Board of Selectmen
Minutes

Date: October 30, 2019

Members Present: Janet Flinkstrom, Mike McCallum and Scott Sweeney

Time: 7:03 p.m.

2) Selectmen approve minutes of October 16, 2019 as recorded.

Motion: Mike McCallum
Seconded: Scott Sweeney
Vote: JF/MM - Aye
SS – Abstain

3) Selectmen approve and sign on Payroll Warrant #20-09P in the amount of $65,920.88, subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum
Seconded: Scott Sweeney
Vote: Unan

4) Selectmen approve and sign on Vendor Warrant #20-09 in the amount of $109,046.39, subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum
Seconded: Scott Sweeney
Vote: Unan

Selectmen Discuss Host Community Agreement with Minuteman Farm, LLC:

MM states the Conservation Commission did a site visit & had some suggestions they will discuss with the owner. Resident who lives near site asked for a brief explanation as to what this pertains to. Selectmen answered her questions. Owner of facility also answered some questions. Resident also asked about increased traffic. Not going to be a retail situation and will not be a big operation for distribution only.

November 14th at 6:00 p.m., Sibley Room at Ashby Library, the business representatives will hold a Community Informational Meeting for the public. Money owed to Town for business cannot be used to lower taxes, but can be used to make improvements to services or equipment to improve Town services if effected by the operation. Roberta Flashman of Conservation Commission answered a few questions.

5) Selectmen to sign Host Community Agreement with Minuteman, LLC Out of Session with the understanding that there may be a couple of small changes dictated by Town Counsel that will not change the essential meaning of the document as it stands.

Motion: Mike McCallum
Seconded: Scott Sweeney
Vote: Unan

Resident asked for an explanation of what the Town will get out of these businesses. Availability of a water supply was discussed for United Cultivation. Businesses also have to pay property taxes to the Town. Resident asked for copies of agreements and was told they are available on Ashby Website as soon as signed.

Request for Selectmen’s permission concerning the Soldier’s Monument on the Town Common: (Alan Pease):
AP spoke in regards to having missing names of Ashby soldiers who died during Revolutionary War added to the monument. Moulton Family will be paying for this and doesn’t have to go through the Town. AP prefers the monument company bill the Moulton Family directly.
6) Selectmen authorize the Historical Commission to work with the Moulton Family in inscribing 5 names of the Revolutionary War soldiers who died on the Soldier’s monument on the Common.

Motion: Mike McCallum  Seconded: Scott Sweeney  Vote: Unan

Town Hall Sign Placement Discussion: Discussion as to where the new sign should be placed. Out near the road or placed on the building. Someone offered to donate granite posts and someone offered to donate installing it. Suggestions were out near the Police Station sign or centered on the building.

7) Selectmen appoint David Nadeau and Cathy Biliouris to a Sign Committee to come up with a couple of designs for placement of the Town Hall sign; Committee will consist of up to 5 people.

Motion: Mike McCallum  Seconded: Scott Sweeney  Vote: Unan

Regional Dispatch Discussion: MM mentioned we are looking into Regional Dispatch with Ashby Townsend & Pepperell primarily. MM spoke on the possibility of where the Dispatch Center could go after meeting with officials from the Town and Public Safety Building Project Manager & Architect. Also, how could they cut the price and include space for 911. SS suggested they start to find ways to pay for the public safety building. Discussion and suggestions on ways to cut the costs significantly were talked about.

8) Selectmen approve of the idea of fitting the Dispatch into the existing Conference Room Square Footage rather than having the approx. 600 sq. ft. dedicated space if we build the new Public Safety Bldg.

Motion: Mike McCallum  Seconded: Scott Sweeney  Vote: Unan

Public Comments: (if any):
Resident asked for an update on dumping issues on Log Cabin Road. They have been issued a cease and desist order. They have 30 days to appeal this to the ZBA and if the company involved appeals this ZBA will have a hearing. Selectmen explained Ashby’s options for dealing with this through zoning enforcement. This is a DEP issue to enforce the composting permit DEP issued. SS read a Lowell newspaper clipping from 2009 in regards to Jeremy Ethier, who has the composting permit, failing to pay employees of his Apex Construction Company and he lost the court case. Resident asked questions about the puppy farm on South Road. MM said she was issued a cease and desist and she has appealed this to the ZBA who is holding a hearing.

Assistant Town Administrator’s Report: Read by SS and available on Ashby Website

9) Motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

Motion: Mike McCallum  Seconded: Scott Sweeney  Vote: Unan

Signed by: _____________________________________

Dates Minutes Approved by Board of Selectmen: _____________