

Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Monday, September 26th, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:05 PM

Members Present: Chair Seth Ridinger; Selectmen Matt Mecum and Jamie Underwood; April Steward, Town Administrator; and Town Counsel, Stephen Madaus

The meeting commenced at 6:30 PM.

Financial Warrants were signed in agreement.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Town Administrators Report to the BOS:**

1. **Schedule:** I will be attending the Municipal Licensing Commission Annual Meeting in Norton, MA tomorrow from 11:45AM until 3:00 PM.
2. **School:** Just a reminder that I will need to excuse myself from this meeting by 7:40PM this evening for an on-line class.
3. **RFP and RFQ update:** The Safety Complex RFQ is out to bid with a close date of October 13th, and the RFP for Compensation and Classification is also out to bid with a close date of October 12th. I have had 12 requests for the RFQ and 3 for the RFP so far. I will be looking to schedule a Feasibility Study Committee for Thursday, October 13th once bidding is closed and the RFQs have been submitted.
4. **Greater Boroughs Updates**: The GBPH Collaborative is currently providing the following services to the Town of Boylston:

* Managing all communicable and infectious disease cases MAVEN as directed by the DPH.
* Hosting COVID-19 booster clinics (3 upcoming clinics at Northborough Senior Center and likely more in November)
* Hosting two annual Flu clinics in town (Boylston Town House on 10/13 and 10/20)
* COVID-19 booster and flu vaccine visits for homebound residents (~last week in October)
* CNPP Narcan training and distribution for residents – a flyer will be going out first week in October to announce this new free program for residents
* Home wellness visits for seniors (referrals mostly through Council on Aging)
* Routine blood pressure clinics at townhouse (coordinated through Council on Aging)
* Coordinating with school nursing to assist in providing catch up vaccinations for school age children with other LBOH offices
* Working with COA to provide various pop-up events (e.g., food safety event, upcoming falls clinic) The services listed above have been developed by town staff, GBPH staff, and the GBPH Advisory Board with consultation with DPH staff. Our nurses are hired under a contract with SALMON VNA. I have included in your packet flyers additional information on the Flu and COVID Clinics.

**Building Inspectors Report to the BoS:**

Tony Z attended the meeting to give his report. Report in BoS folder.

* He just issued five more building permits for Barnard Hill so there is stuff still coming in, single family homes.
* ARCO is going to pour the last slab on Tuesday. May be putting a second building behind this one.
* Duplexes on Sewall Street – Someone is going to buy them

**Discussion on Real Estate tax, Personal Property tax, and development of parcels:**

Seth stated at the town meeting in 1987, the town adopted a law which allows the town to not grant any additional permits to any individual or corporation, LLC or entity that has outstanding taxes in town. Tony stated that this is enforced as permit pro doesn’t allow them to process a permit without the Treasurer signing off first. Seth stated that this board desires the tax collector to make sure that she is up to date on all that and forwards that information to all boards; making sure this is appropriately and equitably enforced.

**Discussion regarding the athletic field located at the intersection of Rte. 70 and Rte. 140. Joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission:**

Chair of Parks and Recreation, Eric Hoffses attended the meeting to discuss communication between the Football Program (Pop Warner) and the Town. Over the years, Pop Warner has had control over the field. Matt Mecum explained that with the growth of the town, it brings in more kids, which leads to more sports, and they are getting more requests for field usage, and we do not have a lot of options. If that means the town needs to help with maintenance, then they need to start having these discussions. The Town needs to be able to use the field more, so communication needs to be open regarding scheduling to make sure everyone is on the same page and has access to the field. Things are different now and there needs to be more of a structured process on field usage with the Parks and Recreation Department and the athletic field at the intersection of Route 140 and Route 70. The Board thanked everyone for coming in.

**Appoint Barbara Seed to the Cemetery Commission:**

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to appoint Barbara Seed to the Cemetery Commission, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Discussion on Conservation Restriction on Joslin’s Lot:**

Town Counsel Stephen Madaus stated that his view is that the Board so inclinedly could proceed as he does not believe it would be contrary to the authorization from the town meeting. The Town has not put out the RFP yet, and they could, but it will state that the property will be subject to a conservation restriction as required by the vote of town meeting. If we have a favorable proposal, we will enter a purchase and sale, but it would provide that in light of the apparent long delays experienced that the Executive Office of the Environmental Affairs, which is responsible to review and sign off on conservation restrictions. In accordance with the statute, we would enter that temporary one, which would be good for thirty years. That’s a private restriction and does not benefit from the statutory terms of being in perpetuity. We would have the thirty year one until we get the approval of the ones from the EOEA.

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to put out Joslin’s Lot for a private CR taking the place by a statutory CR, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Discussion on town-wide trash collection and vote to establish committee to research the subject:**

Matt stated that it does not cost the town anything to put a group together to go out and come back with options; there is nothing to lose. He does not believe that you need a bunch of people and suggested having three members. The Board agreed to a three-member group.

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to form a committee of three individuals for the possibility of trash obstinance for the Town of Boylston, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

Jamie stated that he will table the discussion on forming the committee until they get a charge for the committee at the next meeting.

**Facilities Technician Discussion**

Seth stated that they previously went over this and discussed that the hours were fine, the discussion now is that the Facilities Technician was hoping to get two additional weeks of vacation. Vacations go by calendar year and cannot be carried over unless they get approval from the Town Administrator. Normally you must work 15 years in order to get five weeks’ vacation, and ten years is four weeks. He has been here for eight years, and the board is worried that they would be setting a precedent if they did this. Matt stated that he would be okay with four weeks. The Board agreed that they would give him 4 weeks.

**Approval of FY23 ARPA expenditures**

Seth stated that we previously voted to allocate $500,000 towards the radio communication project. April stated that for FY22, we had reached out to Finance Committee and asked what they had suggested, and they stated to try and get as much as you can in FY22 and then if you want to max out for FY23 with the $750,000, then that would be what they suggest since it would reduce our borrowing. The only thing that came in for the radio project was that the Municipal Light Department is buying the fiber line and that invoice came in at $54,951.40. ARPA money is like a free cash article and stays in that until it is spent. This year, the total spent so far is $396,934.

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to approve the $700,000 for spending of the ARPA funds for the radio communication project which would include the $111.48 Motorola bill, $119,501.44 Motorola bill, $200,365.35 Charter bill, $3,956 for TC Communications bill and $54,941.40 Light Dept. for fiscal year 2023, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Board of Selectmen Miscellaneous Items:**

Seth asked if we should start thinking about some sort of committee to solve the discussion of what parts of Hillside should be used for certain items, Municipal Offices, football and soccer fields, Public Safety, Recreation, and open space. It would be better to start laying out what the vision for this property is. Matt stated that in theory he is fine with it, but does not want it to slow up other projects. Discussion on how the land taking reads occurred. Seth stated that it needs to be looked into and could be put on the future Agenda. Matt added that this sounds like something they would need CMRPC to investigate it; an outside entity that comes in and doesn’t lean to a specific area. The Board agreed to get an update as to where we are on heading towards the Hillside Master Plan and what’s his opinion on if we should do something in the meantime or should we wait until we have a Master Plan.

*At 8:05PM, Jamie Underwood made a motion to adjourn, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor. Matt: Yes, Seth: Yes, and Jamie: Yes.*

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Mack, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

**Meeting Materials**

Agenda On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

Meeting Sign-In Sheet On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

Town Administrators Report On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

Conservation Restriction Discussion On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

ARPA Fund Purchases On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

Town Planner Update On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office

Building Inspector Update On File in The Board of Selectmen’s Office