

# Town of Oakham

*Board of Selectmen*

**Regular Session**

**Minutes of May 10th, 2021**

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

**In attendance:** Library Director, Samantha Bodine; Police Chief, Fred Gehring; Police Sgt. Kevin Tucker

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

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

## **Parks and Recreation Interim Appointments**

Brad stated that they received two volunteer applications for temporary appointments to the Parks and Recreation Committee. Brad stated that he would like to make a motion to appoint Samantha Bodine and Stephanie Smith to the Parks and Recreation Committee, term to expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021. The motion was seconded by Don and voted in favor.

*Lucy expressed her appreciation to Chris Dunbar for his many years of service on the Parks and Recreation Committee.*

## **Chief Gehring; complaint regarding cub scout can returns**

Brad stated that the board received a complaint that the cans belonging to the local cub scout troop, that are stored in a shed behind the police department, were taken and return without their permission. The complaint further stated that the money was then used to purchase the materials to build the new shed at the police department.

Chief Gehring stated that he had looked into the concern and it appears that the boy scouts cleaned out the trailer to help pick up the mess and when the cub scouts saw how much money they made from it, they wanted the money from the cans. Chief Gehring said that the money made from the can return was immediately given back to the cub scout troop once they were aware that there was a problem. He said that moving forward he has concerns with the cub scouts using the police dept. for their can collection because it isn't kept up with and has become too much of a problem.

Cub Scout volunteer Arianna O'Neil stated that she goes there weekly to clean up the cans and other than during the Covid shutdown, when they weren't allowed to, they haven't missed a week. She stated that she is the contact on the website and no one had reached out to her with any concerns.

After a brief discussion Chief Gehring agreed to allow the Cub Scouts to continue using the department for their can drive, as long as they keep up with the clean-up.

## **Old Business/Public Comment**

Brad stated that he is going to jump to Old Business and Public Comment because he sees a lot of people in attendance for an update on the Maple Street project. He said that they didn't even have an update until this past Tuesday but to sum it up, after walking the street with the Highway Superintendent and realizing that the telephone poles are still an issue for the sidewalk portion of the paving project, the Highway superintendent contacted National Grid and they agreed to relocate the poles a couple feet back from their current location. This should address everyone's concerns and allow for the road to be repaved with sidewalks on both sides. Brad said that the work order has already been put in with National Grid and once the work is complete, the post office will also be replacing the old mailboxes with a new unit.

There was a question regarding the shoveling of the sidewalks and who would be responsible. Brad stated that the residents will not be expected to shovel the sidewalks and the town will plan accordingly.

**Administrative assistant position: work hours**

Brad stated that they need to discuss the number of hours they want to pay the administrative assistant moving forward. This is following previously discussed concerns about her working more hours than she was being paid for.

Don stated that paying Ashley for only 18 hours a week is unacceptable and that needs to change.

Brad stated that they should go up to 25 hours then.

Lucy stated that she is ok with at least 30, but she thinks it needs to be even more.

Finance Committee member, Paul Rochette stated that it is not a matter of finances and the money is available depending on what the board decides to do but the Finance Committee needs a final decision from the Board so they can put their final budget out to the residents.

Brad said that he did not agree with the number of hours and amount of pay proposed, based on the current hourly rate and felt the pay was too high.

Don explained the breakdown of the amount is based on the current hourly rate and they can't change that amount.

After further discussion Don made a motion that effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 the administrative assistant position will be funded for an increased number of hours; from 18 hours per week to 30 hours per week, for a total salary line increase of \$18,541, bringing the total line item to \$46,343.00, and to further increase the education line for the administrative assistant position from \$100 to \$1000 per fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Lucy and voted in favor. Brad did not vote.

Paul stated that the Finance Committee will be holding their last meeting on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. They plan to meet with the school

**The meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM**

**Next regular meeting: May 24h, 2021 at 6:00PM**