Select Board Meeting

May 29, 2019

6:00 pm meeting called to order.

Select Board members present: Neil Oleson, Ericka Oleson, and Mike Bedini.

Others present: Christine Dobbert, Mike Gleason, Jennifer Bean, Jamie Rathbun, Becky Bedard, Ron Bosley, Cindy Bosley, Brad Furlon, and Melanie Medon.

Ericka made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Mike seconded. Unanimous.

Jennifer Bean, Library Director:

* Handed out email printouts, library director job description, and the trustee pocket guide to board members. Stated Chris told her they can only work 18 hours a week and they have been under the understanding that it should be 19 hours a week based on what Krista Bishop had worked as director. Neil explained that part time positions are usually 18 hours a week to provide leeway to ensure the town does not go over the 520 hour limit in a six month period that would make employees eligible for benefits. Neil pointed out that one pay period an employee was paid for over 40 hours for a two week period and keeping it at 18 allows for these situations. Chris stated that the job was not advertised at 19 hours but the library trustee hire letter stated 19 hours and that had slipped by her. Jen stated that she would like to know why it is suddenly an issue when it had been 19 hours for 5 years for both the director and the assistant when there has not been an issue with the budget. Neil stated he would like it to remain at 19 hours for the current director and assistant but going forward any new hires for those positions would be for 18 hours. The board agreed.
* Chris stated the library had asked for an increase that would cover the purchase of chairs, increase salaries and other expenses 2.5%. The finance committee had said no to the chairs and would only allow for 2% increase in salaries like everyone else but would allow the overall 2.5%. Without the 2.5% they would have to apply for a waiver to keep the state aid. In keeping with the state aid requirements, 20% of the budget needs to be spent on materials. Chris stated that the library is the only line in the budget that goes up religiously 2.5% every year. Jen stated the increase in salaries could be covered by their state aid. Chris stated that the town does not make a practice of paying wages with grant money. Neil stated the increase of about $5,000 they are asking for seems in excess of the 2.5% needed to cover salary increases and keep state aid compliance. Neil stated that the town is not in it to make money and asked what is needed for the library to break even. After recalculating it was figured that $1,096 would be needed from stabilization to cover the increases and keep within the budget. This will be added to the warrant for annual town meeting. Mike stated if an emergency expense occurs they should come to the board to try to figure something out.
* Jen asked for clarification on sub hours. The sub hours will not count toward the 38 allowed in a two week period.
* Chris received the request from Jen to order a printer. Chris will order it.

Chris Dobbert, Town Administrator:

* Need to appoint someone to Berkshire Regional Transit Authority. Glenn had been appointed previously. Typically Florida does not attend the meetings. Cindy Bosley stated she was interested. Ericka made a motion to appoint Cindy Bosley to the BRTA. Mike seconded. Unanimous.

Neil Oleson, Select Board Chairperson:

* Stated the company that did his solar does not do commercial but referred him to a local company. He spoke the local company and they told him National Grid is not accepting or allowing more than 25 kW. Most companies that are reaching out are phishing. The town could put in a solar array to support its own needs. Chris will follow up with National Grid.

Chris Dobbert, Town Administrator:

* Spoke to BJ about the new fire station building. In order for it to not have a sprinkler system it would need to be under 5,000 square feet. Will look more into this regarding the cost of the sprinkler system and the possibility of a smaller station.

Mike Bedini, Select Board Member:

* Stated he was under the understating that the solar would cover the cost of the fire station and asked when it was decided that it would come out of stabilization. Neil and Chris explained the town has been saving in stabilization. When the solar fell through it was discussed that paying for it out of stabilization is an option. Once the plans and cost are more concrete, it would need to go to town meeting. Chris stated that there is a Housing Choice Small Town Grant through the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) that she will apply to for funding for the fire house.

Chris Dobbert, Town Administrator:

* Locked in heating fuel with West Oil at $2.44/gal which is $0.04 cheaper than last year’s price.

Mike Bedini, Select Board Member:

* Stated a town employee will be taking a leave of absence and asked what will be done to replace this employee during the leave. Neil stated that there is a part time person that could be utilized. Mike asked what would happen if another person is needed to fill the part time person’s position. Neil stated that it would be advertised. Cindy Bosley stated that she feels any part time position should be advertised because if it goes full time, everyone did not have the opportunity. Mike made a motion that any open part time, full time, or temporary position within the town be advertised. Ericka seconded. Unanimous.
* Chris stated that will increase advertising costs and will need to add another $1,000 to budget.
* Discussion was held on substitutes. Tabled.
* Talked to the school about controlling the heat themselves through the computer. Bob the custodian and Stephanie Pare, who has had some training already, are both willing. The board agreed to the idea. The school will cover the budget.
* Asked what kind of monitoring needs to be done with the water system at the Senior/Community Center. Chris stated none. Mike asked if there are issues if the installer could be held responsible. Chris stated the company corrected the error that was made during installation and does not feel that the installation would be covered under warranty. Chris also stated that in order to test the water to see if the issue was corrected it needs to be one month after the repair. Brad Furlon asked if it required water operator oversight. Neil stated it is small enough where it does not.
* Asked if there is any money left in police patrol. Chris stated yes, she hadn’t received many requests for patrol from residents. Mike stated he would like to use it on Blackstone, Tilda Hill, Central Shaft, and River Roads.

Jeff Mongoloski, Skateboard Event Coordinator:

* Brought waiver as requested.
* Spoke to state police and they will be reaching out to Christine. They will be on duty 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday of the event.
* Met with Glenn last week.
* Met with Josh from Pro Com
* Mike mentioned if he has a hard time disposing of the hay he has names of contractors who may take it.
* They will begin setting up Friday morning before the event.
* They will be putting signs up due to a change in the road Friday night on.
* Asked if there were any objections to them using sidewalk chalk. There were none.
* Will have signage on Monroe Road.

Chris Dobbert, Town Adminstrator:

* Will be filling out Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG).

7:52 pm Ericka made a motion to go into executive session and to close the meeting from executive session. Mike seconded. Unanimous.