

**Select Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2023, 5:00 p.m.**

Present: Chair Hazard, Selectman Stock, Selectman Keyes, Interim Town Administrator Nutting

Chair Hazard called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m.

Chair Hazard read the executive session purposes below.

Selectman Stock motioned to move in to executive session to discuss the purposes read by Chair Hazard, the Select Board will return to open session. Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Executive Session(s):

a. Move that the Board enter into executive session pursuant to Purpose 3, G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss litigation strategy if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body (Marjorie Clinton et al v. Town of Hopedale, Worcester Superior Court, Civil Action No. 2385CV00037)

b. Move that the Board enter into executive session pursuant to Purpose 3, G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body (Collective Bargaining; Local 272 – Hopedale Highway, Water and Sewer)

c. Move that the Board enter into executive session pursuant to Purpose 3, G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss litigation strategy if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body (Berger v. Town of Hopedale)

The Select Board reentered open session at 5:42p.m.

Consent Items

Review/Approve Select Board meeting minutes – December 27, 2022 and January 9, 2023

Selectman Keyes motioned to review and approve the Select Board meeting minutes of December 27, 2022 and January 9, 2023. Selectman Stock seconded the motion.

Chair Hazard listed amendments she would like to be made to the meeting minutes of December 27, 2022 and January 9, 2023. Interim Town Administrator Nutting recorded the amendments.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Select Board acknowledgement of The Hopedale Foundation gift to Bancroft Memorial Library

Chair Hazard read the letter provided from Tricia Perry, Library Director. The Select Board thanked the Hopedale Foundation for their continued support and generosity to the Town.

Selectman Keyes motioned to accept the gift from the Hopedale Foundation to the Bancroft Memorial Library. Selectman Stock seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Appointments & Resignations

Resignation of Call Firefighter Catherine D'Alessandro effective 2/17/2023

Chair Hazard read the letter from Fire Chief Daige regarding D'Alessandro's resignation.

Selectman Stock motioned to accept the resignation of Call Firefighter Catherine D'Alessandro effective February 17, 2023. Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Appointment of Part-Time Dispatcher McKealy Locklin effective 2/17/2023

Chair Hazard read the letter from Police Chief Giovannella.

Selectman Stock motioned to approve the appointment of part-time dispatcher McKealy Locklin effective February 17, 2023. Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

New Business

Amend Green River Cannabis Company Host Agreement

Interim Town Administrator Nutting stated that he believes this is the final document agreed upon by both parties. Constant Poholek of Green River Cannabis stated that he approves the final host agreement.

Selectman Stock motioned to approve the Green River Cannabis Company host agreement. Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Nay, Hazard – Aye

Passed 2:1

Consider/Accept Community Paradigm Associate's Town Administrator search "Position Statement"

Selectman Stock motioned to accept Community Paradigm Associate's Town Administrator search "Position Statement". Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Consider warrant article to adopt Local Option Meals Tax

Town Administrator Nutting informed the Select Board that 240 Towns across the Commonwealth have adopted a meals tax. Nutting stated that anything that is sold in restaurants or prepared would fall under meals tax. An example Nutting gave of what the meals tax would look like is if a person was to spend \$10, the meals tax would amount to 7 cents in meals tax, Nutting stated that the meals tax is very small per purchase but could bring the Town money. Nutting suggested adding this item on the upcoming warrant. The Select Board agreed this should be put on the upcoming warrant.

Tree Warden - Discussion re: changing the position from elected to appointed

Town Administrator Nutting stated that this is another item he is suggesting to be put on the upcoming warrant. This cannot be voted at tonight's meeting. Nutting suggested that possibly having someone from the DPW take on this position. Nutting stated that this position is very time consuming. Becca Solomon,

Tree Warden spoke to the Select Board stating that other Towns have this position as an employee. Solomon stated that the largest obstacles she has faced in this position is communication and budget. She is hoping that if this position is changed from elected to appointed that at least the communication can be corrected by having someone at the Town Hall to answer residents' questions. The Select Board felt that this item should be on the upcoming warrant.

Request from Development and Industrial Commission to establish Twitter and Facebook accounts

Administrator Nutting stated that the Town does not have official Facebook accounts. Nutting continued that the Development and Industrial Commission would like to run this account themselves. The Select Board felt that the Town needs to create a policy for social media prior to approving Boards/Commissions create accounts. The social media accounts need to speak with a singular voice on all platforms. The Select Board denied the request for the Development and Industrial Commission to establish Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Old Business

Consider and Vote on Proposed Order of Taking for Land at 364 West Street Pursuant to Article 1 of the July 11, 2022 Special Town Meeting

Selectman Stock motioned to continue the litigation as directed from the Special Town Meeting on July 11, 2022. Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Nay, Hazard – Aye

Passed 2:1

Public and Board Member Comments (votes will not be taken)

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items (votes will not be taken)

Requests for Future Agenda Items

Selectman Keyes requested to have the letter from the Town Administrator to the Zoning Board of Appeals on a future agenda, as well as having the Highway Superintendent return since his time was cut short at the previous meeting. Lastly, Selectman Keyes asked to have a discussion regarding a new bylaw for the upcoming warrant. The bylaw would be regarding maintenance of private ways.

Administrator Updates

Information regarding May 9, 2023 Election schedule

Selectman Stock motioned to adjourn. Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Chair Hazard dissolved the meeting at 7:38p.m.

Submitted by:

Lindsay Peterman

Board Approved: May 22, 2023