

Town of Oakham

Board of Selectmen

Regular Session

Minutes of May 24th, 2021

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

In attendance: Finance Committee Chair, Paul Rochette; Emergency Management Director, Thomas Hughes

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

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

Board Reorganization

Brad made a motion to appoint Lucy Tessnau as the new Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, per their annual board reorganization. The motion was seconded by Don and voted in favor.

Brad made a motion to appoint Don Haapakoski to the position of Vice Chairman, the motion was seconded by Lucy and voted in favor.

Lucy made a motion to appoint Brad Taylor as the Board of Selectmen Clerk, the motion was seconded by Don and voted in favor.

Lucy took over as the meeting Chair and began with a moment of silence for longtime resident and active community member, Russ Dwelly, who recently passed away.

Temporary Appointment to the Parks and Recreation Committee

Lucy stated that Sarah Ferguson has submitted a request for a temporary appointment to the Parks and Recreation Committee. This will expire on June 30th 2021. Lucy asked if there was a motion on the floor and Don made a motion to appoint Sarah Ferguson to the Parks and Recreation Committee, term to expire on June 30th 2021. The motion was seconded by Brad and voted in favor.

Board of Health: budget & overall board review

Tabled until an upcoming meeting

State Mosquito Spraying

The board reviewed the notice sent out by the state re: scheduled mosquito spraying and the option to opt-out. It was pointed out that in order for towns to opt out of the state's option, they would need to provide their own state-approved plan to control mosquito growth.

After a brief discussion Don made a motion to NOT opt-out of the state implemented mosquito spraying. The motion was seconded by Brad and voted in favor.

Historical Association: website and electronic sign request, follow-up

Lucy stated that the Historical Association has requested a page on the town's website, as well as an advertisement on the town's electronic sign board. Lucy said that she had initially suggested a sign policy for things like this and thinks that may be a good idea.

Brad stated that they shouldn't make any decisions until they have a policy in place.

The board agreed to add the policy review to the next meeting.

Municipal Lien Fees

Don stated that in our town by-laws the Treasurer/Collector is supposed to be keeping the fees for Municipal Liens and is wondering why that hasn't been done.

Treasurer/Collector Lisa Taylor stated that she was told the policy had changed and she wasn't supposed to be collecting those.

The board couldn't find any documentation to support that the bylaw had in-fact been changed, so agreed that they would talk to the town Accountant about setting up a revolving account for that.

Old Business

Lucy started that the town hall needs to be reopened to the public as soon as possible per the newest lift of regulations. She said that beginning on May 29th the town hall will be open fully to the public and back to the regular, pre-covid operations. The board agreed that there will be no restrictions.

Brad stated that a survey was done regarding the right of way to the town beach property and the town actually owns the throughway that has become problematic due to parking complaints.

Lucy asked if the board wanted to do anything with the information.

Brad stated that it may be ok once the property is marked.

Public Comment

Finance Committee member, Paul Rochette asked the board to confirm the final number for the administrative assistant salary line.

Brad stated that he wanted to revisit the vote taken at the previous meeting. He said he agrees with increasing the hours that the administrative assistant needs to work but not at the pay rate previously voted and approved. Brad suggested lowering the amount to a \$10,000 increase for working 30 hours per-week, and rescind the approved \$18,700 increase, that was based on the positions current pay rate.

Administrative Assistant, Ashley Sturges stated that if the board did that then they would be lowering her hourly rate and increasing her work time. She further stated that she would like to request any further discussion be done in an executive session to allow for legal counsel.

The board scheduled an executive session to be held on 6/3/2021 at 10:00 am for further discussion.

Old Business

Don stated that the Police Department cameras are not currently being monitored by Rutland dispatch and they should be. He said that CM Geeks gave them a quote of \$3500 to upgrade the current system with the necessary equipment.

Payroll Warrant & Minutes Approval

Lucy made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of 4/27/2021 Sp.#1, the motion was seconded by Don and voted in favor.

Lucy made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of 4/27/2021 Sp.#2, the motion was seconded by Don and voted in favor.

Lucy made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of 4/27/2021 Sp.#3, the motion was seconded by Don and voted in favor.

Lucy made a motion to accept and sign payroll warrant PR 21-26, the motion was seconded by Don and voted all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM

Next regular meeting: June 3rd, 2021 at 6:00PM