

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Hopedale Town Hall-Draper Room
October 28, 2019
Regular Minutes**

Present: Selectman Brian Keyes, Selectman Thomas Wesley, Selectman Louis Arcudi
Also, present, Executive Assistant Susan Brouwer and Videographer Rafael.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Selectman Keyes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present. Chairman Keyes asked for a moment of silence for Mrs. Guertin who was a long-time teacher in the Hopedale Public Schools.

A. Consent Items

1. Approval of September 9, 2019 regular minutes
MSDV to approve the executive minutes of September 9, 2019
Selectman Keyes- Aye; Selectman Arcudi- Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye
2. Approval of September 23, 2019 regular minutes
MSDV to pass over the regular minutes of September 23, 2019
Selectman Keyes- Aye; Selectman Arcudi- Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye
3. Approval of September 23, 2019 executive minutes
MSDV to pass over the executive minutes of September 23, 2019
Selectman Keyes- Aye; Selectman Arcudi- Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye
4. Approval of October 7, 2019 regular minutes
MSDV to approve the executive minutes of October 7, 2019
Selectman Keyes- Aye; Selectman Arcudi- Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye
5. Approval of warrants 20-15, 20-15P as signed by Selectmen Keyes
MSDV to approve warrants 20-15, 20-15P as signed by Selectmen Keyes
Selectman Keyes- Aye; Selectman Arcudi- Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye

B. Appointments and Resignations

1. Appointment of Marcia Matthews to the Conservation Commission term to June 30, 2022
Ms. Matthews was present with Conservation Committee Chair Vanessa Calabrese who said the Committee is pleased to have Ms. Matthews on board.
MSDV to appoint Marcia Matthews to the Conservation Commission term to June 30, 2022
Selectman Keyes- Aye; Selectman Arcudi- Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye

C. New Business

1. Acceptance of Community Paradigm Associates as the search firm for the new Town Administrator
MSDV to accept of Community Paradigm Associates as the search firm for the new Town Administrator
Board members thanked Chairman Keyes for his guidance in selecting the firm.
Chairman Keyes received two bids and because the fee was under the plateau of \$10K the Town did not have to go out to a formal bidding. Chairman Keyes consulted with Town Counsel on the process.
Selectman Keyes- Aye; Selectman Arcudi- Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye
2. Authorize Chair to sign contract with Community Paradigm Associates
MSDV to authorize BOS Chair to sign contract with Community Paradigm Associates.

Chairman Keyes stated that as part of the hiring process there will be a screening committee with (9) members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Applications to be on the screening committee are still being accepted and can be found on the Town website or in the main office at Town Hall.

Selectmen Arcudi and Wesley thanked Chairman Keyes for his diligence in recommending the firm.

Selectman Keyes- Aye; Selectman Arcudi- Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye

D. Old Business

1. Discussion on Interim Town Administrator/Town Administrator Search

Chair Keyes reviewed the process on hiring an Interim Town Administrator, noting that the Board voted at their October 7 meeting for Chairman Keyes take the lead on recommending an interim administrator and recommend professional hiring firm.

Selectmen Keyes accepted the charge and took initiative to seek out a good option for an Interim TA; one with experience and one that knows what is needed when bridging.

Chairman Keyes spoke with (6) applicants, (4) external, (2) internal. He received a good perspective of what they all bring to the table and ultimately, he feels good about presenting his first choice to bring forth this evening in executive session.

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

1. Selectman Keyes attended a ceremony at the Fire House honoring firefighters who have passed on and those who serve today. Chairman Keyes would like to thank the Chief and Deputy Chief for holding this event. Through the efforts of Mr. Steven Sette, who applied for a Mass Works grant with the assistance of Bob DePonte, CMRPC and input from Chief Daige and Chief Giovanella to improve the Rt. 16 intersection. Selectman Keyes is pleased to announce that the grant was funded in the amount of \$1,000,000. Selectmen Keyes would like to acknowledge the phenomenal effort put forth in getting this grant.

F. Correspondence and Selectmen Informational Items (votes will not be taken)

1. Annual Veteran's Day Breakfast – Hopedale Senior Center, 9:00 AM November 14, 2019
2. Medal of Liberty Ceremony – Hopedale Senior Center, 10:00 AM November 14, 2019
3. Letter from Toni DiGioia dated October 4, 2019 – Recognizing efforts of Patrick Morris Veteran's Agent
4. Letter dated October 8, 2019 re: Cumberland Farm's ownership change effective October 22, 2019
5. Notice dated September 13, 2019 from D.P.U. re: 2016-2019 Eversource Energy Efficiency Report
6. Notice dated October 14, 2019 from Xfinity re: Starz/Encore and Epix Programming Change
7. Warrant 20-16 as signed by Selectmen Keyes, Wesley and Arcudi

Board members reviewed the above correspondence. All members will be attending the Veteran's Day Breakfast and Medal of Liberty Ceremony. Chair Keyes read the letter from Toni DiGioia thanking the efforts of Veteran's Agent Patrick Morris in getting her father's medals reissued. The Board is ok with updating the Cumberland Farms ownership without calling them into a meeting.

G. Requests for Future Agenda Items

1. Discussion on the make-up of Cable Advisory Ad Hoc Committee

The Board wishes to continue this until a new Administrator is hired.

H. Administrator News

Selectmen Wesley read a Proclamation the Town received in reference to Veteran's Day. Selectmen Wesley requests this be given to the Director of the COA so that he may read it at the Veteran's Day ceremony.

The Board agreed to meet at 6:30 p.m. in the HS cafeteria prior to Town Meeting

I. Executive Session

At 7:45 p.m. Chair Keyes asked for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with Interim Town Administrator candidate Robert Reed pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2) and to conduct contract negotiations with Interim Town Administrator candidate Robert Reed pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to the extent necessary, the Board will reconvene and take votes in Open Session in connection with these Executive Session matters.

Motion to enter into executive session on the above matters was made by Selectman Arcudi, seconded by Selectman Wesley

RCV Selectman Keyes- Aye; Selectman Arcudi- Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye

Chairman Keyes called the open meeting back to order at 8:00 p.m. stating the Board negotiated a fair and equitable contract with Interim Town Administrator contract with Robert Reed.

Mr. Reed provided some background stating that he worked in the Town of Leicester as the Town Administrator. Following retirement, he has held (4) interim positions, Hopedale will be number (5). He feels the Board has had a very good process and looks forward to working in Hopedale in their transition.

MSDV to approve the contract with Mr. Robert T. Reed and appoint him as the Interim Town Administrator.

Selectman Keyes- Aye; Selectman Arcudi- Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye

At 8:09 p.m., the Board of Selectmen adjourned their meeting.

MSDV Selectman Keyes- Aye; Selectman Arcudi- Aye; Selectman Wesley – Aye


Thomas A. Wesley


Louis J. Arcudi, III


Brian R. Keyes

Hopedale Board of Selectmen

*MSDV – Moved, Seconded, Discussed and Voted

**RCV- Roll Call Vote