

Minutes
Williamsburg Board of Selectmen
April 12, 2018

The members of the Board of Selectmen met in regular session on Thursday, April 12, 2018, at the town office. The chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: William Sayre, David Mathers and Denise Banister

Also present: James Bacon, Nels Christenson, Dave Christopolis (HCDC), Jean Duquette, Jasmine Gomfi, Ben Gillett, Pete LaFogg, Joan LaFogg, Daniel Lamontagne, Diane Lamontagne, Michael Michalski, Todd O'Brian, Tom, Raschi, Thomas A. Raschi, Brenda Robertson, Eleanor Warnock (Administrative Assistant), Karen Webb, Denise Wickland (Police Chief)

1. Signs – Worthington Air Automotive – Tom Raschi of Worthington Air Automotive told the Board that when his old signs were corroded he replaced them with two new signs, each approximately 36 square feet. He was notified that he would need a Special Permit for them, since they exceeded the 12 square feet allowed in the Zoning Bylaw, but the Special Permit was denied, by a vote of 2-1. He has now been told that he faces a fine of \$100 a day, though he has been given an extension. Board members explained that they have no jurisdiction over the Zoning board of Appeals or Planning Board and advised him on the process for getting the bylaw changed, starting with a petition to the Planning Board. They also recommended that the signs be taken down, to avoid the fine, because a further extension would not be possible. Comments by Tom Raschi and his supporters included getting in touch with an attorney to make a case for selective enforcement, and parking a box trailer on the property with business information on the side. (One supporter pointed out that the Board was sympathetic and trying to show them how to get things changed.) Board members explained that the Zoning Enforcement Officer does not go around looking for illegal signs but that when there is a complaint, he is obliged to follow through. They also said that a tractor trailer would not necessarily be permitted as a way around the sign problem. They said that while the current sign bylaw was rewritten and simplified in 2013, the 12 square foot maximum has been in effect for at least 20 years. They noted that many signs in town exceed the 12 square foot limit, because they predate the bylaw and are grandfathered in, or because they have received a Special Permit, or else they are illegal under the bylaw.

2. Police – Police Chief Denise Wickland gave her regular report. She said budget lines are where they should be. There have been a number of vehicle break-ins, and a robocall has been sent out asking people to lock their cars and houses and to call 9-1-1 if they see anything. She said she would like Robert Reinke, who currently works as the department's IT expert, to come back as a police officer, for one eight-hour shift a week. **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/DM) to appoint Robert Reinke as a Patrol officer, effective immediately, through June 30, 2018. **So voted** (3-0). Board members commented that Sgt. Jason Soukup did a very impressive job with the recent firearms training. Regarding Cumberland Farms' request to be open 24 hours a day, Chief Wickland had concerns about security cameras. Board members will ask Town Administrator Charlene Nardi to follow up and keep the Board informed.

3. Hilltown Community Development Corporation – CDBG block grant – Dave Christopolis, Director of the Hilltown CDC, had been asked about Williamsburg’s relationship to the state block grant for the local towns. He explained that the grants are competitive and part of the scoring depends on the percent of the population considered to Low or Moderate Income, using census data. On a 10-point scale, the other towns are all 9 or 8, but Williamsburg is 4, which drags down the group application. He can’t take the risk of losing the whole grant, so he excludes Williamsburg. The formula changed two years ago; next year the use of the scores may change. He suggested that next year he and the town should look at the plan and see if the town could influence him to put the town back into the group application. He added that he is active in advocating in Boston for rural towns.

4. Transfer Station – resident complaint – Resident Nels Christenson told the Board that many people use the Transfer Station without the necessary sticker. He recommended that someone at the gate check for stickers and he also mentioned the presence of out-of-state cars, with and without stickers. The Board asked him to write a letter with his concern and they would look into it.

5. Senior Center – Resignation – Letter of resignation from Marie Westburg, Director of the Senior Center, was read. **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/DM) to accept the resignation of Marie Westburg from the position of Senior Center Director effective April 28, and to thank her for her service. **So voted** (3-0).

Direction of Senior Center – Discussion included combining the Director and the Outreach Coordinator into one full-time position with better pay, clarifying the amount of money available, especially grant money, acknowledging that the Outreach Coordinator pay would not be available for a while because of the retirement/vacation package, hiring an interim director for 6 to 9 months, working with the COA Board to determine the future direction of the Senior Center and to do the hiring. It was decided to hire an interim director and ask Town Administrator Charlene Nardi to write a job description and staffing plan. [This was revisited and changed at the special meeting of April 24.]

6. Election warrant – **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/DB) to sign the warrant for the Annual Town Election to be held May 7, 2018. **So voted** (3-0).

7. Licenses – Pool tables – **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/DM) to grant a license for one pool table to American Legion Post 236, 5 Bridge Street, Haydenville. **So voted** (2-0, DM abstaining).

8. Worthington 250th Anniversary Celebration parade – All Board members plan to march in the parade on Saturday, June 30.

9. Town Administrator’s report – The Administrative Assistant reported for the Town Administrator.

Memorial Day plans – Ceremony is Monday, May 28, at 11 a.m., no parade.

Temperature sensor quote update – The Citizen Security current charge of \$25 a month would cover the new sensors, with no additional charge. The Town Administrator is still getting other quotes.

Pedestrian crosswalk sign – PTO – The PTO would like to work with the town to raise funds for the pedestrian sign.

Meals Tax responses – General Store – Heather Majercik of the Williamsburg General Store had questions but no real concerns.

Budget – Finance Committee proposal to reduce budget lines – Board members reviewed the proposal and commented that the Assessors are working with a new computer system and that the Constables are needed for elections. The Board would like to ask the Town Administrator how the Finance Committee reached each of their recommendations.

Country Corral – It was reported that the Health Inspector and Building Inspector continue to inspect the property.

10. Highway – Cider Mill Road – Dave Mathers reported that when Highway Superintendent Bill Turner called, the resident was satisfied with the answer. Highway may try to pave some of the road and will clean it up the best they can.

11. Correspondence – Correspondence included the usual letter from auditor Melanson Heath about their responsibilities and standards in conducting the audit.

12. Transfer Station continued – Discussion included the problem with having cash at the transfer station, because of the perception of corruption, suggestion of a lower charge for a sticker for a second vehicle for the same family, and people with stickers who have moved to nearby towns.

13. Minutes – **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/DM) to approve the minutes of March 29 as written. **So voted** (3-0). **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/DM) to approve the minutes of the initial meeting of April 3 as presented. **So voted** (3-0). **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/DM) to approve the minutes of the first executive session of April 3 as presented. **So voted** (3-0). **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/DM) to approve the minutes of the second executive session of April 3 as presented. **So voted** (3-0).

14. Warrant – Approved and signed the warrant.

Documents used

- Agenda and notes
- CDBG score computations
- Senior Center resignation letter
- Senior Center past job descriptions
- Election warrant
- Pool table license
- Finance Committee budget reduction recommendations
- Minutes
- Warrant and expense report

Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Approved:

Clerk