

Minutes
Williamsburg Board of Selectmen
Augusts 25, 2022

The members of the Board of Selectmen met in regular session on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at the town office. The chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Present: Denise Banister, William Sayre and David Mathers

Also present: Nick Caccamo (Town Administrator), Eleanor Warnock (Administrative Assistant); David Eisenthal (Unibank) by phone

1. Highway Superintendent – Highway Superintendent Dan Banister made his regular report. Truck 5's transmission has been replaced. They have mowed all roadsides at least once. Over-the-guardrail mowing is continuing, with some mower breakdowns. Trees continue to be a problem. The grapple broke and was fixed. They did a lot of work for the 250th anniversary, including inventorying and replacing flags, doing fencing installation and removal, rubbish removal and traffic control. All dirt roads have been graded and rolled. The new roller arrived and the old roller has been put on Municibid. They continue to work closely with the public safety complex site crews. They did another round of potholes last week and did paving on Old Goshen Road. The Adams Road project is on the Conservation Commission agenda and the contractor is ready to start the first or second week of September. The project will cost \$260,000 and he plans to use WRAP funding (Winter Recovery Assistance Program) to save Chapter 90 money. He also plans to use WRAP funding to reclaim and pave a section of Old Goshen Road, do a shim coat on North Farms Road near the Northampton line, replace some guardrails, and repaint road lines. New employee and long-time resident Jack McGill is to start September 1. Bryan Osetek was promoted to Foreman, replacing Don Turner, who retired. On the wish list for ARPA funds is a new pickup, for daily use and for plowing, to replace the 2014 F350, which is showing its age. His choice is a 2023 Chevrolet 2500HD 4x4 with plow, at approximately \$46,000. He would also like to replace the 1992 John Deere Tractor, approximate cost \$54,000.

2. Other ARPA fund request – Assessors will request funds for a full-town revaluation, which has not been done since the 1980s.

3. Public Safety Complex borrowing – The Board discussed whether to recommend borrowing the full \$4.1 million approved at Town Meeting or whether to reduce it to \$3.6 million, in light of the MVP grant, which will cover at least a half million of the projected expenses. If more money is needed, the town can do short-term borrowing. If there are unspent proceeds and they are more than \$50,000, they would have to be put toward a project of a similar lifespan, e.g., not road paving. David Eisenthal of Unibank, who has been advising the town, joined the meeting by phone and was given permission to speak. He confirmed that, given the additional \$500,000 from the MVP grant, it would be reasonable and prudent to reduce the borrowing, and that if additional money were needed, the town could borrow against the additional authorized funds. **Motion** was made and seconded (DM/WS) to approve the borrowing of \$3.6 million in place of \$4.1 million for the purpose of the public safety complex. **So voted** (3-0). It was noted that this is consistent with what the Finance Committee had recommended, and that constructions costs are on budget so far.

4. Inspection Services – **Motion** was made and seconded (DM/WS) to sign the agreement between the City of Northampton and the Town of Williamsburg for Building Inspection and Zoning Enforcement Services, in the amount of \$42,500. **So voted** (3-0). **Motion** was made and seconded (DM/WS) to authorize the board to sign the agreement with the City of Northampton for Electrical Inspection Services, for the amount of fees collected. **So voted** (3-0).

5. Municipal electrical aggregation – The town had signed two extensions of the municipal aggregation program and the current one is set to expire in October. The market is currently volatile and uncertain, due in large part to events abroad. The rates for the various options were presented – the standard rate (51% renewable energy, the rest fossil fuels, primarily natural gas), 100% wind energy, and 100% renewable energy (with 51% wind energy), for varying lengths of time. The National Grid rate is currently 14 cents per kilowatt-hour and is expected to go up to 26 cents for the winter period. Residents can opt out of the program and switch to National Grid at any time, and switch back. The difference in price between standard and fully renewable is very small, and the chair of the Energy Committee recommends going with fully renewable. The Board considered a split between seven months and five months but decided on a twelve month plan. The new prices will be available later today. **Motion** was made and seconded (WS/DM) to authorize the chair to sign an agreement at the 12 month flat rate for 100% renewable energy. **So voted** (3-0).

6. MassDOT – reducing rural roadway departures – MassDOT is sponsoring a pilot program to reduce the number of cars that go off the road. Participating towns will receive a speed radar trailer and work with a consultant. Several roads in Williamsburg qualify for the program, including Mountain Street. Highway Superintendent Dan Banister is interested in participating, and the town has sent a letter of interest.

7. Mill River Greenway – MassTrails grant, VHB contract – The Department of Conservation and Recreation has given the notice to proceed with the MassTrails grant, in the amount of up to \$194,500. The 20% match will be met with in-kind hours. The VHB contract will provide engineering services for \$188,900, for the South Main Street Shared Use Path and Pedestrian Bridge. This will include shovel-ready plans and bid documents. The town has worked with VHB before and is very happy with them. **Motion** was made and seconded (WS/DM) to authorize the chair to sign the agreement between VHB and the Town of Williamsburg, in the amount of \$188,900 for engineering work for the Mill River Greenway final engineering services for the South Main Street Shared Use Path and Pedestrian Bridge. **So voted** (3-0).

8. 250th Anniversary Committee – Board members signed a letter of thanks to the 250th Anniversary Committee for the wonderful weekend of events that was put on for the town in mid-July. The committee is not ready to disband, as the wrap-up accounting of funds is not yet finalized.

9. Town Administrator's report –
Collector's office – New Collector Sharon Strzegowski is expected to start on September 6. She is currently working with Mike Quinlivan learning the software. Nick Caccamo is continuing to check messages and deal with people's concerns, especially about motor vehicle excise tax problems. Mike Quinlivan has been enormously helpful. The office is in good shape.

UMass Boston draft wage study – Nick handed out the draft study, including a narrative report and a spreadsheet of wages in different nearby towns, to be discussed next meeting.

Vacation – He listed projected vacation days in the next few weeks. Board members commented on his dedication to the job.

Upcoming matters:

61A property –right of first refusal – No comments have been received as yet. Discussion will be next meeting.

ARPA fund requests – He has not received many requests yet; he'll send out a fresh email. Next meeting the Board may want to establish criteria for selecting among them.

Town Office building – Some landscape work is being done, including bringing in topsoil and mulch in preparation for planting, and clearing out invasive plants from the fence behind the building.

Materials assessment – Scheduled for September 15, focusing on the exterior of the Town Office Building.

Mass Commercial Cleaning – Starting tomorrow; they will come every two weeks. They are fully bonded.

MVP award announcement by Governor – Event will be at the Helen E. James site at noon on August 30.

Auditor – Search should begin soon.

Fire rescue truck and procurement – Nick explained the confusion around the term “state bid list” and what he had found out about the Sourcewell co-op buying network out of Minnesota, and the four-part test for buying from a collective bid program. Sourcewell meets the requirements and is used a lot, and the town is on track to get the truck.

10. Correspondence – Correspondence included an update about marijuana establishments, and a note from Lisa Bertoldi of the 250th Anniversary Committee thanking the Board for its support.

11. Minutes – **Motion** was made and seconded (DM/WS) to approve the minutes of August 11.
So voted (3-0).

12. Warrant – Chair Denise Banister will review and sign the warrant.

Documents used

Agenda and notes

Public Safety Complex borrowing schedule

Inspection Services contracts

Power supply pricing list

MassDOT roadway departure information

DCR letter

VHB contract

UMass Boston wage study

Minutes

Adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Approved:

Clerk