

March 22, 2017, 7:00PM Selectmen's Meeting

Present: Ernest Cardillo, Stephen Shatz, Don Chabon, Danielle Fillio

Chuck welcomed everyone to the meeting.

First on the agenda was Highway Department Updates with Len Tisdale. Len stated the Complete Streets Policy does not need a special article for it; we will take it out of Chapter 90. OHI did borings through the pavement Of the Town garage to get soil testing done to see if there is any oil present. Next week they will return to sample the ground water. Inside of building there was some staining where there was an oil pit but the outside soil testing looked good.

Tom Labelle, 39 Church Street, had some questions about the Complete Street Policy. The State scored the policy with a 98 grade. The policy once approved would need to ultimately be made a Town Bylaw by Town Meeting vote.

Len said that tier two is the prioritization plan which would be the next step.

Tom asked if Complete Streets requirements would apply to all construction and Len said that it would not necessarily and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is involved to give out guidelines.

As the State is estimating that it could cost about 30% more, Tom asked how streets will be repaired once the policy is adopted. He continued that we would be giving away civil liability of certain roads and it could end up being more costly in future years.

The Town would take Chapter 90 monies to use upfront and they would then be put back into Chapter 90 once reimbursed.

David McCarthy, Church Street, asked if the Complete Streets Policy was adopted appropriately. Steve said it was adopted by the Select Board in March 2016. David asked if it has to go to Town vote to become a bylaw, how could we have already committed to the State.

Lenny said that there are areas that we have issues with on Church Street that would be looked at by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; tier two.

Terri Flynn, 18 Interlaken Road, had a request to rescind the Board approval of the Policy so there can be a Public Hearing, even if it was done properly.

Steve and Chuck said that they will need to check with Town Counsel to see if it was properly done first and address the concerns.

Tom Labelle asked if we are already committed but needs a bylaw approval at Town Meeting vote; if Town turns down what happens. Steve said that then the Town does not move forward with the Policy.

Don asked if we should we discontinue certain Town Roads. Len replied that once you discontinue Town Roads you lose Chapter 90 appropriation.

Next a letter was addressed from Josh Billings' coordinators with concerns with the slipperiness of the painted sidewalks. Don proposed that they send a letter to participants to use caution while crossing the sidewalks

Don spoke with Lenny regarding other concerns and will address more at Thursday's Joint Finance-Select Board meeting.

The Sewer and Water Commissioners, Mike Buffoni, Don Schneyer, and Tom Schuler next discussed the closure of Averic Road to protect out water shed.

Mike said that they have been working with Town Counsel on this issue. They would be placing gates, not blocking anyone's land, to close off the road. The closure does not require Town Meeting vote but does require Public Interest.

Tom Schuler said that Town Counsel suggested to possibly hold a public hearing at a Selectmen's meeting as a way to get public interest and assessment of the closure.

Steve stated that today no road would be constructed through a reservoir. The risk of a car going off the road and into the reservoir would be a hazard to the Town's water supply

Don Schneyer stated that they have had several discussions on the need to protect the reservoir; too many large trucks and traffic is going through. We do not have a back up to our reservoir.

Maintaining the causeway can be unsafe. Steve asked if the Water and Sewer Board has voted and Mike responded that they have not voted but wanted to bring the issue to the Select Board, but can vote next month.

Steve would like to commission to adopt a position and then move forward with a public hearing for public comment.

Terri Flynn suggested that the Public Hearing be held first and then make their final decision. The Sewer and Water Board should not make their recommendations to the Select Board until after the Public Hearing.

Tom Schuler believes that it is a Board of Selectmen issue with recommendations by the Sewer and Water Commissioners.

It was decided that they will put it on the agenda for next month's Sewer Water meeting.

Mike added that the Stockbridge Bowl is not an authorized back-up for the Town's 39 acre reservoir. There is not an approved backup source.

Next on the agenda was Mike Kulig with the water main replacement on Church Street. They are requesting that the contract language they provided be endorsed.

Chuck moved to award the contract to Geeleher Enterprises of Southampton, MA in the amount of \$707,040.00 for Contract 1 Water Main Replacement project on Church Street.

Steve seconded. The vote was unanimous and the Board signed the contract and award letter for Mike.

Next up was Darrell with Police Department Updates. The department has been hosting trainings and are currently hosting a RAD training and will be hosting a legal update class. They are getting ready for Mercy Weekend. Candidate Michael Bourisk has passed all his tests and has a tentative start date of April 3rd.

Next on the agenda, Amanda Hamilton, 8A Church Street, spoke representing a group advocating a Trust Policy in Stockbridge. Asking for an item to go on the Town Warrant; advocating for Stockbridge to become a Trust Community; to welcome all people. The policy is to ensure the civil liberties of all persons and enforce protection from discrimination based on race, skin color, or natural origin. Proposed policy includes three main points:

1. To give official support to our local law enforcement officers and town officers.
2. Our community will not be party to profiling of any kind based on any religion, color, race, or gender identity.
3. A registry not be created based on any of the above mentioned categories.

She asked the Board if they have any changes that would be needed they need to have a policy draft by March 28, 2017.

Steve did not think that the Town should be involved in any activities which support ICE and has no problem with the adoption of the policy, but to come up with a conclusion within 6 days would be difficult. More thought and discussion is needed. As a town we receive federal funds; a grant from FEMA with drainage systems, and we as a Town need to understand the potential impacts before undertaking a policy like this. There is just not enough time to push it through.

Don understands that there may be Federal implications but with advice from Town Counsel, he believes that they could get it on the Warrant.

Steve added that this is just as an informative non-binding vote.

Nina Ryan said that there is an option to do it as a binding ballot.

Steve believes that it could be brought forward at the summer Town Meeting as an option.

Chuck recommended that there is a lot to be discussed and would recommend taking it a bit slower and not rush the whole thing; do it right.

Darrell stated that there has only been one ICE incident in town since he has been working here and zero contact since. The Police will not act on behalf of ICE. We treat everyone the same. We do not want anyone to feel unsafe or unable to call for help. Darrell also requested more time.

Steve said that the Select Board could sponsor the article. Currently, it is the end of the budget season, we are consumed with the Town Meeting Warrant and, the Board of Selectmen does not have enough time or information to make a decision right now.

Jamie Kellar, Sergeant Street, stated that they were aware that there could be legal ramifications and that they are willing to work with the Town to make this happen and move forward.

Steve suggested that we ask each of Department heads the number of Federal Grants they receive to see what might be at the risk of the loss of those Funds through the state.

Darrell remarked that the Mass Chiefs of Police Association said that this is a subject going on through the state and they recommend looking to the Policy of Chelsea, MA to follow as a model. Williamstown has modeled their general order from this one. He needs more time to do this, move forward, and fully investigate.

Don said it is up to the group to decide how they proceed.

Laura Flint, Quiet Knoll Road, stated that we want to know what steps to follow.

Darrell said that he would take it on using their Trust Policy and compare it to others to pull something together that would be agreeable.

Nina Ryan, 3 Main Street, thanked them all but wanted to map out a specific process.

Steve said that it could be presented as a non-binding vote at the Town Meeting. The Selectmen are willing to put it on the Warrant as a Selectmen sponsored article; an internal policy of the Police Department respects the Strong Chief authority.

Next on the agenda was Chris Marsden with facilities' project updates. The solar array and Verizon cell tower is both mechanically installed but waiting for hook up. They are still in talks for design and feasibility for National Grid inter-connections with a projected time frame of 62 weeks.

Part of the delay is required upgrades to the Sub Station. The Verizon cell tower was erected last week. It needs to be wired and by the end of April should be hooked up. Currently Verizon is on the tower and other companies have shown interest.

The location of the cell tower on Town land is very beneficial on Town. The tower is not very noticeable; from Naumkeag, you have to really look to see it.

Don asked about the life expectancy of the solar panels. There are stipulations in agreement with a 20 year lease with options to extend for two successive 5 year periods. After a 20 year period the panels may begin to lose their technology. The cell tower lease is also for 20 years.

The drainage project is to protect the Town Offices from major flooding since 2014 and the business block as well. We are identifying causes and solutions. The goal is to investigate to see what needs to be done to increase capacity of drainage as it has been deemed undersized and expand the system for future needs.

We currently have draft bid documents from Foresight Land Services which has proposed a 4 foot drain pipe across the park to the river; sized accordingly to handle 100 year storms.

We are seeking a FEMA grant submitted in June to help with the project costs and had a scheduled site visit but cancelled due to snow storm; it will be rescheduled.

The grant would provide \$240,000, half of the project cost which is estimated in the \$300,000 to \$400,000 range. Construction cannot begin until we have answers from the grant or we would be funding fully on our own. There is no construction date set as of yet but hopefully soon.

Brian from Allegrone Construction was up next with the request for Temporary Road Closure of Williamsville Road for installation for Chesterwood sewer main on the east side of the road. They would like to start as soon as possible. The road is very narrow two-way road and would like to close it during the day, from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm and have it open every evening. We would like to closure for up to a month, April, while work should be completed in approximately two weeks.

Residents to the west of Chesterwood would still have complete access. There are no official driveways that will be affected. This is Chesterwood's project.

Darrell had no objections with the project and Chuck added that if they do work past 3:30 pm to call the Police and Fire Department.

Steve moved to approve the application for road closing as presented. Don seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The Board discussed the request from Nancy Socha, the Tax Collector, to insert a notice about donations from tax payers to aid the elderly and disabled, into the Tax Bills for the next billing cycle. Steve moved to approve the request and insert notice. Don seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Steve moved to close the Warrant for the annual Town Meeting as of March 31, 2017. Don seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Steve made a motion to approve the minutes for January 23rd, February 6th, February 15th, February 21st, March 1st, and March 6th. Don seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.