

Town of Oakham

Board of Selectmen

Regular Session

Minutes of April 4, 2022

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

In attendance: Maribel LaRange-BOS admin asst, Shad Wells, Harold Black, Kathy Dunn, Jason Bergman, Walter Nutter, Dr. Sheila Muir-School Superintendent, Patricia Worthington-OCS Principal, Paul Rochette, Tom Huges, Steven Dolinger, Adam Przypek.

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM by Chairman, Lucy Tessnau

Approve Warrants: Brad made motion to approve warrants for WR20 Lucy 2nd. Vote was Brad-yes, Lucy-yes. (Don did not vote as he's signing the warrants in the absence of the Town accountant).

Approve Minutes: Don made motion to approve minutes for 3/07/22 Brand 2nd, Lucy all in favor.

Farmers Market-Town Common: Kathy Dunn initially was inquiring about having the farmers market at the town common but with the restriction of parking and space organizing it at the baseball field is best. Kathy is taking the proper steps to organize the farmers market with the board of health and with the board of selectmen. Kathy as requested the use of the electronic sign for the farmers market, the board has authorized it.

Health & Dental Insurance Information: The town is gathering information on alternative health & dental plans. Following up with MIIA which is the town's insurance on their health and dental plan options.

Dr. Sheila Muir-Superintendent-Leasing of OCS: Dr. Sheila Muir, Quabbin School Superintendent presented the board with a proposition of leasing part of the Oakham Center School to an outside company to provide before/after school services as well as during winter, February, April and summer breaks. Hours of operation would be 6:30am – 8:30am & 3:00pm – 6:00pm. During vacation would be full days. This service would be a cost to the guardians of the child/children attending. Dr. Muir said it would bring some revenue to them but no a lot. The leasing of the OCS will not generate revenue to the Town of Oakham except for an annual fee of \$1. Dr. Muir expressed that ideally would love to run their own program but due to over time cost cannot. The motion to a leasing agreement to sublet an outside company to OCS has been tabled until the next board of selectmen meeting.

Jason Bergan-Discussion of kid's education: Jason Bergan as an educator himself expressed the importance of keeping all the kinds at the Oakham Center School. The board agrees and appreciated Jason's opinion.

Springbrook Update: The conversion for the collector/treasurer is not completed. Don informed the board that the state has given another extension until 4/30/22 for the conversion be compliant with the grant regulations.

Police Details: Brad stated that the town pays for the police details provided to Pine Acres Campground during their 4th of July firework celebration weekend. Brad thinks that Pine Acres should be paying that cost. Paul Rochette said that Pine Acres/Randy Packard is the biggest tax payer in town. Brad said they should at least give a contribution to the town.

New Business: Tree Warden, Michael Brunnelle updated the board that poles on Adams Rd need to be replaced.

Maribel informed the board that the library is being used to film a movie on 4/22/22 and a member of the movie crew asked if they could use the Town Hall parking lot and space inside for the cast members to have lunch. The board has agreed for them to use the parking lot and Lucy said they could use the senior center for their lunch but could not use the kitchen area.

It was brought to the board's attention that a resident on Flint Road has and continues to call the ambulance services excessively. The older individual lives on their own and at many times needs help but refuses to get it and instead calls the ambulance. The ambulance services of course provide the service which in many cases is because they have fallen and need help back up. The individual then refuses further services, such as going to the hospital. This has been an on-going situation and is costly and jeopardizing services to others that need it. It was suggested for the state Board of Health to be contacted in regards to this matter.

Old Business: The Crocker Nye repair coast will be around \$7,000 in materials. The Highway department does not have the funds in the budget to cover the cost. The surveyor cost for Gaffney Road will be \$700.

Lucy asked Tom Hughes a member of the Town Hall Study Committee how things are coming along and if they will have a report ready for the annual town meeting. Tom said things are still in progress but no report for the annual town meeting will be ready. Lucy said it was an understanding they would be a report on the study committee's finding in regards to the town hall.

Lucy made motion to have Don Haapakoski sign the agreement for the broadband agreement, Brad 2nd, Don all in favor.

Public Session: No public session.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:24PM: Brad made motion to adjourn, Don 2nd, Lucy all in favor.

Next Regular meeting: April 19, 2022 6:00 PM

