

Select Board meeting minutes January 5, 2012

Present: Select Board – Chair Norman Russell, Doug Field, Paullette Leukhardt

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Appointments

Brian Clark, Green Committee and Michael Lehan & Kai Wu, Gridacy

Small Photo-voltaic facility:

Brian Clark introduced Mr. Lehan and Mr. Wu of the consulting company Gridacy. Mr. Clark explained that the Green Committee and the Town have expressed interest in a possible Photo-voltaic (PV) facility to provide energy cost savings for Town buildings' energy use. He asked Mr. Lehan and Mr. Wu to talk to the Select Board and share information on the kinds of questions a town needs to answer to decide whether or not such a project is appropriate for a given town's needs and budget. Gridacy is a local consulting team that has developed software to aid the process of determining if and what sort of PV facility is appropriate to a specific need and location. Mr. Lehan and Mr. Wu gave a power point presentation outlining their system and how it can be used to aid the decision-making process. The Board thanked the Green Committee and Gridacy for a very useful presentation.

Del Haskins, Fire Chief

Town Reports:

The Fire Department is willing to distribute Town Reports prior to Annual Town Meeting, however, more volunteers will be needed if that is the plan. After a brief discussion about the increased printing costs this year, the number of Town Reports left over after each ATM, and alternate approaches to providing the information, the Select Board agreed with Mr. Russell's suggestion that 300 reports will be printed for those who wish a hard copy and the Report will also be put on the website as a PDF. As a result of the decision it was agreed that the Fire Department will not have to deliver Reports this year. Del said that he and others will still be available to deliver individual reports, upon request, to anyone who cannot pick one up at Town Hall and prefers not to access it via the Town website.

MEMA reimbursement:

Chief Haskins reported to the Board that all MEMA paperwork related to tornado assistance has been submitted.

Forestry grant:

The Fire Department has been awarded a 50/50 Forestry Grant. To take advantage of the grant the Town will have to spend \$4,000 on Fire Department equipment related to fighting forest fires, it will then be eligible to have \$2,000 reimbursed.

FY12 Fire Department expenses:

Two trucks have required an unusual amount of repair this year resulting in an equipment expenditure of about \$7,000 over what has been budgeted. If a Special Town Meeting is scheduled for February, as is anticipated, an article will need to be included to supplement the Fire Department budget.

Ricki Carroll, Main Street

Synthetic chemical sensitivity and Town Hall:

Ms. Carroll requested that the Select Board develop a policy to address the use of synthetic chemicals in Town Hall. Ms. Carroll said that, speaking as someone with chemical sensitivities, she would like the Board to be aware that there are also others in town who find the presence of strongly scented air fresheners and cleaning agents create a problem for some in the use of public spaces such as Town Hall. She presented the Board with some of her research on the effects of synthetic chemicals on individuals with such sensitivity. She compared the developing awareness of issues of chemical sensitivity to the history of the development of awareness of sensitivity to cigarette smoke which eventually led to bans on smoking in public places. She said that as such use negatively affects a number of people in town and as the fix to the problem costs little or nothing, she would like the Board to establish a policy that such items should not be in use at Town Hall. Norm Russell commented that he is entirely in favor of natural products in general. Doug Field stated that he doesn't believe that there are any problems with the products currently in use and that he would not support a policy that forbid them. Poullette Leukhardt wondered if it might be sufficient to encourage the use of natural products rather than banning the use of synthetic ones. Mr. Russell then suggested that the appropriate first step in considering the request would be to have Ms. Carroll take the request to the Building Committee. The Board agreed and Ms. Carroll said she would do so.

Old Business

Spillway:

Doug Field reported that work has begun on the repair of the first dam spillway.

Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan upgrade:

A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday the 10th to begin work on the required updating of the plan.

New Business

Town Hall Use Application:

An application was presented requesting use of lower hall for a pet party to raise funds for the Dakin Animal Shelter. The applicant, Ashfield Police Department Officer Diane Wilder, hopes to use the occasion to sponsor a poster contest and to further proper pet care education. She will also be collecting pet food donations at Town Hall. The donations will be turned over to the Dakin Shelter to be made available to individuals who need help feeding their pets. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the application.

Agricultural Commission resignation:

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept, with thanks for service to the town, the resignation of Betsy Blunt from the Agricultural Commission.

Liaison Reports

Paulette Leukhardt –

Police Department: Ms. Leukhardt reported that the Explorer is in for service as it needs a new radiator.

Future Meetings

The next Select Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 7 p.m.

After a motion was made, seconded and passed, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.