

Select Board Meeting Minutes
3/21/2022, 7pm, via ZOOM

Present: Select Board members Robert Agoglia, David Shanabrook, and Tara Loomis, Susannah Carey, Board of Assessor's Chair Robert Rowell, Stacey McCullough, Member of the Press Doc Pruyne.

Open: Select Board Chair Agoglia opened the meeting at 7:00pm. Intro read aloud by Susannah Carey. All public and town officials introduced.

Minutes-3/7/22 minutes will be tabled until 4/4/22.

New Member Appointment to Housing Committee, Linda Spink

Motion to appoint Linda Spink to the Housing Committee, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, aye Tara Loomis, unanimously passes.

Appointment of Inspector of Animals, Nancy Long

Motion to appoint Nancy Long as Animal Inspector, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, aye Tara Loomis, unanimously passes.

Regional School Assessment Article on the ATM Warrant

Read aloud by Select Board Chair Robert Agoglia. Motion to include regional school assessment warrant article on the annual town meeting warrant, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, aye Tara Loomis, unanimously passes.

Letter of Support-Town of Amherst, CC Municipal Fiber Grant

Town of Amherst request for Pelham to support municipal fiber grant application to extend Fiber into Pelham to Water Treatment Plant, Mt Lincoln, and potentially the Elementary School, Community Center, and Community Hall. It was noted that Fiber may already run from the Amherst line in Pelham up to the Rhodes Building/Town Hall, but more information is needed here. Motion to send a letter of support to Amherst for their Community Choice municipal fiber grant, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, aye Tara Loomis, unanimously passes.

Community Compact Municipal Fiber Grant-Potential to Set-Up Fiber inside Town Hall

Pelham has opportunity to apply with Amherst on the municipal fiber grant. It would be ideal to have Community Hall, Community Center, School, and Town Hall set-up with Fiber optic network for optimal connectivity. Motion to join Amherst municipal fiber grant proposal in relation to fiber optic hookup related to town buildings, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, aye Tara Loomis, unanimously passes.

Consider Joining Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program

Select Board member David Shanabrook shared that FCCIP would not be able to take on Pelham for FY23 due to a change in personnel. Joining a regional program like FCCIP would give Pelham the opportunity to professionalize administration of inspection and zoning enforcement services in town.

Expenditures of ARPA Funds

The Select Board will support expenditures related to Police Department for police reform law training requirements, Village Center sewer extension design, and Amherst Rd sidewalk design from the Amherst town line to the Library/School. Consensus of Board is to use ARPA funds to leverage improvements/projects that will have long term benefits for Pelham. Suggestion to schedule a meeting to go through the ARPA requests received from the community and identify possible funding sources; grants, capital plan, ESSER. Potential meeting could include one member of the Pelham finance committee, Pelham school committee, Pelham select board, PVPC, and Amherst School finance department to complete this task. Inquiry to Eversource about heat pump and solar installation at Rhodes Building to help the town achieve greater energy efficiency would require a Green Communities grant with town match.

Town Officials-none.

Public Comment-none.

Liaison Reports

Building Inspector; Select Board member Tara Loomis; no report.

Fire Department; Select board member Tara Loomis; Two candidates for Fire Chief being interviewed. References will be checked before final recommendation to Select Board.

Highway Department; Select Board Chair Robert Agoglia; Town resident offered to replace sign in front of the Community Building at no cost to the town. Rick Adamcek will oversee work while the Planning Board will need to approve the proposed sign.

Police Department; Select Board member David Shanabrook; no report.

Town Offices; Free cash was certified. Administrative Assistant working on Slate, Town Report, Town Meeting, and ARPA grant compliance submission. For upcoming Town Meeting, Select Board member David Shanabrook requested a pros and cons document explaining each warrant article. It was noted the importance of having a board/committee representative at town meeting for clarification/explanation if needed. Select Board Chair Robert Agoglia will reach out to Moderator to discuss all aspects of town meeting. Stacey McCullough spoke about residents having the chance to speak their opinions clearly at town meeting. Since there was confusion surrounding the 2021 dog article and the 2019 bylaw changes, the Select Board would like to see a more orderly meeting this Spring. Town Clerk is working on interviewing RAO candidates who applied and will recommend to the Select Board. The bylaw project is progressing with AG approvals and coding of bylaws by General Code. Other concerns surround the Board of Registrar members and their lack of identifying their political party as required by state law to remain active members and serve Pelham.

Tree Warden; Select Board member David Shanabrook; no report.

Old Business

Potential candidates for IT Advisory Committee identified through street listing but there will be an article written up for the upcoming Slate newsletter.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:07pm aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, aye Tara Loomis, unanimously passes.

Documents Examined

Regional School Assessment article, ARPA community input list.

Next Meeting: April 4, 2022

Respectfully Submitted, Susannah Carey