

Minutes
Williamsburg Board of Selectmen
May 24, 2018

The members of the Board of Selectmen met in regular session on Thursday, May 24, 2018, at the town office. The chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that the meeting was being recorded by the Country Journal reporter.

Present: William Sayre and Denise Banister

Absent: David Mathers

Also present: Louis Hasbrouck (Building Inspector), Lisa Jasinski (National Grid), Charlene Nardi (Town Administrator), Stephen Snow, Peter Spotts (reporter, Country Journal), Eleanor Warnock (Administrative Assistant)

1. Pole hearing – The public hearing started at 6:02 p.m. Lisa Jasinski of National Grid presented the request to install a pole on the south side of Old Goshen Road across from the driveway of 48 Old Goshen Road to support a line extension up the driveway. She explained that there are three poles, two going up the driveway and a third across the street for support. A neighbor was present and expressed his support. **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to approve the request from National Grid to install a pole on Old Goshen Road across from #48. **So voted** (2-0). Denise Banister disclosed that she is related to the property owner.

2. Building Inspector – Building Inspector Louis Hasbrouck made his regular report and presented the calendar-year-to-date permit report, commenting that this year is busier than last year. In response to a question, he said the permit fee is based on square footage; there isn't a higher fee for fit and finish. Regarding the proposed zoning bylaw changes, he said that he likes the one about accessory apartments, that the Planning Board clearly did its homework, and that a lot of communities allow this type of arrangement.

Lawn signs – He said that most municipalities have size limits on lawn signs and require some relationship with the premises, and he described some of the parameters.

Sign bylaw – He said it is time to put some thought into reviewing signage in town. Discussion included that the bylaw needs to be looked at by the Planning Board, that it is not always clear where a front property lot line is, that the town needs to enforce the regulation exactly, and that the town does not want to harass people.

3. Williamsburg Town Flag account – Town Administrator Charlene Nardi asked the Board to allow the accountant to establish a Williamsburg Town Flag donation account for purchases of the town flag. This is different from the donation account that buys American flags that hang on Route 9. **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to have the accountant establish a Williamsburg Town Flag account so that people can buy flags. **So voted** (2-0).

4. Chapter 90 project request – **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to approve the chip sealing of Briar Hill Road, in the amount of \$71,100. **So voted** (2-0). Town Administrator Charlene Nardi also presented a sheet showing all Chapter 90 requests, except for the one just approved, with a remaining balance of \$215,617.

5. Licenses – **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) for a live entertainment license for Frederick Goodhue and the Angel Park Concert Series, 6 to 8 p.m., for Wednesdays July 11, 18 and 25 and August 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. **So voted** (2-0). It was noted that this was a change from Thursday nights.

6. Ethics disclosure – A Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest, as required by Mass. Gen. Laws c. 268A, sec. 23(d) from Robert Reinke was presented. He was recently hired as a Police Officer and he disclosed that he has a financial contract with the Police Department for computer work. Police Officers are Special Municipal Employees. **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to approve the disclosure. **So voted** (2-0).

7. Annual Town Meeting –

Articles and motions – Board members discussed whether the Board should take positions on the various articles. In the past Finance Committee has taken positions and the Select Board has not. It was decided that the Board would not speak to an article if they were not in agreement but individual members could speak, making it clear they were speaking for themselves and not for the Board.

Board members reviewed the articles and decided who would move each one at Town Meeting. Regarding Article 21, the local meals excise, **motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to state the Board's support of Article 21. **So voted** (2-0). Regarding Article 25, **motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to state that the Board supports the purchase of the rubber-tire excavator for the Highway Department. **So voted** (2-0). Regarding Article 29 on the Payment in Lieu of Taxes for the solar photovoltaic facility, **motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) that the Board supports this article. **So voted** (2-0). Regarding Article 38 on the sales tax on marijuana, it was noted that the town attorney recommended that if the town has marijuana facilities they should be taxed at the highest rate, or 3%. **Motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to support the 3% sales tax if marijuana facilities are approved. **So voted** (2-0).

Attorney on call – Town Administrator Charlene Nardi said that Town Counsel will be on call the night of annual town meeting, and that this is a free service and the town is charged only if it is used. If the need arises she will call and hand the phone to the Moderator.

Budget – Charlene noted that the budget is \$7,538,000, a 2.9% increase, using \$218,000 from free cash. Estimated tax rate increases 18 cents, to \$20.18. She commented that this is a very conservative budget and departments did a good job keeping it low. Regarding the use of free cash she explained that there is a bubble in the town's debt, next year it goes down slightly, and Finance Committee wanted to keep the bubble from affecting the tax rate.

8. Town Administrator's report –

Memorial Day – The ceremony will be Monday, Memorial Day, at 11 a.m., at the Veterans' Memorial. It is being publicized through the town website, Facebook page All Things Williamsburg, and a robocall.

Jake brakes – She reported that MassDOT will not allow any signs on the state road to encourage drivers not to use what is considered a safety device. She will get in touch with the resident who complained about the noise.

Generator noise – She reported that the school is agreeable to putting up a fence against the noise. Funds from the Anne T. Dunphy construction project can be used. She has not yet called Fitzgerald Fencing.

Williamsburg intersection – The MassDOT contact person said that MassDOT would be willing to talk with the town about redesigning the intersection but said that the town had requested this design and it was not a design from MassDOT. Plowing – Cichy's plows Route 9 parking spaces in front of the business and Highway Department removes the snow. The Williamsburg Market expressed concerns about equal treatment of the two businesses in regard to plowing. The Board will review the discussion from earlier this fiscal year as it was thought that Highway had offered to pick up the Market's piled snow. Signs – A Select Board member said that last year he removed lawn signs from the town library property, and there is now a commercial sign next to Route 9 by the Williamsburg Market. It was noted that the business is doing work there and that it might be wise to leave the issue alone. Temporary signs, e.g., for realtors' open houses, are OK.

Fire lane at Dunphy School – School principal Stacey Jenkins thinks that the area is being used appropriately for loading and unloading, she is happy to educate people about not parking there for events, and she is concerned that no-parking signs will cause hazards, as past signs have already been ruined. It was suggested that the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and school principal should get together and discuss it. The issue will be put on a future agenda.

Helen E. James Building area – The organizers of the skating rink would like to fix up the shed at the James and use it for storing skating rink materials; they will be told that this would be temporary until the future of the James Building is decided. Parking bikes at the James for a program at the Grange would be at the bike owners' own risk.

Haydenville Library roof – Building Supervisor John Hoogstraten wants to repair the roof to prevent further damage and will plan to encumber money from the Building Repair budget.

Police cruiser – The vehicle sold for \$6,377.

74 Village Hill Road – There are continuing complaints about hearing gun fire; the Zoning Enforcement Officer has received affidavits from complainants and has notified the owner and owner's attorney. The owner's attorney has asked for a hearing for a dismissal of the complaint. The lawsuit is currently on appeal and the decision of the ZBA is currently still standing.

Chesterfield 4th of July Parade – The Board has been invited.

OPM hiring – The committee received four responses to the RFQ and decided to interview three. They were concerned that none of them addressed phase 1 of the project.

Insurance changes – The Haydenville Library and Old Town Hall have been taken off the regular insurance policy and insured separately, for an increase of \$3300. Since the two buildings are classified as vacant, the insurance company wanted them locked and the water drained but the town uses the Haydenville Library all year, and the Town Administrator notified them of that. The James Building is still on the regular policy.

Mill River Greenway funding – She reported that the Mill River Greenway has almost completed the first phase of survey contract work and is moving into Phase Two. \$5000 of the town article funds are for the survey at the Helen E. James Building, which will be a separate contract.

Newsletter – The newsletter has come out.

Picnic – The Lions Club is interested in coordinating the town picnic, and is hoping to work with the Masons and Grange to make it happen.

Budget forum – The informal forum will be May 30 at the Anne T. Dunphy School.

Hampshire Council of Governments – State representatives had sent a letter to the town saying that they disagree with HCG’s claim that liabilities would fall on the communities if HCG closes.

Solar pre-bid meeting – She reported that there were a lot of people at the pre-bid meeting and that Beth Greenblatt of Deacon International Services did an excellent job presenting the Request for Proposals and the goals of the community

250th Anniversary Celebration – She reported on several large donations. Cichy’s has offered its garage for a car show.

Historic District sign – Father Bondi of Our Lady of the Hills Parish had reported that the sign in front of the church for the Historic District was missing. Eric Weber of the Historical Commission recommends replacing the signs.

9. Miscellaneous – Abandoned property – A resident had expressed concern about an abandoned property on Judd Lane. The Treasurer is working with the family about the back taxes.

10. Correspondence – Included notice of the PVPC annual meeting.

11. Minutes – After a minor adjustment, **motion** was made and seconded (DB/WS) to approve the minutes of April 26, 2018, as amended. **So voted** (2-0). The Board postponed review of the minutes of May 10.

12. Warrant – Approved and signed the warrant.

13. Senior Center – Town Administrator Charlene Nardi reported that the search committee had received four applications and is reopening the search. The Senior Center services are continuing. Sherry Loomis, Melinda McCall and Trish Lafreniere are handling things very well.

Documents used

- Agenda and notes
- Nation Grid pole hearing documents
- Building Inspector permit listing
- Chapter 90
- Live entertainment license
- Ethics disclosure
- Annual Town Meeting warrant and motion warrant
- Minutes
- Warrant and expense report

Adjourned at 8:35

Approved:

Clerk