

**SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, JAN. 21, 2020  
MEETING MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM – 7 P.M.**

*Present were Chair Andrea Miles, Vice Chair Jeff Cyr, Clerk Christopher Geraghty, member Sarah Etelman, member Bruce Forcier, and Town Administrator Michael J. Sullivan.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Miles called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Cyr motioned to approve the minutes of the Jan. 7, 2020 meeting. Forcier seconded. Miles said she noted a clarification was needed in the TA Report section and had sent an email earlier about it. All in favor.

Cyr asked to table the Dec. 12, 2019 executive session meeting minutes. All members agreed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Forcier said there will be a community forum on solid waste and recycling held Saturday, Feb. 8 in the town hall auditorium from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Etelman reminded residents the annual town election will take place on the same day as the presidential primary – March 3. The last day to register to vote in the election is Wednesday, Feb. 12.

Sullivan said the annual census has been mailed to the community. He urged residents to fill it out. A federal census will be mailed to residents in March.

Sullivan reminded residents town hall will be closed Friday, Jan. 31 for staff to attend a quarterly professional development day.

Miles said the Selectboard is attending the Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Conference on Jan. 24 and 25 in Boston. The town will accept an award for its website. Sullivan said the town earns credits for attending this conference and others. The town saved \$12,000 on its insurance last year in doing so.

**LEDGES RATE CHANGES**

Ledges General Manager Michael Fontaine offered an update on the course. He called the past season successful and said modest price increases should be implemented.

Sullivan said these rate changes do not increase what the town pays to IGM or increase IGM's profitability. Money collected at Ledges is deposited into town accounts.

Forcier motioned to accept the rate changes. Cyr seconded. All in favor. The full list of rate increases can be found in the Jan. 21, 2020 Selectboard Packet.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF POLICE UNION MOA**

Etelman motioned to officially accept in open session the memorandum of agreement with the South Hadley Police Union. Forcier seconded. All in favor.

## **CHANGE OF DRUNKEN RABBIT HOURS**

Etelman moved to allow Drunken Rabbit to expand its hours to be open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:30 to 9 p.m. Forcier seconded. All in favor.

## **RESIGNATIONS**

Cyr motioned to accept the resignations as presented. Forcier seconded. All in favor. The resignations were Ryan LaFond from the Historical Commission and Historic District Study Committee, Carol Gillis from the Bike Walk Committee, Allyson Garcia from the COA, MPIC, and Appropriations Committee, Margaret Jodoin from the Bike Walk Committee effective June 30, Janet Veitch from the COA and Heather Clark-Blankenbaker from the COA.

Sullivan noted it is the Town Moderator who officially accepts Appropriations Committee resignations. Moderator John Hine has been notified and will conduct interviews with applicants. This now vacant position, along with the others accepted this evening, will be advertised for 30 days. They will not be available to be filled during the tri-annual appointment period in February but will be in June.

## **MPIC MATRIX AND GOALS**

Members offered feedback on the Master Plan update to MPIC members Judy Gooch and Nate Therien.

On Objective 1-4, Miles said the town has completed an ADA study and is forming a Committee on Disabilities.

On Objective 3-4, Miles said the Selectboard has changed its board/committee appointment process to where it now appoints three times a year, widening exposure of vacancies and giving a better chance for more applicants.

On Objective 4 overall, Etelman said the town has made good progress through the town website and initiatives like adding town bylaws to the website throughout the past few years. The pattern needs to be continued, she said. Miles said information is more streamlined on social media and the website.

On Objective 4-5, Cyr cited the 2012 snowstorm as an example of where departments throughout town, though some separate from the municipality like the water and fire departments, came together in an emergency, cooperated and took care of the community as best they could. He said for this objective, there could be more tabletop exercises. Etelman noted emergency management has come in-house since that time and been assigned to Health Director Sharon Hart.

Miles said she would compile all the Selectboard members' feedback into a single document and return it to MPIC.

### **FY 21 BUDGET UPDATE**

Sullivan said he spoke with the chair of the Appropriations Committee. He hopes to have an early draft FY21 budget for the Selectboard's next meeting. Some budget challenges include the schools. He has met with Acting Superintendent Dr. Diana Bonnevillie to discuss the budget. The schools received the largest portion of the town's increased revenue, percentage wise, last year. The trend is similar this year. He estimated an increase to the school budget in the \$350-420k range – anything greater would impact other services. The schools are the largest budget, followed by insurance. He proposed the town take full budgetary responsibility for the school resource officers, which would free up additional monies on the school side.

### **DOG LICENSE FEES**

The town clerk recommended a \$5 increase to the dog license fees. Cyr motioned to accept the change of dog license fees. Etelman seconded. All in favor.

### **SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES RATES**

Sullivan said the intent of raising the sealer of weights and measures rates was to put South Hadley's fees in line with Northampton, since the town contracts with the city and having different rates was clumsy. Etelman moved to accept the rate changes for the sealer of weights and measures. Cyr seconded. All in favor. For the full list of fee increases, see the Jan. 21, 2020 Selectboard Meeting Packet.

### **TA REPORT**

Sullivan said D'Ambrosio and Brown is assisting with the Land of Low Value project. Cyr highlighted the grand opening of Northampton Cooperative Bank. For the full TA report, see the Jan. 21, 2020 Selectboard Packet.

### **ADJOURN**

Forcier motioned to adjourn. Cyr seconded. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted**  
**Kristin Maher**  
**Executive Assistant to Administration**