

HARDWICK SELECTBOARD MEETING

**307 Main Street
Gilbertville, MA 01031
October 16, 2023**

Attendees: Kelly Kemp (KK), Vice Chair; Eric Vollheim (EV), Clerk; Nicole Parker (NP), Town Administrator; Judy Kohn (JK), Board of Health Chair; Ryan Wilkos (RW), Town Clerk; Angelique Broussard (AB). H. Rob Ruggles was absent.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Call Out for Visitor Comments Made by Kelly Kemp

- Jeffrey Smith requested permission to read a statement stating his concern about the July 18th Hardwick Board of Selectmen meeting. He believed a quorum wasn't met and addressed what he believed were conflicts of interest.
- Matthew Tolman, Owner Tolman Home Solutions, LLC, explained he had received a letter from the Planning Board which stated his business signs were in violation of the by-laws. KK explained that wasn't something that would fall under the Selectboard's jurisdiction, and that would be the Planning Board and/or the Building Inspector, so that issue is not anything the Selectboard could have any say in. NP offered her services to Mr. Tolman offering to explain the steps involved with going about appealing the Planning Board's decision. Mr. Tolman gladly accepted NP's assistance.

NEW BUSINESS

Visitation – Judy Kohn: PFAS Discussion and KP Law Contract

- JK stated she had received an ad a year ago about a national class action lawsuit against the manufacturers of PFAS. She had gotten Hardwick signed up. She had been asked by the law firm to complete the retainer which included technical questionnaires. The Water Commission and Water Districts need to fill in the technical forms. KK explained that technically they are private entities and, therefore, the Selectboard does not have any oversight over either the Gilbertville or Wheelwright Water departments. KK suggested another person from the Board of Health try to reach out to them, in order to obtain what was needed. Hardwick Center falls under the Selectboard. East National Water along with the Highway Department who are working on that.
- Host Agreement for Solid Waste: KK said nothing has been presented since the presentation. JK requested permission to talk with KP Law. The Board of Health would use their expense budget for payment. JK asked for a meeting with the Selectboard, Board of Health and KP Law which the Board of Health would also pay for.
- JK noted the town election and she requested to get on the docket to raise Patricia Tinker's hours from 8 hrs./week to 12hrs./week and have the Town vote on it. NP and KK stated the budget is already in place unless there are funds in the Board of Health budget. KK noted it would have to go in front of the voters and noted there is a special town meeting coming up. JK needs to figure a dollar amount.
- JK stated there are 6 new volunteers for the Board of Health with 4 being physicians.

Class I, II, III Annual Fee Discussion

NP proposed the fees be changed to \$100 annually noting fees have been \$50 since 2002; Barre is \$120, Ware is \$200, and Hubbardston is \$100.

Motion

EV made a motion to raise the fees to \$100 annually.

KK seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

NEW BUSINESS:**Request for Approval: Christmas on The Common November 26, 2023 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

- AB explained Christmas on the Common events which will include vendors.
- The Committee is looking into having benches redone on the Town Common.
- Request was made for permission to clean up the fountain for the event.
- KK explained the pointsettia deliveries will occur on that morning. Donations would be appreciated. There was a surplus of \$516 from last year, and the approximate cost for pointsettias is about \$1400 in order to be able to deliver 270 this year. Note: Elves are also needed for delivery. KK asked people to reach out to her and added any and all help is welcome.

Special Town Meeting Date

- RW stated November 2, 2023 for the date.
- He had recommended doing a Thursday prior to finding out about the Board of Health's request. He could add a line item which means the location might need to be changed to the school instead of the Municipal Building.
- RW will add the line item regarding the BOH clerk's salary (increase hours).
- Special Election will take place on November 7, 2023.

Motion

EV made a motion to call the Town Meeting for November 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Myron E. Richardson Building.

KK seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

Reorganization of the Selectboard

- KK said this topic would be tabled until the next meeting.
- Chair of Selectboard absent due to illness.

OLD BUSINESS**Disclosure for Two Special Employee Positions – Board of Selectmen and Emergency Management Director**

EV explained he cannot be compensated for both the Emergency Management and Selectmen positions which means he would have to give up one of those positions. He sought a town exemption, and it was

determined if he made a disclosure and the Selectboard accepted he could therefore be compensated. This is pending.

Request for Proposals Discussion/Vote: Sewer Oversight

- KK stated this item should be tabled for future discussion.

Town Administrator Report

NP stated they're moving forward on the USDA project:

- Driller is working to pre-drill ledge on October 18.
- Wet well delivery slated for November 2.
- Wheelwright Wastewater Treatment Plant will have a bid opening on October 25 at 2:00 p.m.
- Next addenda will be issued next week answering bidders' questions.
- Gilbertville Treatment Plant, Ultraviolet Disinfection System, proposals are due by November 1st.
- Park and Rec along with the Youth Center would like to have their Halloween celebration at the Municipal Building on October 28, with a rain date of October 29, to coincide with the Trunk or Treating.
- Capital Planning Committee has been meeting monthly and should get recommendations to the Selectboard soon.
- October 11 a safety mechanism was installed on the boiler at the Municipal Building which would shut the pump off if the water goes above a certain amount – this is a temporary fix. PVE said there is also an alarm that could be installed and would alert designated people on their cell phones stating there might be an issue needing to be addressed.
- 35% match for equipment: NP put in for a police car and highway truck and received quotes which she turned over to Capital Planning who in turn voted to move the police vehicle forward. NP will get info to the Board at the next meeting upon gathering more data.

Signatures and Approvals

- Green Community application for signature.
- Sanitary contract (previously voted on) was presented for signature.

Adjournment

Motion

EV made a motion to adjourn.

KK seconded.

Motion passed (2:0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.