

Approval 10/27/10
3-0

SELECTBOARD MEETING - October 20, 2010

Present: Dave DeHerdt, Doug Field, Norm Russell

Minutes of October 13, 2010 Open meeting accepted as amended

Appointments:

Assistant Administrator - present: Mary Fitz-Gibbon

Fitz-Gibbon said she was interested in serving as the Assistant Administrator on an interim basis. When asked if she had some questions about the position, she replied she expected help from the other office personnel (especially with prioritizing) and persons in similar positions in other towns. Fitz-Gibbon has a background which includes some paralegal study at Elms College and some experience working for law firms, doing research. She has business experience handling billing and budgeting. Her computer experience includes both PCs and Macs. As a sitting Sewer Commissioner (an elected position), she had some concerns about any possible conflict of interest in assuming this second position. She would be willing to give up the Commissioner position. The Board said an elected official can hold more than one position; but can only be paid for one. The plan to increase the number of hours that town office is open to the public was raised. Fitz-Gibbon said she is familiar with and enjoys the way the town operates. DeHerdt told Fitz-Gibbon the Board appreciates her stepping forward to help out.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted to appoint Mary Fitz-Gibbon as the interim Assistant Administrator.

Halloween Idea: Present: Nan Parati

Parati said she was looking at the trees on Town Green and thought it would be fun to put faces on the trees for Halloween. She proposed to attach the faces to the trees using screws. There was interest in the idea, but concern about putting anything into the trees. Especially following a discussion last meeting with Tom McCrumm regarding the health of these trees. Suzanne Corbett suggested using bailing twine which could be tied around the trees, but would not require putting anything into them. Harry Dodson agreed that the trees were under stress and several would likely not survive. He noted road salt that drains toward the trees as the major culprit. He said he would be interested in helping with a replacement project in the spring.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted to permit the installation of faces on the trees, subject to approval from Tom Poissant, the Tree Warden, and removal the next day.

Old Business

Dog Licenses DeHerdt hasn't done his homework. Will come back to this next week.

Wind Siting Advisory Committee At last week's meeting the Board reported it had received letters of interest from several persons. An e-mail from the Planning Board has been received with a recommendation that in forming the advisory committee one member from each of the following committees be included: Conservation, Planning, and Zoning. It also suggested that there might be a need for more "specificity" as questions come up. The Board will request that said committees be asked to provide a representative. The Board would like to appoint four

additional interested volunteers within a couple of weeks.

Surplus Equipment Treasurer, Laura Blakesley is preparing to hold a surplus materials and equipment auction, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 30B, on December 1st. All departments are requested to provide lists of items by November 3rd. The auction will be by sealed bid. The Board, being responsible for procurement and disposal of surplus items, must approve the list.

Wired West A motion was made, seconded and voted to sign a nondisclosure agreement permitting WMECO to release a pole inventory list to the Wired West Committee.

Special Town Meeting David Kulp, a member of Wired West has provided wording for an article to appear on the next STM. It will be reviewed by Town Counsel.

New Business

Extension of Police Chief Contract A motion was made, seconded, and voted to extend the Police Chief contract by 30 days until November 25th.

Employment application The employment application form currently used by the town has become noncompliant. A new form was presented by Suzanne Corbett for review. She said it needed a little more work and will have the final version available for acceptance by the Board next week.

Temporary Spending Freeze Treasurer, Laura Blakesley has requested a temporary freeze on all non essential purchases. Property tax revenues are slow in coming in, hence the temporary freeze. Emphasis was made that the town is not over budget; the freeze is temporary.

Non profits This led to DeHerdt's interest in pursuing payment in lieu of taxes for tax exempt properties in town. A list of those properties has been provided by the Assessor's office. Now a letter needs to be drafted to present the town's position and ask for contributions in lieu of taxes for the services which the town provides.

Hearing date November 16th is the date set for a hearing in Springfield on the town's appeal of an unemployment claim.

Emergency Services

Police Department - The new officers are working out well. The Chief has been cleaning out storage areas downstairs. In the process he has found several items that are not tagged; with no chain of custody these items are of no value.

Fire Department - nothing to report

Emergency Manager – Board of Health has reported the basement smells of mold and shouldn't be used until the matter has been taken care of. When comment was made about use of dehumidifiers, it was pointed out by those present that the town had purchased two large capacity dehumidifiers for that area. That seemed to be news to Field, who will now look into

the whereabouts of same.

Town Office Some computer problems were mentioned. The alarm system failed over the weekend. Field thought it might be the batteries.

Town hall committee - nothing to report

Police Search Committee Present- Suzanne Corbett
Letters have gone out to candidates for the scheduling of interviews.

Mail

Micro-enterprise funding - In a letter Chesterfield Town Manager reports funding forms will be forthcoming.

E-mails – Stating that emails are public, just as are letters received via mail, DeHerdt read two emails received from Bill Perlman, former Select Board member. Although the choice of words was less than complimentary, DeHerdt then commented that despite that there was useful information contained in them.

Audit copy – A copy of the final audit, as submitted, was received from Thomas Scanlon.

State election warrants for the November 2nd election were signed by the Board. And will now be posted.

Public Comment

A motion was made, seconded, and voted to insert the word “temporary” before “spending.”

At 8:15 pm a motion was made, seconded, and voted by roll call, to suspend the public meeting to go into brief executive session to discuss pending legal matters, and to return to open session .

At 8:30 pm the meeting was called back to order. Since there were no further issues on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Phelps