

**Town of Petersham Massachusetts  
SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
Town Hall Upper-Level South Main Street  
TUESDAY, July 27, 2021  
6:00 PM**

**Present in person:** Selectboard members Nancy Allen, Henry Woolsey, Becky Legare

**Others present in person:** Police Chief Dana Cooley, Highway Dept. Supt. Greg Waid; Mike Leonard.

**Others present remotely:** N/A

Selectboard Chair, Nancy Allen, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Upper Town Hall.

**New Business:**

**Speeding in the School Zone and East Street – School Zone Update:** Chief Cooley and Greg Waid reported the stop sign was installed on Hardwick Road. They observed the stop sign for a while after it was installed and noticed that some residents went right through it since they did not see it. It was noted that the stop sign is a bit hidden and all agreed to update it to the LED version as was originally proposed. Neighborhood resident Max Feldman sent a message to the Selectboard and to Chief Cooley thankful for the installation of the stop sign.

**East Street speeding:** the radar data was presented by Chief Cooley, and the average speed was below the posted 40 MPH. In fact, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile data was around 43 MPH. The old speed signs will be replaced, and a few additional new ones will be installed throughout the road by the Highway Dept. It was mentioned that we need to comply with DOT guidelines.

**Resignation Letter:** Part-time Police Officer Russell Davidson has sent in a resignation letter. He has taken another position. Chief Cooley noted that the PD is down to 5 active due to deployment and injuries, but he is always recruiting. A motion was made to accept the resignation of Russell Davidson – motion passed unanimously.

**Chapter 90:** The Board reviewed Highway Dept paperwork to receive \$16,788 reimbursement for work on dirt roads (Glasheen Road and the Quaker Drive Bridge) and reported being 100% complete on the bridge project. A motion was made to submit for reimbursement for the dirt roads and the final report that includes: Glasheen, Glen Valley, Carter Pond, Woodward and Harty Drive – motion passed unanimously. A motion was made to submit for the bridge repair reimbursement that represents 85% for a total of \$75,780 – motion passed unanimously

**Forest Cutting Plan** – Forester Mike Leonard asked for permission to again use town property access as a landing for the forest cutting plan for the Pope family property along Route 122. Mike Leonard presented a copy of his umbrella insurance policy to the Selectboard. A motion was made to accept the

request to utilize the town property access for use of forestry cutting on the Pope family property - motion passed unanimously.

**Boston Post Cane presentation** - Presentation of the cane to town's oldest resident Ernie Richards will be August 1, 2021, at 7 PM before the Brass Band Concert. The Council on Aging is organizing and all Selectboard members will be attending and our State representatives have been invited.

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Plan** – Phase I ARPA planning was presented by Nancy with a list of various project possibilities including School Playground equipment at \$18K, Tree work \$12K, and Fire Department \$12K. The Board of Assessors submitted a quote for a better system for the public that amounts to \$15K. It was noted that all the funding must be justified under the ARPA funding requirements. A motion was made to use the ARPA funding that the town has received for the following three projects: supplement to the School Playground Equipment not to exceed \$18K, tree work not to exceed \$12K, and the Fire Department infrastructure not to exceed \$12K with Fire Department eligibility to be confirmed under the ARPA funding requirements. – motion accepted unanimously. A memo will be sent to all updating their budgets. David Lockesmith will be notified that some of the \$12K will be for a stipend and the remainder is for the contractors.

**Procedures for the Town Office Building:** Review ensued re current COVID-19 procedures with each of the departments will determine whether they will host appointments. Masks will be mandated to enter the building.

**Correspondence:**

- ☒ Citizens Petition re the Nichewaug Inn & Academy– this will be placed on the next agenda
- ☒ Correspondence from the library re the Nichewaug Inn & Academy– this will be placed on the next agenda
- ☒ Petition and materials re speeding on East Street
- ☒ Memo from the BoH about appointments
- ☒ Notice of August 24<sup>th</sup> joint meeting with Town Accountant to close the FY2021 books
- ☒ Copy of HDC Certificate of appropriateness for 37 South Main for their new garage
- ☒ Draft of Selectboard's Chapter 61 Town Procedure
- ☒ Selectboard's list of trees requested by residents for review by Tree Warden
- ☒ Athol Daily News – state rejects Orange's opting out of mosquito spraying
- ☒ Cherry sheet printout estimates for the coming fiscal year for state funding
- ☒ Notice of Mass DOT increased Chapter 90 funding by 200 million dollars
- ☒ Worcester registry of deeds newsletter handout highlighting Petersham
- ☒ Notice of MassDOT Bicycle survey

- ☒ Dam legislature seminar offered by a private company
- ☒ Department of Local Services July newsletter
- ☒ Mass Municipal Association weekly review
- ☒ Thank you for the Gnome project participation from NQ Community Coalition

**Questions from Public and Press:**

- ☒ N/A

**Minutes:**

- ☒ Previous Meeting Minutes will be reviewed during the next meeting

**Next Meeting:**

- ☒ Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 @ 6 PM
- ☒ For planning purposes: The meeting schedule for the rest of the summer is: August 10<sup>th</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup>

**Adjournment:**

- ☒ There being no further business, moved to adjourn at 8:33. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

– *Final as signed on file* –

Becky Legare, Selectboard Clerk