Select Board
Minutes
Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 7:00pm
Town Hall Meeting Room, Harvard, MA

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Alice von Loesecke in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Select Board members Lucy Wallace, Stu Sklar, Kara Minar and Rich Maiore were in attendance as well as Town Administrator Tim Bragan, Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet.

Council on Aging appointment
CoA Co-Chair Beth Williams introduced Chester Hooper for appointment. Hooper was recruited by another CoA member and is happy to volunteer on the board. On a Wallace/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint Chester Hooper to Council on Aging.

Old Library Accessibility project update
Wallace announced final inspection is expected for next week. She explained the committee learned last week that the hardware required to enable the full functionality electronic key card reader system to control and monitor access to the building was neither specified nor ordered by the General Contractor. As a result, additional equipment is required to return the building access to its original functioning state. OLAC believes that the cost for this additional hardware, and its installation, should be supported by the project's budget. Sobalvarro confirmed this component was not included in the original scope of the project. On a Minar/Maiore motion, the board voted unanimously to allow OLAC to proceed with the card swipe system. Sobalvarro will settle cost estimates from Jasonics and the locksmith to include prevailing wages.

Community Choice Aggregation
Energy Advisory Committee members Ellen Leicher, Brian Smith and Eric Broadbent were present to review the recommended plan options. The committee based their recommendation on survey data, cost projections, supply contracts and Colonial Power's (aggregation consultant) past experience with other towns.

Based on those considerations, they are recommending a plan including two options for Harvard's customers with a third non-participation option:

1) 100% renewable supply – 36 month term
2) Lowest cost supply – 36 month term
3) Opt out of the program

Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro was able to attain usage estimates for all accounts that would be affected which indicating the cost for renewable supply to be $6.68 higher on an annual basis than the lowest cost option for the average residential user.

On a Wallace/Minar motion, the board voted unanimously to designate 100% renewable supply source as the default.

The board members thanked the committee members for their efforts on the project commending them for their great work.

Minutes
On a Sklar/Wallace motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the 8/6 minutes, as presented. (Minar – abstained a she was not present)

Special Event Permit
On a Minar/Maiore motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the special event permit request from the Harvard Lions Club for the Fall Festival run from Bromfield school to the pond.

Fire Station architect
On a Wallace/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to endorse contract with Kaestle Boos as articulated in the contract as amended with a date for completion of feasibility report.

Public Comment
Beth Williams, Co-Chair on the CoA, announced they are holding a ham & bean dinner the night of the on September 18th.

Town Administrator Report

- The Park and Recreation Committee voted to move forward for a grant to make the beach house bathrooms accessible. This will entail getting a design developed and then getting their approval. Will look at CPC, CPIC and Small Warrant Article for funding the design and then applying for the grant funding to do the project.
- Moving ahead and will be applying for hearing devices to be used at public meetings in Town Hall by individuals with hearing issues. They are called Assisted Listening Devices.
- The building committee has been working with CBI to do the preliminary work and development of the specifications for the Old Library roof and top courses of brick and are looking at the second candidate, Gale, to possibly do the job.
- The Assessor's office updated the application form for the Means Tested Senior Exemption program and has set Monday, September 16, 2019 as the deadline for applications.
- No additional questions have come from the Moderator or Department Heads with respect to splitting the annual Town meeting into a Spring and Fall Session. So far Town Counsel has said we can do it and that when the Spring session ends you adjourn it to the date, time and place of the fall session rather than being dissolved and it is called under 2 warrants. He asked the Select Board members, to send me any questions you may have so they can be answered before the All Boards meeting in September.
- Public Hearing Notice from Ayer has been received regarding the proposed Pond View development off of Shaker Road. The hearing is this evening and should the Board wish us to send a letter of concerns then I will be happy to do so.
- He provided a list of vacant board and committee positions and it is available on our website. There is a correction in that there are now two associate positions available on the Finance Committee
- The Finance Committee is meeting on the 11th to prepare for the All Boards Meeting on the 18th of September and will also start the discussion on issues discussed in our recent Standard and Poor's rating.
- Attached is a draft calendar for the upcoming budget season. The Chairs of the Select Board, Finance Committee, and Capital Planning and Investment Committee along with Marie, Julie, and Lori have either reviewed it and do not see anything wrong with it. I ask the Board to review it and make any changes necessary at the next meeting.
- Attached is the easement received from National Grid on Friday, along with Town Counsel's input and comments from the Chair of the School Building Committee, SusanMary Redinger. This will have to be approved at a Town Meeting.

- The Moderator is available for a Special Town Meeting on Monday, October 28, 2019. There are a number of items that could be addressed at this meeting and they include:
  - Up to 7 zoning articles currently being worked on by Planning Board and the Economic and Community Development Director.
  - Funding to extending hours at transfer station. (Select Board and DPW)
  - Deal with other (non-school) bond premiums from our recent borrowing. (Finance Director)
  - Automatic Article Closeout after three years. (Finance Director)
  - Other articles as needed or submitted.
- As you may know that Water Department had to close down well five due to bacteria getting into the system. Tim Kilhart worked with DEP and the Water and Sewer Commission and believes it was due to a crack in the well wall. DPW sealed the crack today. This is the second time in a few months that our wells have been off-line due to issues. The DPW Director is getting concerned that DEP may end our ability to have "Raw Water" (non-treated water) and may require us to start treating our water which could get very costly. The Water and Sewer Commission discussed this issue at their last meeting and are concerned about future operating issues and cost to a small water system. They believe we need to start looking at all of our options (new well, expand system to cover operational costs, connecting to Devens) so that we can plan for the future as opposed to having to react to a decree from DEP.

Request from Town of Ayer to install water/sewer pipes

DPW Director Mark Wetzel and Town Administrator Robert Pontbriand from Ayer came to review their request in more detail. They reported the Ayer Planning Board was holding a hearing this evening on the proposal. They are mindful of the concern for this development and acknowledged it is in the preliminary stages. They discussed options for the area with respect to wetlands and traffic. Wetzel estimates the developer is at least a couple of months away from finalizing anything. All parties were in agreement they are seeking a project that will be good for both towns. Von Loesecke explained the board is not opposed to the request however they are not ready to take action. Wallace agreed that input from the Ayer Planning Board, Ayer Conservation Commission and Harvard Conservation Commission is imperative prior to any decisions being made. The Town of Ayer will follow up with Harvard once they have more thorough information.

Carlson Orchards – one day liquor licensing

Frank Carlson asked the board to consider rescinding his requests for July and August and instead allowing him to use dates in September and October. Carlson stated he only used the one day licensing for four days in August and no dates in July. The board was amendable to this and will take action at their next meeting.

Resident Gwen Leonard from Woodchuck Hill spoke briefly about her concern for the impact this licensing may have on the overall community with respect to noise and our scenic roadways.

Intermunicipal agreement – MAJIC Regional Housing group

Von Loesecke said Community & Economic Development Director Chris Ryan assisted in Harvard becoming a member of this group. She explained they will be able to assist in monitoring all affordable house units and tracking sales. On a Wallace/Maiore motion, the board voted unanimously to approve signing the Intermunicipal agreement with the MAJIC Regional Housing Group subject to correction of typos.

Select Board Reports

Maiore reported the Planning Board is working on seven articles for the Fall Special Town Meeting. He expects the Chair Erin McBee to attend an upcoming meeting to review. He confirmed the Community & Economic Development Director Chris Ryan will visit with the Select Board at their next meeting to review his Ayer Road Development Plan. Maiore will be meeting with the Agricultural Advisory Commission to discuss some areas of interest with them.

Minar noted again the hard work of the Energy Advisory Committee on the Community Aggregation. She also reported on the recent meeting held by the Board of Health to address Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). She explained one mosquito in town tested positive for the virus. An action plan was discussed but no roadside mosquito spraying will done it is up to personal responsibly at this time.

Sklar reported the new SMART program at the Transfer Station is going well so far and they have received positive feedback.

Von Loesecke reported the first Hildreth Elementary School construction meeting has been held and one will happen each week.

**** On a Wallace motion, the Board voted unanimously by a roll call vote:
(Wallace – Aye, Maiore – Aye, von Loesecke – Aye, Minar – Aye, Sklar – Aye) to enter into executive session at 8:50pm, as authorized by Chapter 30A, Section 21.3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. The Board will reconvene into open session only to adjourn. ****

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Documents referenced:
Hooper vol form – dated 7.21.2019
OLAC – memo dated 8.27.2019
Community Choice Aggregation progress report - 8.23.2019
Special Event request – dated 7.30.2019
Intermunicipal Agreement – dated 8.14.2019