. Starting October 1, the Center will have a “mask preferred” policy.

**Sewer Commission** – The Commission has been meeting with the plant operator, who has proposed a salary increase. The Commission is reviewing salaries.

**Police Department** – The Collins Center has completed an outreach plan, which will be reviewed this week. The two Selectboards plan to meet on October 11 to start implementing the plan.

**Energy Committee** – The committee has been meeting with the Mohawk Building Committee to consider a solar power purchase agreement. The school district is now paired with a major solar provider.

**Village Task Force** – The group will be meeting on October 12 to begin discussion on what type of entity might replace the business association

**Appointments:** None

**Old Business:**

**Ancient Glacier, LLC RE: Draft Lease of 19-23 Bridge Street** – The contract is still going back and forth between Ancient Glacier’s attorney and Town Counsel.

**Comcast Cable Television Contract Renewal** (Mike Duffy, Cable Advisory Committee) – Mike reported that the new contract should be arriving tomorrow. It has been reviewed by Buckland’s Town Counsel. Buckland may be voting on the contract at their meeting tomorrow.

**375 & 379 Main Street RE: Hazardous Materials & Demolition Update –** Terry has spoken with all the utilities involved with the properties about disconnecting. The project is still awaiting DEP approval for the demolition plan.

**New Business:**

**Schedule Special Town Meeting to Vote MTRSD Articles** – Four articles should have been voted at Annual Town Meeting, but only one was on the warrant due to an oversight. The three articles must be considered. One article does not affect Shelburne but the school district needs to know the Selectboard make a conscious decision not to vote on the article. A motion was made by Bob to not include Article 4 of the MTRSD request on the STM ballot. This was seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Bob – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

The other two articles concern the apportionment of costs for sending Heath students to Colrain, and the effective date of the regional agreement amendments. The Board decided to hold a Special Town Meeting on October 17 at 5:30 pm as part of a regular Selectboard meeting.

**Moonlight Magic Celebration, November 25; Support for Closing Iron Bridge & Placement of Holiday Tree on Ancient Glacier Lot** – Organizers of the event said the tree was on the Ancient Glacier lot last year. Once the lot is under town control, the Board would be in favor of having the tree there. A letter will be sent to Mass DOT supporting the closing of the Iron Bridge for the Moonlight Magic event. A motion was put forth by Margaret to support the closing of the Iron Bridge for Moonlight Magic and to approve the placement of the holiday tree on the Ancient Glacier lot. This was seconded by Bob. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Bob – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**2022 Fire Prevention Week Proclamation** – The Board had reviewed the proclamation designating October 9 to 15 ad Fire Prevention Week. A motion was made by Bob to support the proclamation for Fire Prevention Week. This was seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Bob – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Sewer Commissioners Request for $145,502 in ARPA Funding** – Andrew is a Sewer Commissioner so he said he would abstain from any vote on this subject. The Commissioners are requesting the funds to cover the cost of the recently completed Conway Street sewer trunk line upgrade. If that money has to come from the Enterprise Fund it will drop that fund to under $50,000, which would mean sewer future projects would require borrowing and possible rate increases. $184,757 has already been committed from ARPA funds, leaving a balance of $364,355. If the Sewer Commissioners request is granted, ARPA funds would then total $218,853. Terry had hoped to be able to fund the demolition of the two town-owned properties (see above) as well as the solar array at the Highway Garage. Those two projects would total $245,422. Andrew said he doesn’t expect another sewer project of this magnitude for while. Bob and Margaret asked for time to think about APRA priorities.

**Any Other Business:**

**West County Senior Services District** – Margaret said that following Town Meeting votes by the three towns, the next step in creating a district is a vote by the state legislature. She is unsure when that might happen. In the meantime, Buckland Selectboard member Barry Del Castillo has suggested forming a group to work on the transition. He proposed having one member from each town, one member from each Selectboard, one member from each Council on Aging, and Terry, who has the historic knowledge. Terry suggested that Shelburne Treasurer Angel Bragdon also be part of the group. This would be just a working group that would not make decisions, just suggestions and recommendations. Terry agreed to the initial meeting.

**Board Appointments** – After receiving recommendations from the respective boards, the Board agreed to appoint Rick LaPierre to the Planning Board and Mary Lou Gallup to the Recreation Committee. A motion was made by Bob to appoint Rick LaPierre to fill the unexpired seat on the Planning Board until the next town election. This was seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Bob – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0. A motion was put forth by Margaret to appoint Mary Lou Gallup to the unexpired seat on the Recreation Committee until the next election. This was seconded by Bob. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Bob – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Election Schedule** – A motion was made by Bob to approve the early voting hours for the upcoming national election, as presented by the Town Clerk. This was seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Bob – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Next Meeting** – The next Board meeting will be on October 17.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment**: At 6:25 a motion was made by Bob to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Bob – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney, Recording Secretary