

September 27, 2021 Regular Selectboard Meeting via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bannon opened the meeting at 6:00pm; those present via zoom: Ed Abrahams, Leigh Davis, Eric Gabriel, Garfield Reed, Assistant Town Manager Chris Rembold, Director of Public Works, Sean VanDeusen and Town Accountant, Sue Carmel.

2. SELECTBOARD'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS

- a. G. Reed shared he has been in contact with Chief of Police, Paul Storti, and the Department is proceeding with accreditation and continuing to do community outreach. All is going well.

3. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Housatonic Water Works – C. Rembold confirmed stakeholder meetings were continuing including Housatonic Water Works, GB Fire District, state agencies and legislators. Selectboard to host a listening session via zoom October 12, 2021 at 6pm to hear from Housatonic Water Works customers.
- b. Public Works Updates – S. VanDeusen briefly reviewed ongoing projects, with focus on the Housatonic School windows/tarping project. A contractor has been identified who can do the work within existing budget. Work will commence late fall/early winter.
- c. Downtown WIFI Project Update – E. Abrahams provided an update on continued progress and success in installing highspeed internet and WIFI network downtown.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Maximum Useful Life Certification – S. Carmel requested Selectboard approval for Maximum Useful Life Certification for approved equipment expenditures.
 - i. L. Davis made a motion to approve the Maximum Useful Life Certification for equipment: backhoe loader, sidewalk plow/sander, truck lift and transfer station kiosk - with specified cost and maximum useful life for each. E. Abrahams seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, "aye," S. Bannon, "aye," L. Davis, "aye," E. Gabriel, "aye," G. Reed, "aye." All in favor, 5-0.
- b. Selectboard 2022 Meeting Schedule – S. Bannon noted the 2022 Selectboard meeting schedule has been set and asked that the March 14, 2022 meeting be moved to March 7, 2022. All Selectboard members agreed to date change.
- c. EV Charging Stations/Taconic Lot and Town Hall – C. Rembold provided an overview of the plan for EV charging stations at the Taconic lot and town hall. Question posed to Selectboard whether the Town or users should pay the electric charges. Electric is \$1/hour with a two hour limit to charge EVs.
 - i. Selectboard discussed concerns and merits of the Town covering cost vs EV owners. Selectboard members expressed concern for taxpayers and public opinion as well as support for advancing new, environmentally sound technology and attracting people to downtown.

- ii. L Davis made a motion that the Selectboard approve charging a rate (TBD – C. Reimbold to recommend) for the use of the EV charging stations that covers all costs including the EV charge, operation and maintenance. Additionally, the Town will report back in a year to the Selectboard on usage. G. Reed seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “no,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “no,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor, 3-2.

5. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

- a. Sharon Gregory stated that she served on the parking committee and the loss of spots for the EV charging stations would add to the parking issues.
- b. Charlie Williamson raised concern about Town traffic issues and lights at the fire house.
- c. Jim Bailey noted concerns about the impact of EVs on fuel tax revenue.

6. SELECTBOARD’S TIME

- a. L. Davis announced that the Housing Subcommittee September 20, 2021 has been rescheduled due to technical issues to October 6, 2021 at 5:30pm.

7. MEDIA TIME

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION *not to return to open session*

- a. Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A Section 21(a)(1) for the following purpose: to discuss complaints brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual (OML Complaint-E. Mooney).
- i. L. Davis made a motion to go to Executive Session and not to return to open session; E. Abrahams seconded. Roll call vote: E. Abrahams, “aye,” S. Bannon, “aye,” L. Davis, “aye,” E. Gabriel, “aye,” G. Reed, “aye.” All in favor, 5-0.

9. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Bannon adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow
Recording Clerk