

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 23, 2020
6:30 p.m.
TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Terry Flynn, Chuck Cardillo, Roxanne McCaffrey and Mark Webber

Call to Order:

Terry called the meeting to order.

Agenda:

The first item was to take action on minutes from January 9, 2020. Terry made a motion to approve the minutes. Chuck seconded; all were in approval.

The second item was to appoint members to the Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Commission. Roxanne asked who from the Select Board should represent and Terry and Chuck both agreed on Roxanne. Roxanne made a motion that they appoint the following people to be representatives from the following areas to the Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Commission: from the Board of Health- Dr. Charles Kenny; Water & Sewer Commission – Tom Schuller; Water & Sewer Department – Mike Buffoni; Conservation Commission – Patrick White, the Stockbridge Sportsmen’s Club – Gary Johnston; the Stockbridge Bowl Association – Michael Nathan; and Board of Selectmen – Roxanne McCaffrey. Also appointing non-voting members: the Stockbridge Harbormaster – Gary Kleinerman; Tri-Town Health Department – Jim Wilusz and to extend an invitation to the Stockbridge Munsee Tribe to have the opportunity to appoint a representative. Terry seconded; all were in favor.

The next item was to discuss appointment of a Town School Consolidation Committee which was raised at the last meeting. Terry noted that he discovered that there is a state law that states that the Town Moderator appoint the member designated from the school committee. Chuck said that the appointments should be done as soon as possible. With there being no parties showing interest, Chuck said that he would remain on the committee. Terry made a motion that the Board ask Gary to appoint the school committee member representative and another resident from Town; and that the Board tonight appoint Chuck to be the third person on the committee. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Mark presented the Warrant for the March 3, 2020 Primary for the Board’s signatures. Mark also stated that the 2020 election information and the offices up for election are all posted currently on the Town website.

Mark noted that an exit conference was held today with the auditors, finance committee and Roxanne; one item brought up was the Town's procurement policy in that it is better than previously but it should be formalized as a single booklet. They offered a procurement check list also to be a part of the packet. The audit will also be posted on the Town website.

Next Mark discussed the scheduling of a Special Town Meeting. Mark stated that he presented the Board a list of four article items and that the soonest it could be was February 24th. February 10th would be the date of posting the Warrant and during the week of February 4th the Finance Committee would meet to review the Warrant and put their recommendations on those articles so that when printed each will have a note stating Finance's recommendations of approval or not.

The four articles are the Civil War Monument restoration: seeking a total of \$210,000.00 for a comprehensive restoration of the monument as per construction scope of work done by the Cultural Heritage Foundation. An application has been submitted to CPA for \$50,000. If approved that amount would directly offset the \$210,000.00 appropriation. The scope of work document is included in this appropriation. The funding source would be certified free cash. Terry explained that the overall project could cost much less but it will not be known until they get into the project.

The second article would be the Chime Tower renovation seeking a total of \$165,000.00 for comprehensive repairs, upgrades and the addition of three bells to the Chime system as per construction in the scope of work done by Verdin Bells and Clock, Inc. These bid documents will also be included in this appropriation. The funding source again would be certified free cash.

The third article is the hiring of a Human Resources vendor, which is supported by the Town Administrator Search Committee and is a recognized weakness in Town operations. The intended product would be a report on implementing a centralized structure and policy to guide the Town in Resources operation. The estimate for this is in the range of \$5,000.00 to \$15,000.00 funded by certified free cash.

The last is an article to petition the State legislature and the intent is to authorize the Town to return original historic documents in its possession to the Stockbridge Munsee Tribe. Terry noted that Town Counsel's recommendation per State Law, was to preserve the document in the Town as a Town record. An option is to petition the State legislature for a special act, giving an exemption to the law and allowing the document to go to the Stockbridge Munsee Tribe. Terry felt that this should be done and allow the residents decide at a Special Town Meeting.

Chuck stated that he was not opposed to any of the articles but felt that they all could wait until the Annual Town Meeting. Terry stated the need to start the Soldier's Monument as soon as possible with increasing cost being one factor. Mark stated that current free cash is \$2,454,301 and if the above-mentioned articles were approved, the remaining post meeting balance would be

\$2,064,301. As a side note, prior 4-year certified free cash average was \$1.384 million. Terry noted that both projects have the possibility of receiving grants. Roxanne agreed with the increasing cost factor and questioned when the Chime Tower could be completed. Terry suggested looking into this time frame. Roxanne said that she did not have an objection to these items and felt that hiring a Human Resources vendor is critical to get done as soon as possible. Terry made a motion that the Board approve these items for a Special Town Meeting and that they approve the calendar provisionally also allowing for adjustment or removal of items from the Warrant. Roxanne seconded. Chuck voted no. The motion passed.

Roxanne announced that she spoke to Town Assessor, Michael Blay who put together information on tax relief for the elderly and disabled. Roxanne will be putting together a document to be posted on the website.

With no further business, Terry made a motion that they enter into executive session per MGL Ch 30A, Sec 21(a)(3), "to discuss strategy with respect to litigation..." and not to return to open session. Chuck seconded; all were in approval.