



Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Monday, September 23rd, 2019
Time: 6:30 PM – 7:15 PM
Members Present: Chair Jim Wood; Selectmen Matt Mecum; April Steward, Town Administrator; Stephen Madaus, Town Counsel, and Alison Mack, Administrative Assistant to the Board

The meeting commenced at 6:30 PM.

Financial Warrants were signed in agreement.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes: The minutes of 9/9/19 were presented.

Matt Mecum made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of 9/09/19 as written, Jim Wood seconded. Voted all in favor.

Town Administrators Report:

1. I am happy to report that MassDOT has paid Lynch for the paving and related costs for the Cross-Street Project. Once VHB receives confirmation from Lynch we will receive a deduct change order and their final pay requisition for the project.
2. Thompson-Liston is planning on setting the bounds for the Cross-Street project this week. Once they are set in place the as-built drawings can be completed and we can move forward with scheduling the Special Town Meeting in December.
3. I have put forward before the board a draft policy copies on BYOB to be tied to Boylston Common Victualers. I would like the board to take a look and let me know your feedback and comments.
4. I am meeting with Nel Lazour from the HRP tomorrow to begin discussions on the Hillside Lease. I will keep the board updated as we work through the process.
 - a. Discussion continued regarding how to set up the BYOB; liability, common victual license, limiting number of requests per month
5. I have heard from the Board of Assessor's office that they are making great progress on setting the tax rate. There is a strong possibility that they will be ready to come before the board for a Tax Classification Hearing on Monday, October 7th.
6. The Treasurer's Office is recommending that we update our current payroll submission schedule to be in accordance with the law of paying employees within six (6) days after the pay period ends. Would it be possible for the board to appoint either the Town Administrator or the chair to sign the payroll warrant on a different day than Monday nights?
 - a. The Board decided to review this information and wait for Selectmen Jamie Underwood before making their decision.

BOH; Legal Counsel Discussion:

- Moved this item to Monday, October 7th Meeting

Discussion on additional funds from DCR Property:

Stephen Madaus stated that the whole evaluation system seems to have changed in 2017. EQV is the term that is used, and it stands for Equalized Values; there is no appeal available unlike in the prior version. Stephen stated that he still needs to figure out if this new means of valuing of determining the payment of towns for state owned land is applicable to DCR Watershed land; he thinks it is but needs to confirm. In Section 13 it states that it is not and then in Section 14 of Chapter 15 it says that it is.

Stephen stated that there is different information available on DCR land versus other state-owned land. The spreadsheet that Stephen has states that Boylston has the 3rd highest increase in evaluation in Worcester County for FY20. Jim Wood stated that it is not reflected on the information that the board had in front of them; 20 years of no more money from DCR even though they have taken more land.

Stephen stated that he needs to confirm if the new system is applicable to the DCR land. Matt stated that there is still a lot of data that needs to be collected and everyone agreed. Jim stated that he thinks we would probably be better off to go to Boston ourselves; April agreed and stated that all similar towns located around Wachusett have all increased and we haven't. Matt asked Stephen to do some more digging on the matter and gather more details. Stephen mentioned that going forward the base year evaluations will be adjusted every two years by a percentage change in the city or towns; Equalized cash value. The old way has fallen aside to this new way of assessing the value of the land. Boylston's EQV has significantly increased so that should lead to a higher pay. Discussion continued; Jim and Matt asked Stephen to do some more digging on the matter and gather more details.

Appointment to Open Space Committee: Helen Dexter

- Concerned on losing rights to walking trails and has ideas on hiking, biking, and ideas where trails will go.

Matt Mecum made a motion to appoint Helen Dexter to the Open Space Committee, Jim Wood seconded. Voted all in favor.

Appointment to Memorial Day Committee: Charles Grey

Matt Mecum made a motion to appoint Charles Grey to the Memorial Day Committee, Jim Wood seconded, Voted all in favor.

SRO:

Jim Wood asked April if he has heard anything on the School Resource Officer, April responded no, and that she needs to reach out to the Police Chief. Matt stated that when he spoke with the Superintendent, they needed to work on the MOU but while that was happening, they were going to increase the presence of officers during high traffic time; school drop offs and pickups. This has been happening at the Elementary and High School. Matt said he believes it is moving in the right direction.

*At 7:45PM, on a motion made by the Chair Jim Wood and seconded by Selectmen Matt Mecum, the following roll call vote was recorded to go into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (closed to the public): **Per MGL c.30A, s.21, §):** to discuss strategy with respect to negotiations with nonunion personnel – Town Administrator’s contract and **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (closed to the public): **Per MGL c.30A, s.21, §3** to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; Police Union contract and Dispatcher’s Union contract (Roll Call Vote). (Roll Call Vote). James Wood: Yes; Matt Mecum: Yes. The Board agreed they would not reconvene to open session.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Mack, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

Meeting Materials

Agenda	On File in The Board Of Selectmen’s Office
Meeting Sing- In Sheet	On File in The Board Of Selectmen’s Office
Town Administrator’s Report	On File in The Board Of Selectmen’s Office
Volunteer To Serve Form: Helen Dexter	On File in The Board Of Selectmen’s Office
Volunteer To Serve Form: Charles Grey	On File in The Board Of Selectmen’s Office
Watershed PILOT Law and Funding	On File in The Board Of Selectmen’s Office
Surrounding Towns Pilot Percentages	On File in The Board Of Selectmen’s Office
BYOB Policy	On File in The Board Of Selectmen’s Office