

HARDWICK SELECTBOARD MEETING

**307 Main Street
Gilbertville, MA 01031
January 8, 2024**

Attendees: Eric Vollheim (EV), Chair; Kelly Kemp (KK), Vice Chair; H. Rob Ruggles (HRR), Clerk; Nicole Parker (NP), Town Administrator.

Notice of Public Hearing

Pursuant to the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138, § 12, the Selectboard held a public hearing on January 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, Massachusetts on an application for multiple amendments – change of category from wine and malt to all alcohol and change of manager for Mimi’s Coffeehouse of Hardwick located at 14 Barre Road, Hardwick, Massachusetts. Copies of the application are available at the Town Administrators office.

A representative from Mimi’s Coffeehouse of Hardwick explained the reason for changing from a beer and wine license to full alcohol.

NP explained certain types of licenses issued by the ABCC are pretty much blanket licenses for restaurants (other than clubs) where an establishment could serve food if they wanted to.

Public Hearing meeting closed at 6:30 p.m.

Motion

KK made a motion to approve the application from Mimi’s Coffeehouse of Hardwick from wine and malt to an all liquor license and change of manager.

HRR seconded.

Motion approved (3:0).

Joint Meeting of the Library Trustees Public Hearing Commencing at 6:45 p.m.

- New appointee: Stacey Hill to complete Ned Kelly’s term.

EV noted this is a joint meeting with the Library Trustees from the Paige Memorial Library about a new appointment. The Trustees have received an application from Stacey Hill who would like to fill out Ned Kelly’s term. The Selectboard and Library Trustees have to appoint together.

Motion

KK made a motion to appoint Stacey Hill as a Trustee to the Library until the next election because the Trustees have asked to put that on the ballot.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

Mayflower Contract for FY25

NP submitted annual contract for Selectboard signatures pertaining to software for the Assessors.

Motion

KK made a motion to accept the Mayflower valuation proposal for new construction building permit measure and list in the amount of \$3,800, and for the Personal Property Class 504 50/50 valuation in the amount of \$5,000.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

Meeting Minutes Approval:

- December 11, 2023
- October 20, 2022
- October 18, 2022
- October 11, 2022

Motion

KK made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 11, 2023; October 20, 2022; October 18, 2022; October 11, 2022.

HRR seconded.

EV approved December 11, 2023.

Motion passed (3:0) for December 11, 2023

Motion passed (2:1:0) for October 20, 2022; October 18, 2022; October 11, 2022. E. Vollheim abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion: Policy Regarding Operation of Town Vehicles on Private Time

NP stated there is an extensive policy in place. It's in the Personnel Plan and all contracts.

- EV disclosed he told Josh Pease as Interim Chief he could take the truck home keeping his gear in the truck, so if he is responding from out of town he would go home to pick up the truck and bring it to the station rather than having the truck sit at the station.

NEW BUSINESS

Call Out for Visitors Comments

- Bobbi-Jean Lanier who lives at 23 High Road off of Hardwick Road noted she has been in conversation with the Sewer Department and wanted to express her concern regarding sewer gases. She explained she is looking for guidance or support to see how to mitigate the issue.

A conversation ensued. Selectboard noted they need to have inspectors investigate.

Donation from the East Quabbin Land Trust

NP stated the East Quabbin Land Trust has been donating to the Town of Hardwick \$300 and the Selectboard has in the past authorized the money go to the Park and Rec Department because it is given in the nature of open space and recreation.

Motion

KK made a motion that the East Quabbin Land Trust donation go to the Park and Rec Department.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

Committee Reports

NP stated she will have them available at the next Selectboard meeting.

Ann Barnes noted the Townhouse will be hosting a vaccine clinic on Sunday, January 21st from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will be both flu and covid vaccines for adults and children. People can register, but they will try to have enough vaccines available for people who do not register. It is sponsored by Quaboag. Posters are being hung advertising as such.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Matrix: Additional Information regarding Matrix Service

NP said she spoke with Chris Lynch from Matrix regarding Spring Hill and including the streets from Spring Hill Road and Barre into Hardwick that are not connected to cable. Matrix is fiber. There is a grant where there may be no cost to the Town. More conversations are needed to discuss criteria. Application is not due until April. Probably have more information at the next Selectboard meeting.

Selectboard Round Table Discussion

- EV had requested NP create Proclamation/Certificates of Appreciation. Ray Walker has retired, and there will be a party for him next weekend. There will be numerous area Fire Chiefs, Reps and Senators in attendance. EV wanted to express the Town's gratitude and proceeded to read the Proclamation for Ray Walker.
- EV proceeded to express his sincere thanks and noted the dedication of each of the Deputy Chiefs who will receive Certificates of Appreciation.

Adjournment

Motion

KK made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

HRR seconded.

Motion passed (3:0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.