

Minutes
Williamsburg Board of Selectmen
October 27, 2016

The members of the Board of Selectmen met in regular session on Thursday, October 27, 2016, at the town office. The chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. The chair noted that the meeting was being recorded, at the request of the reporter.

Present: Denise Banister, William Sayre and David Mathers

Also present: Tom Geryk (Veterans' Agent), Jim Locke (Building Supervisor), Charlene Nardi (Town Administrator), Peter Spotts (reporter, Country Journal), Eleanor Warnock (Administrative Assistant), Marie Westburg

1. Building Supervisor – Building Supervisor Jim Locke described the work he had done since May, including the shed at Old Town Hall, basement windows at the James Building, contract for the Meekins stairs, trim at the Meekins, keys at the James Building, meal site, and 125 Goshen Road. He talked about concern for the roof at the James; checking for termites in the Haydenville Library, concern for foundation problems, erosion and the need for taking down trees. He was especially concerned about the floor at the Williamsburg Fire Station and described possible causes and his recommended fix – cutting a slab out, inspecting the drain, digging out, and pouring a new thicker slab; it should be done soon before the cold. He will look into pricing if the Board can figure out funding. He went on to talk about following up on ventilation at the Police Station, and he has done shelves for the meal site, ordered a door for the copy room, put in a door at bottom of bulkhead steps, and drained and winterized Old Town Hall. The bid for the library stairs has been accepted; things will be covered and left for the winter, and there will be time to match the stone. He said he is spending about 20 hours a month, about what he expected, and it's fun. The Board expressed appreciation for his work.

2. Ice skating rink – Resident Marie Westburg described the plans for the ice rink at the James Building property. Because there is a significant grade, the rink required a lot of water last year; the suggestion this year is to buy some fill to make it more level, and seed it in the spring. They are considering a plastic tarp as a wind barrier, with benches secured to the ground. The Water Department donated the water last year and the Fire Department filled it. They have a handheld zamboni, with water from a neighbor's house. They would like to have an evening community event, with lighting, and a fire or bonfire. Suggestions were made to ask the Fire Chief for a generator for portable lights, to ask the Police Department to patrol the area, to use last year's liner for the tarp, and to have students from Hampshire Regional High School do community service. The Board supported the project and thanked Marie and the team for making it happen.

3. Purple Heart Town – Veterans' Agent Tom Geryk proposed that the town be declared a Purple Heart Town, recognizing those who made sacrifices for our country. He explained that the Military Order of the Purple Heart is given to people in the armed services who are injured by the enemy, and the Purple Heart Trail is made up of Purple Heart Towns and Cities. Signs can be put at the entrances to the town; the town could pay for the large signs for the main routes, organizations in town may pay for smaller signs; ordering jointly with other towns may bring the

cost down. The proclamation could be read at the Veterans' Day ceremony. Tom Geryk and Dave Mathers of the American Legion will look into who the local Purple Heart recipients are. **Motion** was made and seconded (DM/WS) to declare Williamsburg to be a Purple Heart Town. **So voted** (3-0).

4. Veterans' Day – Veterans' Agent Tom Geryk said he is working with the Veterans' Memorial Committee on the program. The Purple Heart proclamation could be the theme. It was decided which Selectmen would speak. There is permission from the school to go inside in case of rain.

5. Mass. Cultural Council contract – **Motion** was made and seconded (DM/WS) to authorize the chair to sign the Mass. Cultural Council contract for FY17; the local allocation for the Williamsburg Cultural Council is \$4400. **So voted** (3-0).

6. Appointments – resignation – Planning Board and PVPC Alternate Commissioner – **Motion** was made and seconded (DM/WS) to accept the resignation of Kathy McKeown from the Planning Board and PVPC Alternate position, with regret and with thanks for her service. **So voted** (3-0).

7. Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program – Application – **Motion** was made and seconded (DM/WS) to accept the application for the final spot in the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief program. **So voted** (3-0).

Change in amount from \$1000 to \$1500 – Recent legislation would allow the town to increase the amount each participant can earn from \$1000 to \$1500, which would mean potentially \$5000 less in tax revenue to the town. The Veterans' program amount was not increased. It was noted that the Senior program is not based on need but preference is given to lower-income applicants if there are more than ten applicants. People are doing work for the town and being paid minimum wage. **Motion** was made and seconded (DM/WS) to adopt the change in the amount of Senior Tax Relief from \$1000 to \$1500. **So voted** (3-0).

8. Live entertainment – **Motion** was made and seconded (DM/WS) to grant a Live Entertainment permit for a D.J., 9:30 to 11:45 p.m. on Saturday, November 12, Friday, December 2, and Friday, December 16, to the Beaver Brook Lounge. **So voted** (3-0). **Motion** was made and seconded (DM/WS) to grant a Live Entertainment Permit to the Burgy Bullets for Saturdays, November 5 and December 3, 4 p.m. to 12 midnight, for a D.J. or band. **So voted** (3-0).

9. Firefighters – Town Administrator Charlene Nardi described the process to allow two firefighters, turning 62 and 64 this year, to continue past 65 to age 70: the Board of Selectmen votes to move forward, it is approved on the Town Meeting floor, then sent to Rep. Kulik's office, then to the legislature; the individuals need to be named specifically. **Motion** was made and seconded (DM/WS) to begin the process of applying to the legislature to allow James Ferron and Robert Lapointe to work from the age of 65 to the age of 70 as firefighters. **So voted** (3-0).

10. Salary survey – The Board will plan to meet with the Finance Committee to discuss the salary survey. Wednesday, November 16, at 5:00 or 5:30 was proposed.

11. Town Administrator's report –

Town Offices heat – Town Administrator Charlene Nardi reported that the Town Offices now have heat; walk-through was next week; Collector's office will need a radiator.

Town Offices oil – There is still oil in the tanks. It will be removed and moved to another building.

Green Communities annual report – She has been working on it with Kim Boas.

Sculpture at library – She reported that the Board of Library Trustees has discussed the sculpture with James Kitchen and Nick Dines; the Library Trustees are not ready to make a recommendation and they expressed two concerns: first, they asked the Select Board about a policy on accepting gifts of art; second, if they decide to accept the sculpture, they don't know just where it should go. Board members felt that the Library Trustees should decide whether they want the sculpture before the Select Board considers a policy. The Board went on to discuss maintenance and ownership and whether a time capsule adds other considerations. Charlene will ask the City of Northampton, which has accepted a number of pieces of art.

Mountain Street – Charlene reported that Rep. Kulik is talking with Lt. Governor Polito and is hoping for some action; Whately will be sending a letter to Lt. Gov. Polito.

Zoning Board of Appeals – The ZBA will be meeting in executive session with Town Counsel on the legal case of Hodgkins v. ZBA.

Snow cancellation policy – A question arose about cancelling a meeting in case of bad weather. Charlene pointed out that the bill and payroll warrant does not need to be signed in open meeting; one person could be designated to come in and sign, or if that person couldn't do it, two could come in. This will be discussed at a future meeting. Concern was expressed for residents coming in if roads are icy.

Credit card – The town now has a credit card for online purchases.

Goat path – Work begins October 31. River Road is closed.

Holiday party – She reported that the party will be at the Highway Garage December 23 at noon; people are asked to bring something to share.

Holiday decorations – She reported that last year was the last time the wreaths were free through the telephone company program. It was suggested that wreaths be purchased from local businesses with petty cash. Asking businesses for donation of wreaths seemed like a conflict of interest since the town issues permits to them.

Meekins Library stair entry project – She reported that the Board of Library Trustees recommended moving forward with the lowest bidder and the Select Board chair has signed the contract. **Motion** was made and seconded (WS/DM) to authorize the chair to sign the contract with Champlain Masonry, Inc., for the library stair project for \$29,770.

Fire Department vehicles – She reported that the Fire Department vehicles received from the DCR had come with the stipulation that they remain under the authority of the Fire Department; the stipulations have now been removed and the vehicles can be moved to the Highway Department; registration and insurance will be changed.

Road island at Bridge Street and South Main Street – She reported that Highway Superintendent Bill Turner had asked about making an island that someone could adopt and make into a garden. It was suggested that Nick Dines be asked for his thoughts.

Pedestrian signs – Two signs were received but they will not be put out until spring because MassDOT permit has expired.

Gold medal for Town Clerk – She reported that the Town Clerk received a Gold Medal in the Election Modernization Coalition’s Early Voting Challenge, for providing substantial early voting opportunities; she was one of 30, out of 351 municipalities statewide.

Open Meeting Law presentation – Will be Tuesday, November 1.

Tax classification hearing – May be ready for the November 10 meeting.

Hampshire Council of Governments – Newspaper article said that Belchertown had pulled out of the Hampshire Council of Governments. Charlene has told the town’s HCOG Councillor, Eileen Stewart, that Williamsburg would be happy to sign a letter saying what HCOG services the town uses and that the town is happy with the services.

12. Correspondence – Included the Western Mass. Legislative Summit.

13. Minutes – **Motion** was made and seconded (DM/DB) to accept the minutes of October 13 as amended. **So voted** (3-0). **Motion** was made and seconded (DM/DB) to accept the minutes of October 17 as presented. **So voted** (3-0).

14. Warrant – Approved and signed the warrant.

15. Miscellaneous –

Generator at school – There was a question whether the generator at the school is being maintained. Charlene will talk with School Principal Stacey Jenkins.

Documents used

- Agenda and notes
- Building Supervisor’s work log
- Purple Heart sample proclamations
- Mass. Cultural Council contract
- Resignation letter
- Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program application
- Live entertainment application and permit
- Minutes
- Warrant and expense report

Adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Approved:

Clerk