

Selectboard Meeting Minutes April 24, 2023 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 (arrived 5:37), and Town Administrator Terry Narkewicz.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Margaret asked for a clarification of one section of the minutes. Terry will make the change. A motion was put forth by Margaret to approve the minutes of April 10. This was seconded by Andrew. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Andrew – yes. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Department Liaison Reports:

Arms Library – A date is being set for a meeting of the Arms Library Trustees in early May.

Police Department – Andrew asked for clarification as to whether, if shared police services were approved, the town could expect the same level of services as is now provided. Terry said that Greg's intentions is to provide the same level of service if not better.

Village Task Force – The group is starting to work on a multi-town consulting project that was recently funded through FRCOG. Andrew will be working on that.

Sewer Commission – The Commission will be meeting this week. A new chief operator is needed. There will be a discussion on how administrative services will be handled. The sewer main project in Buckland needs to be completed. A new sewer repair project has been discovered as part of the Bridge Street construction, which is expected to cost \$35,000.

Highway Department – Bob reported that the dirt roads are drying up and the crew is nearly done sweeping. They are doing site work in preparation for the new pole barn. The new chipper has not yet been delivered. Tree crews, contracted by the Tree Warden, are in town doing annual maintenance work.

Town Hall – Terry said parts for the elevator are on order. She was told it would take 12 to 14 weeks.

Appointments:

6:00 pm Shelburne School Committee RE: Amendments to District Agreement (School Committee members Jason Cusimano, Julie Dubreuil; Terri Mitchell, Todd Dubreuil, Matt Popoli, Finance Committee) – Jason said that the regional agreement was made before school choice was a factor. There are three amendments. The first would adopt a five-year rolling average based on foundation enrollment. The second would apply the change of using foundation enrollment. The third would decide the effective dates of the changes. Foundation enrollment includes all students who attend their assigned school, go to intra-district schools, choice out of the district, or choice out as special education students. The current agreement does not include choice students. The idea is that the changes would spread costs more equitably among the district towns. Initially the amendments were to come to the towns next year but it was the consensus of the Mohawk budget subcommittee and finance committee members from several towns, that it could happen this year. Julie said she was not part of the budget subcommittee and that she had not had a chance to look over the changes. She said she voted to put the amendments on town warrants but in retrospect she thought she probably should have abstained for voted no as she felt she could not explain the amendments to the voters. She was not sure that families that send their children to other places should have to pay for the local schools. Bob said he would

have liked more time to study the documents but felt it was not unreasonable to be voting on it this year. Todd said no one on the Finance Committee knows the financial implications of these changes. The regional agreement requires that the member towns place these amendments on the warrants. All towns would have to approve the amendments for the changes to take effect. Andrew said what he did not want was to have these items decided at a special town meeting where very few voters would attend.

Old Business:

Relocation of Veteran's Memorial at BSE – Andrew said that now that the tree which was in front of Memorial Hall has been removed, he thinks the veteran's memorial could be placed there, if the tree were not replaced Terry said a tree for that location has already been purchased, so a new location for the tree would need to be found. Les Chadwick, who represent the veterans, have spoken to Librarian Laurie Wheeler about putting the memorial near the library. Laurie said she would be delighted to have the memorial near the library. It would need to be discussed by the trustees. Andrew wondered if the library location should be used for a bus shelter. Laurie was not as keen on that idea. The veterans have expressed the hope that the memorial could be located somewhere along their parade route. Bob and Margaret were agreeable to the idea of placing the memorial near the library, or perhaps near the historical society. Cost estimates for moving the memorial are being sought. Bob suggested waiting until estimates were in hand and then revisiting the discussion.

Pavilion Project 19 Bridge Street – Students from Franklin Tech will not be able to complete the pavilion before the end of the school year, due to several setbacks. The plan is to have it framed this spring then come back in the fall to complete the roof. Terry will be meeting with the carpentry class tomorrow. Andrew wanted to be sure that the site would be usable for the summer. Margaret hoped some sort of temporary covering could be placed on the pavilion to provide shade. Tech landscaping students have provided a sketch of a landscaping plan. They will be coming for another site visit this week.

West County Senior Services District Board of Managers Appointees – Nothing new to report.

Franklin County Tech School Seeks Shelburne Representative to Serve on District Committee – Terry has not heard if the moderator has spoken with an individual who had expressed interest in the position.

Streetlights – Summing up the situation, Andrew said the Board learned of Eversource's streetlight replacement program more than a year ago. Last fall Eversource made an offer to replace Shelburne's lights at no cost. Several sets of test lights were installed with the resulting sense being that all the test lights produced too much glare. Eversource has now agreed to realign the lights and to provide shields to direct the light towards the streets. A shielded and realigned light has now been installed in the area of Main and Water Streets. Eversource will no longer be replacing sodium vapor lights, so when any of the existing lights burn out, they will be replaced by an LED light. The Energy Committee has proposed that the project be postponed until the committee has a chance to do an in-depth study of LED lights and which ones might be the best for the town. The study would be completed by August 1. Bob said he had talked with residents of the rural area of town who seem to feel the town has been given a generous offer, possibly saving \$50,000 in installation costs, and why pay for something that has been offered for free. Bob said perhaps the village should form its own lighting district. Bob added that the Selectboard has to make decisions on what is good for the town as a whole and think about energy

consumption, green communities, cost savings, etc. Margaret asked that Jill Connolley report on the shielded light near her home. Jill said that the lineman who came from Eversource said actual shields were not available but he crafted something to redirect the light. Jill reported that the light no longer shines into her home, instead it shines into her neighbor's home. Margaret said she drove through town and can see why the lights are a problem, but just because there is an Energy Committee report in August, it does not mean that the funds to implement it would be available. Margaret felt the town should get started with Eversource while working on a better long-term plan. Andrew said at the minimum, Eversource should provide one shielded light. He had a lot of questions about what a different plan might cost taxpayers. Bob said Eversource has been patient with the town and their offer might not last forever. Terry said as far as she knew, the Eversource free light offer had no deadline, but the lights they have in stock are what they are offering, not the warmer-type lights that the people seem to want. Kat Whittaker said she and Tom Johnson had been in touch with people from the town of Pepperell. That town chose to go with alternative lights which are dimmable. Pepperell found it was saving a lot on electric bills and the police in that town had no complaints about the lights. People from Pepperell and Northampton have offered to help and share their studies with Shelburne. Kate said she understood that trying to change lights at a later date was very expensive. The Energy Committee does not need Selectboard approval in order to go ahead with its study, which should be able to provide lighting options and costs by August 1. Margaret said she wanted to see what actual shields could do for the lights and also when the offer of free lights might be taken away. The Finance Committee also expressed a need to know the financial implications of alternative lights, noting there is nothing in the budget to pay for alternative lights. The Board decided to continue the discussion at its next meeting.

Andrew left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

New Business:

Debb Makara RE: Request for Appointment to Shelburne Cultural Council – Debb has lived in town for 20 years and would like to serve on the Cultural Council. A motion was put forth by Bob to appointment Debb Makara to the Cultural Council. This was seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Request for ARPA Funds for Standby Generator @Police/Municipal Building – A generator has been needed since the Police Department moved into the Route 2 building. On at least two occasions, during power outages, the police had to operate out of their cruisers as there was no power or internet in the building. EMD Tom Williams and Police Chief Greg Bardwell have searched for grants and none are available. They sought three quotes for a generator. The low bid was \$34,100 from Paciorek Electric, Inc. A motion was made by Bob to award the bid to Paciorek Electric Inc. for \$34,100 for the installation of a three-phase generator at the municipal building on Route 2 and to allocate the money from ARPA funds. This was seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 2-0-0.

FY'21 CDBG Contract Amendment #1 and #5 RE: Breezeway Farm and GCG Associates – Contracts for both Breezeway Farm and GCG Associates need to be extended to December 31, 2023 due to the delay in starting the Bridge Street Phase 2 project. The delay was largely caused by the shortage of piping. Time will be needed for paving tree planting, and closing out the grant. A motion was put forth by Margaret to extend the contract with Breezeway Farm Consulting Inc. until December 31, 2023, to allow time for the completion of the project and grant closeout. This

was seconded by Bob. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 2-0-0. A motion was put forth by Margaret to extend the contract with GCG Associates. until December 31, 2023, to allow time for the completion of the project. This was seconded by Bob. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Any Other Business: None

Next Meeting – The next Board meeting will be on May 8, 2023.

Correspondence:

Kate Whittaker & Tom Johnson RE: LED Streetlight Installation Concerns and Citizens' Petition – A second petition, signed by an additional 29 people, had been received regarding replacing the street lights. It asked that the replacement be paused until the Energy Committee was able to conduct a comparative and comprehensive study.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: At 7:40 a motion was made by Bob to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Margaret – yes; Bob – yes. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Faye Whitney, Recording Secretary