

**Hardwick Board of Selectmen Meeting
307 Main Street
Gilbertville MA
May 8, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm

Church Street properties

No update as of yet. HRR asked if we could look into a grant that may help take these buildings down.

Town house rate increase

Anne Barnes would like to increase the rate to \$40.00/hr starting on June 1st.

EV made a motion to accept the new fee of \$40.00 starting on June 1, 2023

KK seconded.

Roll call.

HRR (I), KK (I), EV (I)

Lift off quote for office 365 plan

Paragus is who we currently get our Office 365, we would use Lift Off for our plan and the amount would be \$8460.00 annually. This would also have us move our .com address to .gov. The Board of selectmen would like a more information on who are these 45 licenses for to present at the next selectmen meeting.

Discussion/Vote to send letter Unfunded Mandate Request

Ryan Witkos, Town Clerk asked If the Board of Selectmen would send a letter to the Auditor requesting a review of costs the Town bears when mailing out ballots for municipal elections. We are looking to get reimbursed for municipal elections as we do for state elections.

KK made a motion to send the state auditor a letter regarding early voting requirements by mail for reimbursement.

EV seconded.

Roll call.

HRR (I), KK (I), EV(I)

Marcum LLP contract FY24

Marcum forwarded the contract for their fiscal year price for FY24. The price this year will be \$85,000 for 36 hours of work for our town.

EV made a motion to sign the contract with Marcum for \$85,000 for FY24

KK seconded.

Roll Call

HRR(I), KK (I), EV (I)

CMRPC letter of support

CMRPC would like a letter of support for their notice of intent to participate in the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

KK made a motion to write a letter of support for CMRPC regarding the EPA clinic pollution reduction grant.

EV seconded.

Roll Call

HRR(I), KK (I), EV (I)

ARPA funding

We received the bills for the Joselyn Road project in the amount of \$6682.84. The bills were for Jason Gerulitis for \$1825.00

EJP for \$3739.21

Highway hours for work of \$1118.63

KK would like to make a motion to approve the ARPA funds in the amount of \$6682.84 for the hydrant repairs.

EV Seconded

Roll Call

HRR (I) KK (I), EV (I)

Ryan Witkos, Town clerk submitted a quote would like to get a safe for the amount of \$3910.

This is to keep vital records safe and secure. There is limited space to keep the records that we have to keep now.

EV made a motion to approve the safe for preserving records for the town clerk in the amount of \$3910.00.

KK seconded.

Roll call.

HRR(I), KK (I), EV (I)

Finance committee Visitation

In attendance Keenan Young, Chris Culross, Glen Wojik, Mark Korzec, Leon Small

Three rates were questioned by finance committee

Assessor salary- will need to adjust the amount this year

Youth center director pay increase raised to 24.32 as in the classification plan

If the Police want to incread the clerks pay the finance committee suggested they need to reduce their spending somewhere else.

With all said increases Finance committee is currently balanced

HRR requested we put the budget on the website and label it draft so our town people can see what we are working with.

Finance committee needs clarification of the 1.8% interest, if this will be coming out to the sewer funds or if finance committee needs to add their budget.

Sewer project

The board of selectmen would like to have someone oversee the project. Another set of eyes just to make sure that things are being done correctly.

If we can contact 3 other companies to see if they will do oversight in this project.

Board of selectmen brought up 2 companies White water and Blue Heron

Ryan Witkos- Lauren Mace submitted a email about our elections and if we could move our election to Saturdays due to the safety of our kids. Ryan feels we would get better turn out and not use the school during the time the children are there for safety issues. Ryan has spoken with the school in the past regarding the Tuesday election day. He feels he gives them enough time to adjust for this school day. To change the election time, we could do second or third Saturday for the election and annual town meeting.

Ryan Witkos- presented two emails he received that are spam and with us being .com address he feels if we were a hardwickma-gov email that we would be better protected.

Kathy Klein from KP Law sent an email for wording on the betterments. Need to discuss as this is going to be going on the taxpayers of the town.

Adjournment

KK made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

EV seconded.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:20 pm