Board of Selectmen Minutes Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 7:00pm Town Hall Meeting Room, 13 Ayer Road, Harvard, MA

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Lucy Wallace in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Selectmen Ken Swanton, Stu Sklar and Alice von Loesecke were in attendance as well as Town Administrator Tim Bragan and Assistant and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet.

Wild & Scenic Nashua River - Designation and Stewardship Plan

Nashua River Watershed Land Programs and Outreach Director Al Futterman gave a presentation on the Wild and Scenic River Study highlighting its benefits and how to achieve designation. He explained the study is conducted to determine whether a river segment is eligible and suitable for designation. The designation allows for protection and restoration of the nation's best rivers. Eleven surrounding communities are being asked to vote on this at their upcoming Town Meetings. The Study Committee was tasked with seeking public input to develop a River Stewardship Plan. This plan can be viewed online and a hard copy will be at the Town Hall and Library. The board members thanked Futterman and remarked favorably on the presentation and the mission.

Minutes

On a Swanton/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to approve minutes from 3/6 and 3/20, as presented.

Town Administrator Report

Bragan is working with von Loesecke on the financial impact analysis related to the Hildreth Elementary School project. The financial model will assist in better understanding the impact of the \$1,000,000 contributions from the school department (Devens funds) and the capital account.

Bragan announced the Fire Department will hold a live burn on Saturday, April 7th at 40 Woodside Road with a rain date of April 8th.

Bragan read an invitation from Michael Nicholson, Executive Aide to Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke, to participate in a meeting to take place on Tuesday, April 10th at 4:00pm at Levi Heywood Memorial Library in Gardner. The purpose of this meeting is continue the dialogue we have started with municipal and school officials from the 18 municipalities that make up the Monty Tech School District. Please bring a list of the issues you are facing, as well as any proposed solutions for either the School Committee or the State Legislature to address. Sklar may try to attend.

Bragan asked the board to vote the old ambulance as surplus now that all equipment has been transferred and the new ambulance is in service. On a von Loesecke/Swanton motion, the board voted unanimously to surplus the ambulance.

Bragan reported on a meeting held to discuss logistics with respect to overflow at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM). He expects an increase in attendance this year because of the school project. Bragan will likely be requesting a reserve fund transfer to pay for additional costs for the ATM.

Public Communication

Don Green, Oak Hill Road, asked about the civil war plaques that were at the old library. He would like to see them returned there.

Board of Assessor appointment

On a Sklar/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint temporarily Debra George to the Board of Assessors until June 30th so they can handle abatements.

General Store license conditions

The board members discussed and reviewed the draft conditions. They agreed to revisit them after store owner Scott Hayward has a chance to provide feedback.

Solid Waste Disposal Contract

On a von Loesecke/Swanton motion, the board voted unanimously to approve waste disposal and transport services contract with Devens Recycling to include regular waste, municipal solids and construction debris for rates presented (dated 3.4.2018).

On a von Loesecke/Swanton motion, the board voted unanimously to award recycling to GW Shaw for with rates on bid sheet (dated 3.4.2018).

Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee selection process

Wallace confirmed 12 applications have been received. She noted one of the Devens applications will not be considered because the applicant does not reside in the Harvard portion of Devens. Wallace suggested each member review and rank (1 -12) the applications and submit them to Executive Assistant Julie Doucet. The members were in agreement Victor Normand would be an asset to have on the committee. They decided to interview both remaining candidates from Devens and four others.

Selectmen reports

Swanton reported the Transfer Station Committee has met a few times and decided to aim for a July 2019 implementation. He noted the purchase of a new paper compactor may be necessary sooner.

Von Loesecke reported a new developer has applied for the permit being issued for the first phase of the Devens Green project. She will contact Peter Lowitt at the Devens Enterprise Commission to determine if this could have an impact on our number of affordable units.

Von Loesecke announced the School Building Committee will be holding information sessions and tours prior to the Annual Town Meeting. She confirmed the school department and capital committee have committed to allocating \$1,000,000 each to the project. Von Loesecke will prepare a tax impact analysis showing FY19 capital projection scenarios.

Sklar said he was approached by someone in town interested in installing solar panels at the Transfer Station. He explained the state has a new incentive reimbursement program and basically the town would rent the space over the entire area. Sklar plans to discuss this with the Energy Advisory Committee but wanted to first seek input from his fellow board members. Everyone thought the idea was interesting and encouraged him to investigate it further.

Sklar reported the consultant working on the Ayer Road traffic is reviewing traffic studies done after the Jackson Road bridge project was completed.

Wallace indicated the Housing @ Hildreth House Committee is on hiatus for now. A couple members are revisiting studies done on what type of housing seniors are interested in. They are also waiting for the study on the Fire Station to be completed.

Wallace said the Old Library Accessibility Committee will hold a kick off meeting with Abacus Architects this week. Members Pete Jackson and Chris Cutler are working on the Hazmat and geo testing.

**** On a Swanton motion, the Board voted unanimously by a roll call vote:

(Sklar – Aye, Wallace – Aye, Swanton – Aye, von Loesecke – Aye) to enter into executive session at 8:45pm, as authorized by Chapter 30A, Section 21. 2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Following the executive session, the Board will reconvene only to adjourn. ****

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Documents referenced:

General Store draft conditions – dated 4.2.2018
Solid waste disposal contract – dated 2.27.2018
Harvard – Devens Jurisdiction Committee
volunteer forms:
Victor Normand – dated 2.28.2018
Tim Myllykangas – dated 3.2.2018
Stephanie Opalka – dated 3.12.2018
Paul Green – dated 3.2.2018
Keena Keel – dated 3.10.2018
Michael DeBruin – dated 3.7.2018
Heather Knowles – dated 2.28.2018
SusanMary Redinger – dated 3.13.2018
George Glazier – dated 3.19.2018
Janet Waldron – dated 3.21.2018

Paul Willard - dated 3.29.2018