

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 21, 2020
6:30 p.m.
REMOTE ZOOM MEETING

Present:

Terry Flynn, Chuck Cardillo, Roxanne McCaffrey and Mark Webber

Call to Order:

Terry called the meeting to order.

Agenda:

Terry asked everyone attending the meeting to keep their audio on mute and to make comments in the 'chat' section of the meeting.

First on the agenda was to take action on minutes. Terry made a motion to approve the minutes from April 30, 2020. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

Next, Terry made a motion that the Board to approve the release of the February 4, 2020 Rest of River executive session minutes. Roxanne second. Chuck I, Terry I, Roxanne I. The motion passed.

Terry announced that there has been a removal of asbestos in the basement of the Glendale Fire Station.

Next, Terry informed the Board that he had raised the idea of using the Monument Mountain track for a venue for the Annual Town Meeting. He is just looking into it and with speaking with Steve Soule it was agreed that it was an option. Also setting aside possible rain dates would not be an issue.

Terry next made a motion to open the public hearing on a National Grid proposal for Prospect Hill Road for underground electric conduits. Roxanne seconded; Vote: Roxanne I, Terry I, and Chuck I. Mark said it was a straight forward request and no abutters comments have been received. This is a basic upgrade to service. Matthew Songer representing National Grid was present for questions. With not questions Terry made a motion to approve the request for National Grid permit for Prospect Hill Road for underground electric conduits. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Next was to sign the Warrant for the Annual Town Elections and Mark asked that the Board come in tomorrow to sign.

Next was to discuss preliminary work on the Soldier's Monument and Terry stated that the worst-case figure to include replacing the obelisk stones but he was hopeful that they will be able to preserve the stones. Terry said if it is determined that this can be done it would be the best approach and less expensive. The mock up is a part of the bid package but it could become a separate function. It will be under \$10,000. This would allow the project to have costs attached when put on the Warrant.

Laura Dubester and the Green Community Committee did work on converting the Town's street lights to LED. The first step was to get inventory from National Grid which has been done. The National Grid contact agreed that this project would be a huge benefit to the Town. Laura Dubester added that she and Buck Smith had investigated and with National Grid incentives, the estimate was that it would be great but many of the lights may have already been switched to LEDs. The inventory will determine this. The project makes a lot of sense and they are continuing to find out more information.

Next Mark mentioned that the Transfer Station usually opens on Sunday during the summer months. Roxanne questioned the traditional hours, whether noon to 3 or 4. Mark said that the concern is coverage and the question is if and when to open. They decided to get more detail and revisit it.

Next, Mark discussed the FY21 budget. He said that perhaps it could be finalized this night. The operating budget is unchanged, the total raise and appropriate is \$10,556,613; this reflects a year to year decrease of \$210,949 or 2%. Absent the increase of approximately \$65,000 in the education line, Town operation raise and appropriate reflect the 3.5% decrease from the current fiscal year.

On Special Articles; the first \$145,000 transfer from free cash for a 1 ton truck and plow for the highway department; second, a \$25,000 free cash transfer for a BRPC part-time planner for the Planning Board, the third; \$150,000 transfer from free cash for the purpose to secure grant funding for the Averic Road bridge repair project with the bid coming in \$120,000 funds budgeted; four, seeking authorization for the Treasurer to borrow \$1.85 million to rebuild the Curtisville Bridge, a two-thirds majority vote; five, 1 million dollar transfer to stabilization to establish the Covid-19 safety net for future uncertainties. Prior to Town Meeting there is \$2,454,301 in certified free cash. If all mentioned articles are passed, \$1,134,301 would remain in free cash, becoming the base calculation for next year. When recertified later this year, the base amount will increase. Currently there is approximately \$1,331,000 in stabilization and if the recommended transfer is approved at ATM, this number increases by 1 million dollars. Roxanne asked if a full 1 million needed to be moved into stabilization, possibly \$750,000. Mark was not opposed to this but felt that this should be a discussion with Finance. Terry added that he would like to have time to look at it more closely and vote next week. Back to the operating budget, Mark asked for a determination on the operating budget this week. The Board agreed to pass the operating budget and revisit the special articles next week.

Next the Fountain Committee, Kate Fletcher, Carl Sprague and Bob Jones, gave updates. Kate said that a site visit with Foresight Land Services was done and are working with them on engineering updates for restoration of stonework, recirculating pumps, utility post and basin work. RFPs will go out for the actual work. CPA funding is secured for funding. Roxanne asked if there was an estimated start date and Kate said that they can work around the traffic study plan and other things that will need to be coordinated with the Town based on the study. Terry said that they would be discussing the traffic study next week. The Board discussed doing the painting first as a trial followed then by pavers, etc. as a next step.

Laura Beasley gave an update on the Industrial Park and she spoke to the owner, Mohamad Zabian of Lee, and he has a tenant mix of small and larger commercial tenants, a six-unit multifamily rental home. He said there is potential room for expansion. There are roughly 10 acres and while in a flood zone but he has not known it to flood. It has Town water and private sewer, zoned M for manufacturing and is open to any ideas to diversify and expand the type of tenants. Carl Sprague mentioned past talks of affordable housing down there. Roxanne asked about 5G service and Laura said that she had not been able to get that together yet. Laura questioned if Wi-Fi speed/access is the issue or the ability to receive calls/dead zones? Laura said that she has limited access at her home and there are some areas in town that do not have broad band access. She also said that as a technology, 5G really doesn't exist yet. Christine Rasmussen added that BRPC along with Planning Board representative Bill Vogt from have been discussing these issues.

Next was general discussion on downtown reopening. Mark said that they might want to have discussion on items such as temporary easing of zoning to help downtown businesses. Terry said that if zoning is relaxed, it is very specific to a time-line and when back to a new normal, the zoning will be reinstated. Roxanne said that along with an end date, we need to make sure that sidewalks remain safe to pedestrian traffic, which will vary from business to business.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Terry adjourned the meeting.