

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019
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

Forcier motioned to approve the minutes of May 7, 2019. Cyr seconded. Etelman noted a date for the Selectboard's July meeting needed to be changed in the minutes to July 16. All in favor.

OPEN FORUM

Linda Young invited anyone interested in helping the tree committee plant trees along sidewalks and roads to meet the committee on Saturday at 8 a.m. by the high school barn.

CONSENT AGENDA

Forcier motioned to approve the consent agenda which consisted of a request for a Multi-Date Beer & Wine License from the Trustees of Mount Holyoke College for 15 dates. Etelman seconded. All in favor.

TRI-ANNUAL INTERVIEWS

The Selectboard interviewed Allyson Garcia for positions on the Council on Aging and MPIC, Garth Schwellenbach and Tom Dennis for an associate position on the Conservation Commission, and Karen Buscemi for a position on the Council on Aging. The Selectboard will make appointments June 21.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY AND PARADE

Post Commander of South Hadley's VFW Post 3104 Brian Willette offered an update on the 2019 Memorial Day ceremony. A consensus among town veteran groups was that a festive parade is not well suited for the somber day of reflection that is Memorial Day, but rather for Flag Day. Starting this year and moving forward, there will not be a Memorial Day parade. A ceremony will take place at South Hadley High School with music and a video tribute.

Starting in 2020, efforts will be made to host a parade for Flag Day. This year, a flag retirement ceremony will take place June 15 at Buttery Brook Park at 1 p.m. Residents who would like to properly retire a flag can bring it to this event.

RESIGNATIONS

Forcier accepted with appreciation the resignation of Charles Miles from MPIC. Etelman seconded. All in favor.

RATE CHANGES

To keep up with capital demands and projects, the DPW suggested raising the flat sewer fee from \$265 to \$280 per edu. Forcier voted to increase the sewer fee to \$280 per edu. Cyr seconded. All in favor. This will go into effect July 1, 2019. Cyr said South Hadley is fortunate to have a flat rate based on water use. Etelman said it would be helpful if the Selectboard could discuss rates more frequently so the town is not raising everything all at once.

The DPW also proposed raising the annual flat rate trash fee by \$10 from \$65 to \$75, but leaving the green bag cost the same. Forcier motioned to increase the flat rate from \$65 to \$75 per household. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

Members discussed raising the green bag fee. Etelman said there is an inequality that happens – residents who are recycling everything are charged the same flat rate as a person not recycling and throwing away multiple bags a week. She said there is no incentive for people to continue to recycle and some kind of an increase on bag fees would help. Streamlining the process for obtaining a recycling center sticker should be looked at, too, she said.

Miles agreed and said mechanisms should be put in place to encourage people to think about the waste they're generating.

Geraghty said before the green bag program was implemented the town was disposing of more than 7,000 tons of trash. Since the implementation, the town is averaging 3,000 tons, which Geraghty said is pretty impressive.

Cyr said getting rid of recycling is going to be more costly for municipalities in the future, so maybe a bag fee increase will keep recycling moving. He said moving forward the town should inform the public of what's on the horizon so residents can prepare themselves for decisions coming down the road.

Sullivan offered the idea of appointing a sub-committee of Selectboard members, himself, the DPW supervisor, and members of the Board of Health and Conservation Commission to research ways other communities are handling recycling.

Forcier motioned to increase the trench fee for trenches greater than 500 feet from \$61 to \$100. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

The Selectboard will take up other DPW and building department fees at its June 4 meeting.

PBE POLICY

Etelman and Forcier will lead the charge to update the PBE matrix for FY20.

CARRY IN POLICY

After receiving a draft update to its Carry-In BYOB Alcohol Policy, the Selectboard decided to allow all alcohol and not only beer and wine. Etelman motioned to accept the updated Carry-In

policy with the suggested edit to the first restriction regarding alcohol type. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Miles said Town Meeting was successful and thanked Sullivan for all his preparation. Etelman said she was dismayed and frustrated to read a permanent bench dedicated to Lin Pickle and benches at Bachelor Brook were vandalized.

For the full Town Administrator’s Report, see the May 21, 2019 SB packet.

CHAIRWOMAN’S REPORT

Miles said she will not be at the June 4 Selectboard meeting and Cyr will lead in her stead. Miles will watch the scheduled tri-annual interviews at a later date in order to participate in appointing candidates on June 18.

ADJOURN

Forcier motioned to adjourn. Cyr seconded. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
Kristin Maher
Executive Assistant to Administration