

Select Board
Thursday September 12, 2019
7:00 PM

Members Present: George Morrill, Charles Yon, Eric Johnson, Paul DeRensis, Jeff Waldron

Staff Present: David Williams, Diane Moores, Sharon McPherson

Reading of the Agenda

Mr. Williams read the agenda.

Motion : Move to approve the Agenda.

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Eric Johnson

Approved: 5 - 0 - 0

Public Comment - none

Consent Agenda

Consideration of Payroll Warrant

Next Meeting: 9/26, 10/10, and 10/24/19

Minutes: 5/9, 5/23, 6/6, 8/1, and 9/5/19

Motion : Move to approve the Consent Agenda.

Moved: Charles Yon

Second: George Morrill

Approved: 5 - 0 - 0

Tax Rate Classification Hearing

Chairman Morrill opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 pm. The Total Assessed Values for FY20 for the Town of Sherborn has been affected primarily by new growth (\$245,816) and total taxable value (increase of 2.5%). The tax rate has decreased to \$19.46 from \$19.62.

Motion : Move to adopt a uniform tax rate with no residential exemption and no small commercial exemption.

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Charles Yon

Approved: 5 - 0 - 0

Consideration of Revenue Anticipation Note (RAN)

Ms. Doyle requested permission to borrow \$1.8 million through a Revenue Anticipation Note for operating expenses. This is required due to the semi-annual tax revenue cash flow deficit and will no longer be necessary once quarterly billing is implemented. The estimated borrowing cost is \$3,000 per month.

Motion : Move to authorize the Town Treasurer to proceed with a Revenue Anticipation Note of \$1.8 million.

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Jeffrey Waldron

Approved: 5 - 0 - 0

Discussion regarding Pine Hill Access Road

Dr. Keough requested the Select Board revisit the possibility of completing the Pine Hill School “Emergency Access” road for general use in light of the changes to school start times scheduled for the 2020-2021 school year and continued safety concerns about the traffic pattern. The Traffic Safety and Public Safety Committees both support the completion of the road for general use. There was discussion about developing a working group within Public Safety Committee to update the engineering plans and costs of the project as well as look into any funding that is available from the State.

Consideration of Proposed Coolidge/Kendall Ground Testing Plan

Selectman Johnson recused himself from discussion of this agenda item.

Pulte presented their ledge probing plan along Kendall Avenue and Coolidge Street. The plan has been reviewed and the site of the probes walked with Sean Killeen. Selectman DeRensis requested an option from Town Counsel to determine if there is a risk of further development by bringing water to Meadowbrook Commons.

Motion : Move to approve plan pending Town Counsel opinion on restrictive Intermunicipal Agreement and pending Selectman Yon’s conversation with Natick Selectman regarding water from Natick instead of Framingham.

Moved: Jeffrey Waldron
Second: Paul DeRensis
Approved: 4 - 0 - 0 (Selectman Johnson recused)

Consideration of Accepting Department of Conservation & Recreation Grant

On August 5, 2019 The Town Forest Committee was notified that the Town is a recipient of a \$18,150 Community Forest Stewardship Implementation grant. This is a 75/25 Grant which will assist in furthering the management recommendations and practices identified in the Sherborn Town Forest Stewardship Plan, specifically the control of invasive plant species, community and public outreach, and habitat restoration.

The Town must match 25% of the total project cost (\$6,050) with other non-State funds for services. David Killeen clarified the use of equipment and town employee labor sounds toward the matching amount.

There were concerns expressed about accepting the grant prior to receiving input from abutters and more information about the chemical impact. David Killeen commented that he is getting advice/input from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and will only consider use of chemicals approved by DCR, MA Audubon, and Trustees of Reservation.

There will also be an open forum hosted by the Town Forest Committee on the issue.

Motion : Move to accept the grant award from the Department of Conservation and Recreation Grant for the Community Forest Stewardship Implementation Grant in the amount of \$18,150.

Moved: Eric Johnson
Second: Charles Yon
Approved: 5 - 0 - 0

Consideration of developing a Farm Pond Opening/Closure Gate Policy

Chairman Morrill opened the discussion by suggesting the Select Board develop an official policy regarding the access to Farm Pond. Selectman DeRensis stated that the Town assured the State that every citizen of Sherborn would have access to the pond when the Town took control of it. Town Counsel opinion states that there is no Town liability given the current signage at Farm Pond (“Swim at your own risk”).

Ms. Moores has looked for an existing policy but could not find one. Select Board Member Mr. DeRensis stated that he had a clear memory that the Selectman had already adopted such a policy.

The Select Board will work on the official policy. Their intent is to have the gates open year-round from dawn to dusk except for emergencies.

Consideration of 2020 Annual Town Meeting Dates

The proposed meeting dates are April 28th and 30th (if necessary), 2020.

Motion : Move to approve the dates of April 28th and 30th, 2020 for the purpose of the Annual Town Meeting.

Moved: Paul DeRensis

Second: Charles Yon

Approved: 5 - 0 - 0

Routine Business

Finance Director Report - Ms. MacPherson requested approval for a Reserve Fund Transfer for soil testing at Jameson Fields. The Select Board has already approved the testing, this vote is for the funding. Selectman DeRensis will vote no since he voted against allowing the testing.

Motion : Move to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer as presented.

Moved: Charles Yon

Second: George Morrill

Approved: 3 - 1 - 1 (DeRensis no; Johnson abstained)

Town Administrator Report

- Fire Chief - numerous members of the audience spoke supporting Chief Kinney and asking the Select Board to do everything possible to retain him.
- Sustainability Coordinator - Representatives of the Upper Charles Climate Action Group expressed their disappointment that there has not been any movement by the Select Board on the job description that was submitted in May. The requested that the Select Board 1) complete the job description, 2) post the job description, and 3) interview for the position within the next 30 days. The Select Board agreed to get a final job description submitted to the Personnel Board asap.

Select Board Reports - Town Forest Conference at Community Center at 9 am on Saturday.

Motion: Move to adjourn to Executive Session at 10 pm and may return to Open Session.

M.G. L Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Subsection (3): To discuss strategy with respect to threatened potential litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Town, and the Chair so declares – Library; and,

M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a) Subsection 2: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion Personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – Fire Chief Contract.”

Moved: Paul R. DeRensis

Second: Charles Yon

Roll Call: DeRensis, aye Yon aye Johnson, aye Waldron, aye Morrill, aye

The Board returned to Open Session after adjourning the Executive Session.

Motion: Move to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into contract negotiations with the Fire Chief.

Moved: George Morrill

Second: Charles Yon

Approved: 5-0-0

Motion: Move to adjourn 11:20 PM

Moved: George Morrill

Second: Charles Yon

Approved: 5-0-0

The following documents from the meeting may be viewed in the Select Board's Office.

Agenda

Minutes

TA Payroll Warrant

Tax Classifications Hearing Info

Forest Stewardship Grant

TA Report

Submitted by Amy Davis

Approved: November 21, 2019