



Town of West Boylston
140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Board of Selectmen/Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting September 26, 2018; 6:30 p.m.; Selectmen's Meeting Room, 140 Worcester Street

Members Present Christopher A. Rucho, Chairman Patrick J. Crowley, Vice Chair Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Clerk John W. Hadley, Selectman

Members NOT Present Siobhan M. Bohnson, Selectman

Invited Guests:

Mr. Rucho convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Concurrence on candidates for alternate building inspectors

Ms. Scheipers reports that we are in a situation where we are having to advertise for the permanent Building Commissioner position. We renewed the ad and we are still accepting resumes. We have received a resignation from Chris Lund our interim inspector effective yesterday. Ms. Scheipers requests the Board's concurrence on the appointment of George Tignor as temporary alternate Building Commissioner. He was recommended by the Sterling Building Commissioner. He is available to start this week. He is a building commissioner certified by the state.

Motion Mr. Hadley to concur with the appointment of George Tignor as temporary alternate Building Commissioner, second by Mr. Crowley. Ms. Scheipers noted that currently we have Rich Breagy as our Assistant and if the Board approves this appointment we will have two inspectors. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

Ms. Scheipers requested the approval of a company called 4LEAF for alternate building inspector services. They could be called upon on an as needed basis. We would use them more as a safety net. They charge by the hour and in order to make this work successfully she would ask the Board to work on amending the Building Inspector fee schedule. The fee for their services will be passed on to the applicant. Mr. Rajeshkumar thinks their fees are way too much. Mr. Hadley pointed out that this would be used on an emergency basis. Mr. Rajeshkumar pointed out that the lowest fee charged is \$65 and our Building Inspector charge is \$25. How could that be. He thinks everyone should be charged one fee and the town should absorb the fee. He doesn't think this is fair to the townspeople. Right now if we need them, the town will absorb the fee. Mr. Crowley noted that on

the proposal everything is a two-hour minimum charge plus mileage. He added that if we use these people and do not increase our fees the town will be taking a big hit. Mr. Rajeshkumar questions if we really have to pay this much money. Mr. Hadley asked if the City of Worcester could assist as they do with our Board of Health. Ms. Scheipers reports that in speaking with George he feels there is more success in hiring local inspectors rather than Building Commissioners. We have also advertised for local inspectors.

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve 4LEAF as an alternate building inspector, seconded by Mr. Crowley. Mr. Rajeshkumar suggested reaching out to other communities because the price is way too much. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

2. Review warrant articles for October 15, 2018 Semi-Annual Town Meeting

Article 1 – standard article to hear reports of committees – Ms. Scheipers is not aware of any committees who will be speaking under this article.

Motion Mr. Crowley to add Article 1 to the warrant, seconded by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

Article 2 – General Bylaw to ban adult use marijuana

Ms. Scheipers noted that we had discussion about whether or not it would be appropriate to have this article. The language was provided by KP Law. If it passes, we would not consider the next two articles. Mr. Crowley does not think we should include this article as it was already presented to the town and passed. Mr. Rucho noted that the Planning Board held a public hearing and 15 the people in attendance understood. Mr. Rajeshkumar added that even during that public hearing people asked if this is a ban can I smoke in my home. We are not banning personal smoking we are banning marijuana establishments.

Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar to include Article 2 on the warrant, second by Mr. Hadley. Vote on the motion – Messrs. Rucho, Rajeshkumar and Hadley yes; Mr. Crowley no.

Article 3 – Zoning Bylaws article on adult use of recreational marijuana

Ms. Scheipers reports that because there are potential edits to the final version we are putting in language of notice on what we want to do. This article requires a 2/3rds vote. Mr. Crowley asked if we know when the language would be finalized. Ms. Scheipers advised that Planning Board member Vin Vignaly is inserting the Planning Board's edits. Mr. Rajeshkumar reports that the Planning Board is meeting this evening and it should be very shortly.

Motion Mr. Crowley to include Article 3 on the warrant, second by Mr. Hadley all in favor.

Article 4 - General Bylaw to allow for a 3% sales tax on marijuana sales

Motion Mr. Hadley to include Article 4 on the warrant, second by Mr. Rajeshkumar. Mr. Crowley asked if the language should be amended to say that we would charge the highest allowable rate so if the state were to increase the rate we could get that higher rate. Ms. Scheipers will check with KP Law. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

Article 5 is to amend the Personnel Bylaw

This article is needed because of changes to the wage and classification schedule as a result of the compensation study. All job descriptions have been updated and the Personnel Board graded the job descriptions. It results in the regrading of some positions. The Personnel Board is meeting tomorrow night.

Motion Mr. Hadley to include Article 5 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor. Larry Chism is scheduling a staff meeting to explain to the staff the process that was taken and it will be on the town's website.

Article 6 – this is a budget fix article

This is a standard article to make midyear adjustments within the approved budgets and necessary wage adjustments. We will add \$9,300 to the building inspector's line item with the bulk of the increase in the building inspector's salary. We are taking that money from the Facility Manager's purchase service line. We will make a \$2,000 adjustment to Pride Park. It will be for Pride Park maintenance and the DPW Director believes it can be spent between now and the end of the year. Mr. Rucho asked if this will be the cost needed each year. Ms. Scheipers replies no, they will built this into their operating budget going forward. For Veterans expenses we have updated the software and we have some training expenses we have to pay. That will come out of the Veterans' Benefit line item and it is \$1,500. We will also have to make some wage adjustments. At the spring town meeting we appropriated funds to make those adjustments. Of the \$38,000 remaining, we will use \$30,000.

Motion Mr. Crowley to include Article 6 on the warrant, second by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of new Firefighter/EMT John Quist

Fire Chief Tom Welsh introduced John Quist to the Board. John is a West Boylston resident and will replace John deRivera who left for a job in Hopkington. He has been with the department for a couple of years. He works with Vital EMS in Worcester. The Board welcomed John to the department.

Review of Warrant (cont.)

Article 7 – transportation related expenditure that we have to vote to appropriate.

The town received notice that we are going to be receiving \$613.50 from the Commonwealth's Transportation Infrastructure Fund. We received clarification from DOR that we need town meeting approval to spend the funds.

Motion Mr. Hadley to include Article 7 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

Article 8 – funds for a second gateway sign \$2,000 from Free Cash.

Motion Mr. Hadley to include Article 8 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor. Mr. Crowley asked where the fees collected from the rental of the Gateway Sign go. Mr. Rucho explained that they go into a revolving fund with the goal of using those funds to purchase more signs for our gateways. If we get to a point where we are making money off the signs it will go to promoting economic development.

Article 9 – this is a CPC funded article

If passed, this article will fund the continuation of our affordable housing services in the amount of \$25,000.

Motion Mr. Hadley to include Article 9 on the warrant, second by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

Article 10 – purchasing gym equipment for the police station –

This is for the fitness requirements under the new police contract.

Motion Mr. Hadley to include Article 10 on the warrant, second by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

Article 11 – this is a transfer of \$7,300 from the Cemetery sale of lots account to be used for operational expenses.

Motion Mr. Hadley to include Article 11 on the warrant, second by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

Article 12 – this is a request from the Parks Commission for an additional \$2,000 for fertilizer for parks in the amount of \$2,000.

Ms. Scheipers reports that \$10,000 was approved in May and the estimate they received was \$11,700. Parks Commission Chairman Jim Pedone will speak on this article at town meeting.

Motion Mr. Hadley to include Article 12 on the warrant, second by Mr. Crowley, all in favor. Mr. Crowley understands the explanation we were given in the past was due to the timing of the application of the fertilizer it is done through an article. He feels it is a reoccurring bill of \$10,000 we do this every year. He thinks we could build it into the budget and if more was needed, we could do a budget fix. Ms. Scheipers is looking to change that in the FY20 budget. Mr. Rucho asked if this is the item that if we get a DPW employee licensed to apply the treatment we could save the town money. He recalled the town building incentives into the DPW contract for someone to get the license and no one has done it yet. Mr. Rucho believes it should be in the budget and Fin Com member Chris Berglund states that he would like somebody at the DPW to get the appropriate license as it will be a great savings. Mr. Crowley would like the Director to push this a little. Ms. Scheipers noted that we will be renegotiating that contract this spring.

Article 13 – this article will fund repairs to two Fire Department vehicles. Car 2 is a Ford F250 and needs \$10,000 worth of repairs and the ladder truck is in need of repairs and inspections at a price of \$15,000. The CIB and the Finance Committee feel the source of the funds should be Free Cash. In addition the Library is looking for \$18,750 to repair its elevator. That item is still being considered by the CIB. They are not sure if it should be funded via capital or Free Cash.

Mr. Crowley states if the first two items do not fall under the CIB the correct place for them would be as a budget fix. Traditionally the only things we address under the Capital article are those being funded through CIB funds. Ms. Scheipers noted that the two fire items were combined and submitted to the CIB and the CIB felt they should be considered individually. She states our only avenue is this article. Mr. Crowley asked the CIB if they voted on this. Chris Berglund stated that they did not have enough information at this time. Mr. Crowley feels it should be a budget fix. He also feels the elevator repair should be a budget fix as well because it is under the \$20,000 capital threshold. Mr. Crowley thinks we should include Article 13 on the warrant and if needed, we will over the article.

Motion Mr. Hadley to include Article 13 on the warrant, second by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

Article 14 – prior year bills - we have none at this time and will pass over if needed.

Motion Mr. Crowley to include Article 14 on the warrant, second by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

Article 15 – this is to re-establish the Town’s OPEB trust fund. It is being recommended by KP Law due to changes and the municipal modernization bill. This will allow us to move ahead in the spring and put some money into that fund.

Motion Mr. Crowley to include Article 15 on the warrant, second by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor. Mr. Crowley would like to provide the voters information on our liability which is \$39 million.

Article 16 – petitioned article to allow for rainbow crosswalks paid for by raised funds.

Ms. Scheipers reports that the DPW Director has been working with the proponent on the costs associated with the work. It is the Board’s obligation to include this on the warrant because it was a petitioned article. Mr. Crowley feels this article is a divisive thing. He states that our crosswalks are not the place for a public statement. A public crosswalk is not a place to make a public statement. Mr. Rajeshkumar reports that this came before the Transportation Committee and instead of deciding as a five-member Board they suggested doing it as a citizen petition. The vote at town meeting is a simple majority. Vote on the motion- Messrs. Rucho, Rajeshkumar and Hadley yes; Mr. Crowley no.

Assign motions for articles

Motions were assigned as follows: Mr. Rajeshkumar will read the motions for Articles 3, and 11; Mr. Hadley will read the motions for Articles 2, 8 and 15; Mr. Rucho will read the motions for Articles 1, 5, and 14 ; Mr. Crowley will read the motions for Articles 4, 6, and 12; Ms. Bohnson will read the motions for Articles 7 and 10; and the CPC will read the motion for Article 9, the CIB will read the motion for Article 13, the CPA will read the motion for Article 9, and the petitioner will read the motion for Article 16.

Ms. Scheipers reports that the Moderator will be out of town the night of town meeting. He is working on who to ask to fill in for him. Town Counsel advises that it is the Chairman who asks the voters to approve the moderator. We are also preparing for an overflow room in the cafeteria which will require an assistant moderator. The vote on Article 2 is two thirds, Article 3 is two thirds and Article 4 is simple majority.

Motion Mr. Crowley at 7:25 p.m. to adjourn, second by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: October 3, 2018

Nancy E. Lucier, Municipal Assistant

Christopher A. Rucho, Chairman

Patrick J. Crowley, Vice Chairman

Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Clerk

John W. Hadley, Selectman