

Town of Oakham

Board of Selectmen

Regular Session

Minutes of October 3, 2022

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

In attendance: Maribel LaRange-BOS admin asst, Fred Gehring-Police Chief, Samantha Bodine-Library Director, Susan Meyer, Lisa Huntington, Paul Rochette, Susanne Shays, Tim Howe-Fire Chief

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

Approve Warrants: Lucy made motion to approve WR23-07, Brad 2nd, Don all in favor.

Approve Minutes: Lucy made motion to approve minutes for 10/19/22 as written, Brad 2nd, Don all in favor.

Public Session: No one present for public session.

Samantha Bodine- Library Director;

- **Salary Discussion:** Samantha Bodine, Library Director, along with two members of the library trustees, Susan Meyer and Lisa Huntington came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss Samantha's salary. Samantha does not think that the Library Director is not compensated or structured the way it should be. Samantha stated that her weekly hours are closer to 30 hours a week but only getting compensated for 19.5 hours a week which is what she's hired for. Samantha said she has been in the position for over 8 years and there has never been the opportunity for sick or vacation pay and thinks the salary is very depressed. Samantha would like to discuss the salary pay, possibly making it a salary position instead of an hour position and the open to a discussion for a contract. Susan Meyer stated that the Town currently pays for Samantha's salary but maybe they can use a portion on the Crombie Trust to pay for an increase in pay. Susan said she would like to see the Library Director position become salaried. Susan stated that Samantha takes care of the maintenance of the library and would be great if in the future the building would be taken care of for maintenance and/or any issues that might arise unexpectedly. Don said the board will look further into Samantha becoming salaried. The discussion will put continued at the next Selectmen's meeting.
- **Approval for outdoor Library project:** Samantha Bodine is seeking the approval of the board for highway department's help in relocating the handicap parking spot and leveling some of the land. Samantha wanted to know if the library would get billed for

the highway department's work. The library is Town property so therefore there would not be additional billing for the library to pay the highway department. The board said that if any material that would need to be used for the leveling or anything else for the project is already accounted for the library would be responsible to pay for the materials. The board are okay with Kevin and highway department helping. Samantha informed the board that Tim Howe has offered to help with his own personal equipment.

Fees for liquor license & Class II & III: The board has decided to keep the fees the same as previous year.

- All Alcoholic Beverages \$355.00
- Wine & Malt \$205.00
- Class II \$50.00
- Class III \$100.00

Treasurer/Collector Conversion Update: Treasurer/Collector gave the board an update on the conversion on Friday, September 30th's work meeting. No further information since then.

Fire Chief, Tim Howe;

Engine 3 update- Fire Chief Howe informed the board that engine 3 showed fuel pressure spikes. A fuel filter part was order and they will be rebuilding the fuel filter housing.

Long term apparatus needs- Chief Howe suggested to the board that a capital long-term plan to purchase a new fire truck in the future would be something to work towards. Chief Howe understands that a new fire truck is a huge expense especially for a small town. Chief Howe's concern is if there is no plan in affect, instead of a new truck it can be two fire trucks as the second truck is getting older as well. Chief Howe also let the board know that the wait once a fire truck is ordered is 2 years. Current prices for a new fire truck with just the basics is around \$575,000-\$650,000.

Chief Howe updated the board on the progress of the roof repairs at the fire station building. Nothing major and cost will be less than anticipated. Once the roof is repaired can start repairs on the floor. Tim presented the board with a few options for the repairing/replacing of the floor. Tim think's the cheaper option which is around \$15,000 is the better option, it is more durable and has a warranty. Lucy made a motion the fire department use tiles to redo/replace the floors in both the fire station and highway department using ARPA funds to pay for it, Brad 2nd, Don all in favor. Tim will get two additional quotes to ensure procurement policy is being followed.

National Grid: Brad brought this to the attention of the other board members on Friday, September 30th's working meeting and recapped it again that the bill from National Grid for the Fire Station & Highway Barn was very expensive. The bill for August 1 - September 1 was \$2,110.61. Brad said that with the rates for National Grid going up 64% some of the lights at the

Fire Station & Highway Barn as well as all other unnecessary light in Town should be turned off. The other board members agreed.

New Business: No new business to discuss.

Old Business: Police Chief, Fred Gehring presented the board with a file on Christopher Adams' a candidate he interviewed for a part time officer position. Chief Gehring requested to have the candidate of the next scheduled BOS meeting for appointment.

Chief Gehring discussed a detail bill that was given to Agronomy Vineyard for an 8-hour detail for the beer and tent at Oaktober Fest. Chief Gehring said that at the meeting where the one-day liquor license was approved for Agronomy to pour beer and wine they discussed all the details on how to keep the event safe, how to contain those consuming alcohol under the beer and wine tent but what was not discussed was who would be responsible for the detail bill. Chief Gehring said he will resubmit the detail bill at the Town rate and without the administration fee. Parks & Rec committee will pay the bill.

Correspondence: The board received an email from Mr. Nutter on 9/29/22 requesting a site visit to the Oakham Center School along with the Quabbin Regional School District Plant & Facilities Subcommittee to inspect some issues that are in need of repair. They expect the repairs will exceed the \$5,000 Regional Agreement threshold which would require funding from the Town. The board agreed they are available on October 24th or 25th at 10:00 am. Maribel will inform Mr. Nutter.

Don mad motion to open executive session, Lucy 2nd, Brad.

Vote: Don-yes, Lucy-yes, Brad-yes

Executive Session MGL Chapter 39 Section 23B, sub section 3
Opened at 7:38 PM by Chairman, Don Haapakoski

Roll Call: Donald Haapakoski-Aye, Bradford Taylor-Aye, Lucy Tessnau-Aye

Meeting Adjourned at 8:06PM: Lucy made motion to adjourn, Brad 2nd, Don all in favor.

Next Regular meeting: October 17, 2022 6:00 PM

