

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Hopedale Town Hall-Draper Room
December 16, 2019
Regular Minutes**

Present: Selectman Brian Keyes, Selectman Thomas Wesley, Selectman Louis Arcudi was absent.

Also, present; Town Administrator Robert Reed and Executive Assistant Susan Brouwer. No videographer was present.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Selectman Keyes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Consent Items

Approval of November 25, 2019 regular minutes

Approval of November 25, 2019 executive minutes

Approval of December 2, 2019 regular minutes

Approval of December 2, 2019 executive minutes

Motion made by Selectman Wesley, seconded by Selectman Arcudi to pass over the above minutes

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

Approval of warrants 20-22, 20-23 and 20-23P as signed by Selectmen Wesley and Keyes

Motion made by Selectman Arcudi, seconded by Selectman Wesley to approve warrants 20-22, 20-23 and 20-23P as signed by Selectmen Keyes and Wesley

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

Appointments and Resignations

Appointment of Karen Kuligowski to the Council on Aging term to expire June 30, 2021

Motion made by Selectman Arcudi, seconded by Selectman Wesley to appoint Karen Kuligowski to the Council on Aging term to expire June 30, 2021

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

Appointment of Kyle Trowbridge as Part-Time Dispatcher effective December 17, 2019

Motion made by Selectman Wesley, seconded by Selectman Arcudi to appoint Kyle Trowbridge as Part-Time Dispatcher effective December 17, 2019

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

Appointment of Debra MacDonald as Part-Time Dispatcher effective December 17, 2019

Motion made by Selectman Arcudi, seconded by Selectman Wesley to appoint Debra MacDonald as Part-Time Dispatcher effective December 17, 2019

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

New Business

Chief Daige - Discussion on SAFER Grant

Chief Daige explained the SAFER Grant program funded under Homeland Security. The grant allows cities and towns to hire additional staffing with the assistance of federal funding for the first (3) years of new hire employment. For the first (2) years, the grant would reimburse the Town 75% of the overall cost and the third year it would reimburse 35% over the overall cost. In the 4th year, the town would be responsible for 100% of the cost. The Chief is recommending hiring (3) full-time employees under this grant to staff each shift, which would bring the department to full staffing levels. The Chief explained that the town funds 200K plus in

overtime costs for the Fire Department, having a full department would reduce this cost to 35K. Board member shared concerns of not knowing the fiscal climate of the Town the third year and wanted to know if the Town could not cover the cost would the Town be able to discontinue the grant. The Chief assured the Board, they would not have to continue after year three. Following further discussion, the board would like to get input from the Finance Committee prior to committing to the grant. The Chief will discuss this with the Finance Committee at the budget meeting and January.

Presentation Green River Cannabis Company, Inc. on potential Adult Retail Cannabis facility at 54 Mellen Street

Principals of Green River Cannabis Company provided an overview to their company presenting rendering drawings of their potential recreational dispensary at 58 Mellen Street. The building is 2,000 sq. ft. with approximately 1,500 being used for retail space. The group currently has (3) license applications going simultaneously but are at different stages; Hopedale being their third location, they hope to have the process run fairly smooth.

The Board shared concerns of safety at the intersection and traffic going through a neighborhood to access the property. The Police Chief also noted the dangerous intersection and is concerned about increased traffic in that area. The principal of the group said they are willing to work with the Town on possibly improving the intersection. He explained that their business model is to sell cannabis to the older crowd, and they are looking to keep the space low key. The Board said the next steps would be to work out a host agreement and hold a community forum to gather input from the community.

2020 Annual License Renewals

Motion made by Selectman Wesley to approve the 2020 Annual License Renewals. The issuing of the licenses is subject to all state and local laws. The motion was seconded by Selectman Arcudi

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

Vote to sign ABCC Retail Liquor License Renewal Application Form

Motion made by Selectman Arcudi, seconded by Selectman Wesley

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

Vote to sign ABCC 2020 Seasonal Population Increase Estimation Form

Motion made by Selectman Wesley, seconded by Selectman Arcudi

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

Hopedale Country Club –Change of Manager and Board of Director Change

Motion made by Selectman Arcudi, seconded by Selectman Wesley to approve the Hopedale Country Club Change of Manager and Board of Director Change

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

Request for Reserve Fund Transfer for Town Administrator Position

Motion made by Selectman Wesley, seconded by Selectman Arcudi to approve a reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$5,000 to fund the Town Administrator salary line item

Discussion/Approval of “Authorization to Use Legal Counsel Form”

Motion made by Selectman Wesley, seconded by Selectman Arcudi to approve the “Authorization to Use Legal Counsel Form”

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

Town of Hopedale Lease Agreement with Beyond Full – Approval of Indemnification Clause Language Update

Administrator Reed advised that Town Counsel provided language change for the change of hours. Mr. Yancey gave the language change to his attorney and said he had no issues with the language but recommended that Mr. Yancey give it to his insurance carrier. Mr. Yancey has not heard back from his insurance. Mr. Reed recommends the Board vote to approve the language change as is and if Mr. Yancey's insurance carrier has concerns, the matter will then be further discussed.

Motion made by Selectman Arcudi, seconded by Selectman Wesley to approve the indemnification clause as provided by Town Counsel.

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

Old Business

None

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

Mr. Howes made mention of the numerous streetlight that are out in Town. Ms. Mullen wanted to know what is being done about large item pick up noting there has been a large mattress on Rt. 140 for the last month. The Board recommend she contact the Board of Health.

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

Email Notice from Verizon Fios dated December 10, 2019 removal of TVP Polonia Channel

Requests for Future Agenda Items

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

Administrator Reed said that he will meeting with the Comcast Representative and then will put forth committee recommendations.

Administrator News

Administrator Reed reviewed the holiday closing of Town Hall stating the day before Christmas is a half day per town bylaw. He said in the past, the Board has not had issue with closing a half day New Year's Eve. The Board had no objection.

Mr. Reed sent information on Green Communities and Preservation Act. He will place this on a future agenda for further discussion. Mr. Reed advised that he met with Library Director Robyn York to discuss the roof project.

On January 8, 2020 at 11:15 am Senator Kennealy from OHED will be coming to present the Mass Works grant. Lisa Pedroli is working to secure indoor space at the Housing Authority. The Board has been invited to attend.

The Planning Board sent a letter to the Selectmen today that as of December 29, there will be an opening on the Planning Board and would like to invite the Selectmen to their January 8 meeting to fill the vacancy. The Board had concerns with the holiday that that meeting may be too soon for applications to be received. Planning Board Chair Kathy Ledoux was present and said she is okay with posting the position and appointing an individual at the Planning Board's February meeting.

Executive Session

Police Chief Contract

Permanent Firefighters Local 2225 Contract

Laborers International Local 272 Contract


Litigation in the matter of Philip O. Shwachman, et al. v. Town of Hopedale, et al., U.S. District Court No. 18-CV-40209

Discussion with Water Sewer Commissioners on Grafton Upton Railroad Eminent Domain and Intervention Status

Chair Keyes: I am requesting a motion to allow this board to now enter into Executive Session and not to reconvene in regular session, under M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a) Reason (2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and Reason (3): To discuss strategy with respect to litigation in the matter of Philip O. Shwachman, et al. v. Town of Hopedale, et al., U.S. District Court No. 18-CV-40209 and discussion regarding Grafton Upton Railroad on eminent domain intervention status because, I as Chair, declare that discussing the matter in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Town. Motion was made by Selectman Wesley, seconded by Selectman Arcudi
RCV Selectman Keyes – Aye, Selectman Arcudi– Aye, Selectman Arcudi- Aye

Adjournment

At 8:35 p.m. the Board of Selectmen adjourned their regular meeting convening into executive session.



Thomas A. Wesley

Louis J. Arcudi, III



Brian R. Keyes

Hopedale Board of Selectmen

*MSDV – Moved, Seconded, Discussed and Voted

**RCV- Roll Call Vote