

Town of Oakham

Board of Selectmen

Regular Session

Minutes of May 31, 2022

Present: Lucy Tessnau-Chairman, Don Haapakoski-Vice Chairman, Brad Taylor-Clerk

In attendance: Maribel LaRange-BOS admin asst, Alan Flagg, Paul Rochette, Susan Shays, June Patsky, Michelle Patsky, Wendy Ballou, Aaron Langlois

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM by Chairman, Don Hapakoski

Approve Warrants: Lucy made motion to approve warrants for WR22-24 Brad 2nd, Don all in favor.

Approve Minutes: Lucy made motion to approve minutes for 4/4/22 Brand 2nd, Don all in favor.

Public Session: Paul Rochette Finance Committee Chairman, let the board know that fincom are working on the budget advisory for the town's people and will be mailed out. Lucy asked if there is enough of a buffer in the warrant for fuel expenses, Paul stated that it can be reviewed again at the STM if need be. Paul also stated that if the assessment for Quabbin Regional School District gets lowered Oakham's portion will also lower.

BOH Shared Services: Aaron Langlois, Chairman of the BOH presented the board of selectmen with information on shared services for the Town of Oakham. Aaron made clear that it's not a regionalization, just shared services with the Town of Leicester. The shared services will bring some relief to the BOH with services that the town just cannot provide and will allow for the BOH to focus on what the board was elected for not the day-to-day things. The shared services are fully funded by a grant and there is no cost to the town. The Oakham board of health agent Phil Ledger can continue to work as he has with the board of health. Don stated he liked the shared services and that Oakham BOH can still maintain control. Aaron also mentioned that by allowing shared services in any case of liability Oakham would not be liable. Brad said it's worth giving it a shot.

Lucy made motion to support engagement to shared services with the Town of Leicester as printed and presented by Aaron Langlois, Brad 2nd, Don all in favor.

Appointment Notices: The board was presented with appointment notices for the following:

- Registrar
- Historical Commission
- Parks & Recreation

- Zoning Appeals Board
- Animal Control Officer
- Assistant Animal Control Officer

Lucy made motion to accept the submissions for appointments, Brad 2nd, Don all in favor.

Eric A. Kinsherf, CPA: Eric A. Kinsherf, CPA accounting firm has provided the town with contract for service as the interim accountant. Contract services are from May 1,2022 through June 30,2023.

Lucy made motion to sign contract for service with Eric A. Kinsherf, CPA as interim accountant, Brand 2nd, Don all in favor.

June Patsky- Town Beach: June Patsky brought to the attention of the board that trash is being left at the town beach and the abutters should not have to clean up the trash. June stated she has put up two signs saying “please take your trash home” “keep our beach area clean”. Aaron Langlois, chairman of the board of health stated that the section, entrance of the town beach owned by the town is not a permitted water beach, not a bathing beach. It was suggested that a no swimming, no lifeguard sign be put at the town beach. Brad stated that this section that the town owns is the only water access the town has as the rest is owned by water front residents and Randy Packard of Pine Acres. In regards to June’s complaint about the trash the board advised her that a trash pin would be placed at the beach and emptied weekly in hopes that will resolve the issue.

Oakham-Amherst Class II transfer: Lucy made motion to transfer Oakham-Amherst Auto Recycling to BHT of Oakham, Brad 2nd, Don all in favor.

Budget update: Fire Chief, Tim Howe got a quote of roughly \$27,250 for demolition, removal and new floor and \$7,000 for the roof at the fire station.

Police Chief, Fred Gehring reported that grant he applied for police department security camera system unfortunately was not approved. The cost of the system is \$9,600.

The board knows these repairs need to be done at the fire station and that the security camera system is very important to have the police station and have decided to approve \$44,000 to be used from ARPA funds for the fire and police departments.

Treasurer-Springbrook Update: The Treasurer/Collector reported that since the virtual meeting on May 13 between Oakham and Springbrook she has not heard from Springbrook until May 24. Lisa reminded Peg from Springbrook that the go live date was September 1st.

Brad notified the board that Steve Lebarre had offered to be the Project Manager in the conversion process for the Treasurer/Collector software.

Wage Study Update: Create a no cash policy. Continue reviewing the job descriptions. Schedule a meeting with Don Jacobs in July.

MIIA Health Insurance: In order for the Town of Oakham to be able to offer health insurance on its own the Town needs to adopt chapter 32B S10 which is general or blanket insurance for persons in the service of counties, cities, towns and districts and their dependents.

This is a town's vote and needs to be put on a ballot. The next election is in September and will be put on then.

Lucy made motion have Chapter 32B section 10 be put on ballot in September Primary Elections for the Town of Oakham adopt Chapter 32B section 10, Brad 2nd, Don all in favor. Vote was Lucy-yes, Brad-yes, Don-yes. All in favor.

New Business: Maribel, BOS administrative assistant, gave the board an update on the progress of the Annual Town Report FY21. The books are on schedule and will be delivered on time.

Old Business: The board decided on June 6, 2022 at 6:00 pm for a work meeting to work on the ATM warrant. No public session.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 PM: Don made motion to adjourn, Brad 2nd, Lucy all in favor.

Next Regular meeting: June 13, 2022 6:00 PM