

Select Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2021, 6:30 pm

Present: Chair Keyes, Selectman Arcudi, Selectwoman Hazard, Town Administrator Schindler

6:30 pm Joint Meeting with Water/Sewer Commission

Executive Session: Select Board and Water/Sewer Commission

In accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) (Purpose #3), to discuss strategy with respect to litigation that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares, which he does. Re: PFAS Litigation, Attorney Ken Sansone, SL Environmental; West Street Settlement Agreement, Attorney Brian Riley.

Board will return to Open Meeting at 7:30 pm

Chair Keyes called the meeting to order at 7:45PM.

Consent Items

Approve October 25, 2021 Regular Minutes

This item will be passed over because the regular meeting minutes for October 25, 2021 were not presented prior to this meeting.

Selectman Arcudi moved to pass over this agenda item. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion
Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Approve Accounts Payable (A/P) and Payroll (P/R) warrants issued prior to this meeting and duly authorized according to Vendor & Warrant Signature Policy, Adopted 11-10-2016 since June 22, 2020
Town Administrator Schindler stated that this was recommended by the Auditor and the Accountant. In previous years, the warrants would be approved as a consent item. Schindler stated that all of the warrants are legitimate and have been signed however, it is the recommendation of the Auditor and Accountant to acknowledge the warrants in Select Board Meetings. Town Administrator Schindler stated that the Town has been following the policy that was put in place for DocuSign. A warrant can be approved by the Town Administrator and one Select Board member signatures, the checks are then released. However, the DocuSign continues to request signatures for the rest of the Select Board

Selectman Arcudi moved to approve accounts payable (A/P) and Payroll (P/R) warrants issued prior to this meeting and duly authorized according to Vendor & Warrant Signature Policy, Adopted 11-10-2016 since June 22, 2020. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion
Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Approve A/P Warrant #22-10, \$650,847.59, 11/4/21

Approve P/R Warrant #22-10, \$807,934.16, 11/4/21

Town Administrator Schindler stated that these are the A/P and P/R warrants from last week that were processed. Schindler stated that the warrant will still get processed and checks released with the Town Administrators and one Select Board member's signature. Selectman Arcudi and Selectwoman Hazard asked Town Administrator Schindler to confirm with the Auditor and Accountant if these items should be in correspondence since they have already been approved. Schindler stated she will follow up with the Auditor and Accountant and for now, these items should be passed over.

Selectwoman Hazard moved to pass over approving A/P Warrant #22-10, \$650,847.59, 11/4/21 and P/R Warrant #22-10, \$807,934.16, 11/4/21. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Appointments and Resignations

Appointment of Brian Bujold to the Hopedale Police Department as a Part-Time Dispatcher
Chair Keyes read the letter provided by Police Chief Giovannella.

Selectwoman Hazard moved to appoint Brian Bujold to the Hopedale Police Department as a Part-Time Dispatcher., effective immediately. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Hazard – Aye, Arcudi – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Resignation of Call Firefighter Brandon Blaisdell from the Hopedale Fire Department

Chair Keyes read the resignation letter provided by Fire Chief Daige and the resignation letter provided by Brandon Blaisdell.

Selectman Arcudi moved to accept the resignation of Call Firefighter Brandon Blaisdell from the Hopedale Fire Department, effective immediately. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

New Business

Sign Legal Services Agreement with SL Environmental

Chair Keyes stated that this item will be passed over at tonight's meeting. This is not a reflection of the outcome of the executive session meeting that took place earlier, the decision to pass over this item is due to allowing the Select Board members to review the agreement prior to making a decision. The decision will be made at an upcoming meeting.

Selectwoman Hazard moved to pass over the signing of the Legal Services Agreement with SL Environmental. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Host Community Agreement (HCA) Request and Discussion (former Green Mountain Chocolate location), Kevin MacConnell, Blackstone Valley Naturals, LLC.

Kevin MacConnell stated that he and his business partner, Tim Phillips, are the owners of Blackstone Valley Naturals, LLC in Uxbridge. This is an active cultivation manufacturing facility. They have been cultivating cannabis since February 2020 and have been selling since July 2020. Recently, Blackstone Valley Naturals has obtained a building on 1 Rosenfeld Drive in Hopedale. MacConnell stated that they are hoping to move their active cannabis license into the Hopedale community into the building they have acquired. MacConnell confirmed that this will be a move from Uxbridge to Hopedale, instead of an expansion due to the fact that their business has a micro business license, meaning they are not currently allowed to expand or have other facilities. MacConnell stated that if approved, once their license has been moved to the new address, they can immediately begin cultivating and generating revenue for the Town.

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

Selectwoman Hazard thanked all those involved in planting the tree dedicated to her father.

Selectman Arcudi took a moment to honor Tommy Haynes, who recently passed away. Selectman Arcudi also took a moment to Honor Dr. Morin, who recently passed away. Chair Keyes congratulated all of the Hopedale sports teams.

Correspondence and Selectmen Informational Items (votes will not be taken)
Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Hopedale Community House, Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 9AM
(Rain or Shine)

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Joint Meeting with Board of Health re ACO Program, 12/13/21

Selectman Arcudi asked for a once a month finance update from the Finance Committee or a monthly joint meeting with the Select Board and Finance Committee.

Chair Keyes read the paragraph below pertaining to executive session.

Selectman Arcudi moved to enter executive session. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Executive Session:

In accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) (Purpose #3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares, which he does. (CB; Clerical and DPW Units, DLR Case No. JLM-21-8830: Litigation; West Street, Attorney Brian Riley).

Submitted by:

Lindsay Mercier

Lindsay Mercier, Executive Assistant

Adopted: _____