

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 14, 2023
6:30 p.m.
ZOOM MEETING - TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Chuck Cardillo, Jamie Minacci, Patrick White and Mike Canales

Call to Order:

Chuck opened the meeting and began with the Pledge of Allegiance

Chuck motioned to take action on one day alcohol license applications for Berkshire Botanical Garden on September 22nd from 3-11PM, on September 29th from 6-11PM and on December 8th from 5-8PM. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

Municipal Electric Aggregation Plan – Review and approve for submittal to the Department of Public Utilities

Mike stated that Colonial Power was present, the plan has been posted for thirty days and the last part was for the Board of Selectmen to approve for submittal to the Department of Public Utilities.

Representatives of Colonial Power described the process of filing the plan and explained that currently guidelines are being put out to help speed the process which currently can take 24 to 48 months. Mike said that once in the plan we will align Stockbridge with communities who are currently in the plan.

Chuck made a motion that they accept the plan and assign Mike to sign the paperwork. Patrick seconded; all were in favor.

Appointments to the Cemetery Commission

Chuck noted that now that there is a new bylaw, they will appoint a five-member board.

Chuck read the following proposed appointments:

Karen Marshall (3-year term)

Candace Currie (3-year term)

Peter Williams (2-year term)

Patrick White (Selectmen) (1 year term)

Pat Flinn has been nominated by Laurel Hill Association (2-year term)

Patrick said that if there was someone else who would like to be the Selectmen's representative, they are welcome.

Patrick made a motion to accept the slate. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

Announce open seat on the COA Board and COA Director position

Chuck announced the openings and if interested be in touch with Mike Canales.

Intermunicipal Agreement for shared inspectional and zoning enforcement services among the Towns of Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, & Stockbridge
Mike said that he had been working with the three other Towns and have all agreed to work together and have Building Department coverage for all of the Towns.

Mike reviewed the following Power Point:

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

4 TOWN BUILDING DEPARTMENT
GREAT BARRINGTON, LEE, LENOX & STOCKBRIDGE

SETUP

- One Building Commissioner
- Three Building Inspectors
- 2.5 FTE Office Staff (Employed by individual towns but under commissioner)

Estimated Budget		
Building Commissioner	1	
Building Inspectors	3	
		\$ 375,000.00
Stockbridge Share	18%	\$ 67,500.00
Stockbridge Budget		\$ 63,649.35
Surplus/Deficit		\$ (3,850.65)
(Not an issue since we will not be fully staffed from the start)		

ROLES

- Building Commissioner – Oversees all inspectors and support staff. Will focus on larger and specialized projects.
- Building Inspectors – There will be three inspectors overall
 - One inspector assigned to Great Barrington
 - One inspector assigned to Lee & Lenox
 - One Inspector assigned to Stockbridge - Splits time in Stockbridge and as a Floater.

BENEFITS

- Additional inspectors for coverage and flexibility.
- One position, Building Commissioner, focused on the larger more specialized projects.
- Use of the same software between the communities which would be accessible by all inspectors and the commissioner.
- Shared service model similar to proven Tri Town Health Department shared by Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge.

Stockbridge would have an inspector for up to 20 hours per week. Chuck felt that this was a great move forward and excellent way to go. With no comments from the public, Chuck made a motion that they move forward with this. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

Project Update – Town Administrator

Mike said that the Chime Tower work will begin on September 26th and run to about October 6th. The bells will be removed, the racking system replaced and then the bells returned. Next spring, they will go out to bid to repair the cupola. Patrick suggested a future plan on training new people to play the bells.

Paving & Crosswalks bid was awarded to Palmer Paving and they are currently waiting on a schedule and will notify residents via CodeRed.

Ice Glen bid has been awarded and they will be working on the next round of treatment.

They have been working on the DPW Salt Shed design and have reviewed conceptual plans. He will be coming back to the Board with a rough cost estimate in late September/early October.

Chuck questioned the Cat and Dog fountain and Mike said that it is completely done except for the cat and dog and are at the final piece with hopes of having it set in the spring. Mike commended Hugh and the DPW staff, Water and Sewer for getting the basin completed. The Board also thanked the Fountain Committee for their work.

The new fencing for the Pine Street tennis courts and resurfacing will be completed for spring.

Discussion of real estate transfer fee special legislation with Leigh Davis of Great Barrington

Leigh Davis, vice-chair of the Select Board in Great Barrington and Chair of the Housing Sub Committee reviewed the real estate transfer fee special legislation proposed in Great Barrington. She said that the Housing Sub Committee saw this as one opportunity to provide revenue to provide revenue to fund affordable and work force housing and that it has been an eight-month process. Next week the Board will decide if they will go with the proposal and if it will be on the Special Town Meeting. The proposal is the first in Western Massachusetts. Currently any property sold for over one-million dollars would have a one percent fee imposed on it; split between the buyer and seller. The revenue will be deposited in the Affordable Housing Trust. Patrick said that this only affects about ten homes in Stockbridge. Leigh said that this is local money with local control. Patrick said he would like to have the Legislature's permission to act and one chance to get onto the upcoming special town meeting warrant. They are not voting on the bylaw. Chuck and Jamie said they needed information before they make any decisions. Patrick said if Great Barrington passes their request on Monday night it would be his intention to take their language, run it by Town Counsel and bring it to the Board at their next meeting to determine if it is something they want to support.

Chuck motioned to enter Executive Session: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Police and DPW unions, and the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining of the public body. To conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and they will not be going back into open session. Patrick seconded; Aye Patrick, Aye Chuck, Aye Jamie.

Please see <https://ctsbtv.org/government-channel-1303/> to view the full meeting.