

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
9:00 AM
TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Don Chabon, Chuck Cardillo, Terry Flynn, Danielle Fillio

Call to Order:

Don welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Announcements:

Don noted that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 25th at 9AM, followed by Wednesday, May 2nd, Baby Town Meeting on Monday, May 14th, the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 21st, and Elections on Tuesday, May 22nd.

Don announced Earth Day Cleanup week; help make Stockbridge clean and beautiful by joining your neighbors in picking up the winter's accumulation of trash around your own neighborhood.

The Laurel Hill Association in Stockbridge will sponsor a town wide Earth Day Roadside Cleanup from Monday April 16 - Sunday April 22. For more information or to sign up to help, please contact Marie Raftery or Laura Dubester all their information can be found on our website.

Don noted that the Church Street water project will begin construction again on April 17th and that stop lights have been installed at the 183 Bridge project.

Status Reports:

There are three companies who are working on quotes for the Traffic study.

Special Permit Application of Monte Levin and Gary Lazarus:

Don moved to open the public hearing for Monte Levin and Gary Lazarus for property located at 1Grove Road. I also note that notice of this public hearing was published in the Berkshire Eagle on Wednesday March 19, and March 26th. Terry seconded; all were in favor.

Steve Mack from Foresight Land Services presented the plans on behalf of the applicant. The applicants are seeking to add an addition to the existing family home adding no additional non-conformities

With no one in attendance wishing to speak on behalf or against the project, Don moved to close the Public hearing for Board deliberation. Terry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

After deliberation Don moved to approve the application as presented based on the finding that it is not substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood. Terry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

PILOT Committee:

Tom Stokes announced an upcoming public hearing on April 25th at 6:30PM at the Town Offices. They have two articles on the Town Meeting Warrant; one to establish a PILOT program in Stockbridge and second, to allocate \$5,000 for work in preparation to the vote.

Review and Approve Financial Policies:

With the recommendations of the Finance Committee chair, Jay Bikofsky and Clark Rowell, Fiscal Advisor at UniBank and in keeping with preferences of Standard and Poor the Town has created a Financial Policy Document for the Town. It deals with Debt Amortization, Debt Service, Capital Improvement Program, Revenue and Expenditure Projections, Reserves, Community Preservation Fund, Performance Review, Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust and Investment Policy. Danielle stated the word "enterprise" was removed throughout the document; under capital improvement the amount to be used for capital expenses was dropped and each project has to be \$200,000 or less; letter f. from that section stating how much could be used in a year was removed as it was restrictive. For reserves they must maintain at least 10 percent but not more than 20 percent in both free cash and stabilization. Jay Bikofsky commended Danielle for being instrumental in developing these policies. Terry asked to make sure it was clear that \$200,000 was not a total amount.

Don moved that the Board accept the financial policies as presented, and modified by Terry's comments, at the recommendation of the Chairman of the Finance Committee and our Fiscal Advisor. Terry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Don moved that the Board agree to appoint a Capital Planning Committee, the composition of which will be decided at a later meeting. Terry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Compactor Stickers:

Don noted that the Town spends approximately \$175,000 per year to run the transfer station; receives \$70,000 from stickers and fees; compared to other area towns our rates are substantially lower and hours are substantially longer; at the current rates the tax payer carries the burden. The Compactor runs at a \$100,000 loss per year. To some extent this involves sticker fees but to a greater extent commercial users. Suggestions were to increase the sticker fees, eliminate commercial usage, modify the hours, and Town residential pick-up (excluding commercial). Tom LaBelle noted that currently commercial users are being subsidized by the tax payers. Don said that they all agree that commercial usage needs to be addressed, either by elimination or charging commercial appropriately. Danielle suggested that the current stickers could remain in effect until July 1st, the new fiscal year, and this would allow the Board the needed time to come up with a plan. New stickers would run from July 1st through June 30th. The Board agreed with the time change and noted that proof of residency will be required when purchasing future stickers.

Stockbridge Bowl Dredging Project:

Don gave a brief overview of issues with Stockbridge Bowl diversion, dredging, and draw-down. Most recently National Heritage advised the Town that due to an endangered snail species living in the Stockbridge Bowl, the current dredging plan was rejected and the use of chemicals was alternately suggested. At this time Smitty Pignatelli has agreed to look into the situation and investigate options.

Other Business:

Denny Alsop, Main Street, addressed concerns with the DeSisto project and the Town's aquifer system.

With no further business, Don moved that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with the Norman Rockwell Museum concerning Proctor Hall because the chair declares that having such discussion in open session would have a detrimental effect on such contract negotiations; and not to convene in open session after the conclusion of the executive session. Vote: I Chuck; I Don; I Terry; the vote was unanimous.