

Board of Selectmen
August 18, 2020 Meeting
via Zoom

Present: Angevine, Nelson, Papp

Regrets:

Recording: C Frisbie

Meeting called to order at 5:08 pm by Angevine

- 1) Minutes:** *Motion (Nelson/Papp) to approve the Minutes of the July 21, 2020 Meeting*
All Approved

2) Public Comment:

- a. H Tammen – Read his letter
- b. E Schoenfeld – thank you to all the members of the WVFC, social services, public works for everything during the recent storm
- c. J Marsh – corrected H Tammen’s statement regarding no P&R in Morris – there is and her name is K Davila
- d. C Frisbie – corrected Tammen’s statement regarding (1) P&R with the most hours per week – incorrect the Admin Asst is 28hrs per week (2) regarding median – the ZEO is actually \$35 per hour which is \$2 -\$3 more than the COG median (salary survey)
- e. R Kasler – regarding Tammen’s statement regarding the salary numbers – the BOF approved those along with 40% of residents who commented on the budget
- f. H Tammen – spoke again on his letter

- 3) Correspondence:** C Warshaw had asked to speak regarding her concerns with the Planning and Zoning Committee, but will wait to comment later since she spoke with R Hodza (ZEO) the day before and the agenda has appointments listed for tonight.

4) Additions: *None*

- 5) Fire Company – truck bid:** R Ponton spoke for the WVFC truck committee. The committee has done another review of all the truck bids to make sure they didn’t miss anything. Went over why they chose Peirce truck over the other bids – incorrect bid specs on the cab, warranty, pump testing/DOT expenses covered for the life of the truck, pre-payment clause (which the Town does not do) and the Fire Company is paying \$160,000 towards the truck. Commented on the bid process and procedure followed starting in 2017. Fire Company is requesting the Town proceed with the bid process and approve the truck purchase be brought to a town meeting for a vote. Angevine received an opinion letter from the Town’s attorney and spoke with one of their associates and there are some questions from the Attorney. The WVFC doesn’t need to answer them now but it’s important to get them out there. Asked a question regarding bid package and J. Marsh

answered by reading the bid package modification paragraph. Nelson asked if it wouldn't be better to give the questions to J. Marsh and R Ponton so they could gather the information needed to answer the questions. Angevine said due to the perception of any improprieties with the relationship between the bidder and the assistant fire chief, it carries a burden of concern and if we choose not to go with the lowest bidder, we need to make sure of all our documentation (letter from attorney) Anonymous letter: concerns from both WVFC and Angevine about posting an anonymous letter - Motion (Angevine) no to post letters that are not signed No Second Nelson and Papp agree that this should be researched before any motion is made regarding anonymous information The letter made reference to the Tax Abatement – Nelson addressed the Town Ordinance on the Tax Abatement and the responsibility of the WVFC

- 6) **Land Use Department: (a) Land Use officer update** Richelle Hodza has been hired as the new Land Use Officer for up to 15 hours per week at \$33 per hour. Nelson asked if she would also be doing the clerical part of the department. Angevine wasn't sure - will need to think about that because of insurances with 20 hours. Nelson suggesting Hodza do both and should talk with her. **(b) Appointments: Motion (Nelson/Papp) to appoint Jack Baker and Derek Westfall (P&Z Alternate) to the regular Planning and Zoning Committee** Discussion followed regarding fulfilling vacancies by seniority and party affiliations. Nelson stated there is nothing in the CGS where you need to appoint by seniority and there are no majority party affiliation problems with this committee by appointing the above residents to the committee **All in Favor: Nelson and Papp Against: Angevine motion passes 2-1**
- 7) **HR Consultant Update:** E Meehan's (HR Consultant) report was sent out just before the meeting. A Papp - to clarify how it got on the agenda, she asked for it to be on the agenda as to follow up on where Meehan's report was Neither Nelson or Papp have questions at this time since they just received it.
- 8) **Wasley Farm Committee Update:** Committee didn't meet in July. The next meeting is scheduled for 8/20 at 7:30pm via Zoom
- 9) **Beach Cameras:** this was talked about a while back and we've had a theft incident there – not a lot of money, but the police did ask if we had cameras. Nelson spoke to Meeker about a quote – approximately \$4000 with \$1000 being for an insulated box to protect the recorder because of the temperature changes damaging the equipment. The recorder would not be a live stream; it would work like the cameras at the Town Hall. Angevine doesn't feel the need for any more surveillance on our town properties. Nelson stated how there were bottles broken on the life guard stand and on the beach as stated by Judy Shaw. More discussion followed. Nelson would like to get a formal quote on the installation, monitoring and information on the picture quality.
- 10) **First Selectman's Report:** see attached

11) Public comment: (due to the possibility of an executive session, public comment was moved up on the agenda)

- a. R Kasler - question on the Gowans-Knight Company letter written to T Pettit and how they answered the letter? Ponton answered - there were conversations between them, but Pettit did have conversations with the other bidders too regarding bid specs. Letter was sent to the Chief in May and he received this by email not mail. Questioning on when the original letter was received by the Selectmen or the town government because it's not dated. FC decided not to address the letter since it was received after the bids were open. J Marsh added about the anonymous letter – there is nothing in that letter that was true, not factual only here-say More discussion followed on the letter followed
- b. H Tammen – stated the P&Z alternates and their terms and how they should be appointed as regulars because of seniority: Questioned the relationship of the FC truck bidder to the Asst Fire Chief: wants to know what happened to the study that was supposed to happen 3 years ago regarding the FC trucks/equipment discussed at the BOF meetings: questioned the FC's 501c3 status
- c. J. Marsh – Strongly rebutted Tammen's previous statements against the Fire Company
- d. K Angevine – thank you to all the volunteers for the help during this last storm

12) Discussion of salary compensation adjustment: (a) Zoom meeting compensation J

Tiedmann has been opening up the zoom meetings and hosting them without compensation. *Motion (Nelson/Papp) to compensate J. Tiedmann and any other staff member setting up the zoom meetings at \$35 per meeting with funds to be expensed to the corresponding department* **All Approved** (b) D Murphy tabled from 7/21/2020 meeting – after some discussion with a successor and more senior programs at the community center *Motion (Angevine/Papp) to approve the rate increase of \$32 for Park and Recreation salary at the hours budgeted and to getting a mentor program and higher usage of the community center once COVID 19 pandemic is over* **All Approved**

Motion (Angevine/Nelson) to adjourn at 7:06pm **All Approved**

Respectfully submitted by
Colleen Frisbie

Submitted attachments are available at the Town Hall, Town Clerk's Office

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