

Town of Oakham

Board of Selectmen

Regular Session

Minutes of May 3rd, 2021

Present: Bradford Taylor, *Chairman*; Lucy Tessnau, *Vice Chairman*; Don Haapakoski, *Clerk*

In attendance: Finance Committee Chair, Paul Rochette; Tree Warden, Mike Brunelle; residents, Joe and Liz Sansoucy; Library Director, Samantha Bodine

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM by Chairman, Bradford Taylor

The meeting is also being broadcast via Zoom as a remote option

First Right of Refusal; 1352 North Brookfield Road, Oakham, MA

Brad read the First Right of Refusal Waiver, as drafted, for 1352 North Brookfield Road, Oakham MA. He then made a motion that the board sign the waiver, as written. The motion was seconded by Don and voted all in favor.

Ch. 90 Project & Meeting; follow-up

Brad gave a brief review of the meeting held on April 27th at East Hill Road, re: the upcoming paving project. He apologized to the residents in attendance for the short notice but stated that they reviewed all the drainage concerns and the board feels that the plan will address those issues appropriately. There was a concern raised about the water pooling at the bottom of the hill and becoming a sheet of ice in the winter.

Brad stated that they are doing the best they can with what they have but he will run the concern by the Highway Superintendent prior to the paving.

Final Article Review

Brad stated that three more articles were submitted prior to the warrant being closed and he just wanted to review them before submitting the list to town council. He said the first was to request that a member of the Oakham Fire Dept. Russ Willette, remain employed beyond the mandatory retirement age of 65. The second is a request from the Senior Center to fund the purchase of the "My Senior" computer-based data program, and the third is to close out the Ambulance Reserve Fund that is no longer in use.

The board briefly reviewed the Article requests and then Brad made a motion to add the Article for the Fire Department to the list for review. The motion was seconded by Lucy and voted in favor.

Brad made a motion to add the Article request for the Senior Center to the list for review. The motion was seconded by Don and voted in favor. Lucy abstained.

Brad made a motion to present an article to close the Ambulance Reserve Fund, the motion was seconded by Lucy and voted in favor.

Code of Conduct Training

Don stated that MMA is offering a free Code of Conduct training on May 12th for all departments, town boards and/or committees. He recommended that the board request at least one board/committee member attend, as well as all dept. heads. The board agreed.

Joe & Liz Sansoucy, Hunt Road: tree removal

Residents Joe and Liz Sansoucy were in attendance to discuss a tree that was going to potentially fall on to their property. Mr. Sansoucy stated that he understands if the tree warden does not have it in his budget but was seeking permission to pay for the removal of the tree himself if needed. He said he didn't want to do so without permission because the tree is on town property.

Tree Warden, Mike Brunelle stated that he believes the town can cover the cost if he is able to transfer \$1,000 from his detail line to his expense line.

The board agreed that the transfer wouldn't be a problem and if needed they could also take it from the reserve fund.

Sign Election Warrant

Brad made a motion to sign the election warrant for the upcoming town Election, as written. The motion was seconded by Lucy and voted all in favor.

Old Business

Don stated that they received a complaint from the Cub Scouts of Oakham/New Braintree in regards to the cans that were in the trailer behind the Police Station. The board agreed to invite Chief Gehring in to the next regular meeting to discuss.

Lucy stated that the board should meet the following week because it will be the last opportunity before the elections. *The next meeting was scheduled for 5/10 at 6:00 PM.*

Brad stated that we did a reserve fund transfer for the new water heater so they are all set to get that addressed as soon as possible.

Lucy asked when summer hours were supposed to start for the Highway Department. Brad stated that he thought it was Memorial Day but he will check with Kevin.

Don asked if there were any questions regarding the new job description for the Admin. Assistant. Lucy stated that she didn't think Wonder Woman could do all of it. Don said that it is what she is already currently doing and Lucy confirmed. Brad said they would follow up at the next meeting.

Ashley stated that the Historical Commission is requesting a page on the town website due to the cost of an entire website. Don suggested they reach out to CM Geeks to see if they can assist.

Public Comment

A resident stated that the town's "Candidates Night" went very well.

Samantha Bodine stated that she would like to help with the Memorial Day Services and would like to know how to get appointed to the Parks and Recreation Committee in order to do so. *This was added to the next agenda.*

Payroll Warrant & Minutes Approval

Brad made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of 4/20/2021, the motion was seconded by Don and voted all in favor.

Brad made a motion to accept payroll warrant PR 21-25, the motion was seconded by Don and voted all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM

Next regular meeting: May 10th, 2021 at 6:00PM