

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 19, 2020
8:00 a.m.
TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Roxanne McCaffrey, Patrick White and Mike Canales

Call to Order:

In Chuck's absence, Roxanne called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was to take action on minutes for October 29th and November 5th, 2020, Patrick made a motion to accept the minutes. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Next on the agenda was Highway updates. Mike noted that they are in the final stages of completing everything at the highway garage. Waiting on National Grid service connection, they hope to be in the building by the beginning of December. When they go to do the service connection, the Transfer Station will need to be closed. They are just waiting on a date. Hugh has sent the vehicles to be prepared for winter operations. Roxanne questioned about the telephone connection and Mike said that they are working on it. If anyone has issues, they call the Town Hall and we will forward the information to the highway. Patrick asked if there was a plan to store the harvesters on site in the future and Mike said he would follow up on that. Patrick also questioned the final inspections of the garage and Mike said that it is with the Town's building inspector and the engineers. Plumbing and electrical inspections are done.

Mike ran down the status of projects. The Averic Road project which had gone out to bid, is on hold as they work through the procurement issues with it. The Cat and Dog fountain is out for rebid. The road paving will go out to bid in the winter so that it is ready to go in the spring. The Curtisville project is out for rebid. With the Chime Tower, it is known what is needed with the bells and the restoration work there. As it is specialized work, they will be doing a sole source procurement. The structural analysis part will be bid out normally. The Proctor roof repair is in process. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is being finalized and is near completion. VHB, who is doing the Main Street and Route 7 project, has been here doing survey work. We should be getting the next piece soon followed by the construction phase. This year's proposed work for the soldier's monument was completed. A couple issues were identified but they will be looking at how it goes through the winter season and look at it in the spring with the next steps. The MVP program project will be started by interviewing for a consultant; it is a fully funded project. The other is the lighting upgrade at the plant and they are waiting for supplies.

Patrick questioned the lighting of the tree for the holidays and Mike said he was working on it. The Laurel Hill Association takes care of the Glendale tree. Roxanne asked the status of the curb cut for the second driveway at the DPW and Mike said that the application was in and is under the ten-day review with MassDOT. We should hear back in early December.

Next was continued discussion on Entertainment License hours. Roxanne noted that as previously discussed they need to be consistent between the various zones. Roxanne proposed that with commercial they go with 1:00 a.m. and with residential 11:00 p.m. Extension of hours can be requested with a special one-day license. Currently, Wheatleigh has requested 1:00 a.m. and Berkshire Theatre Festival requested 12:00 a.m. Patrick questioned the time for Wheatleigh and Berkshire Theatre and felt that they need to discuss how it may affect their business. Roxanne said that they still need to be consistent and businesses can still come in for one days. Mike also said that other local towns have entertainment in their business districts. It was decided to continue discussion until the next meeting.

Next was discussion on Select Board license fees which came up as Dalton has forgiven their alcohol license fees for 2021. Mike said that North Adams just limited the fees for their section 12 pouring licensees. Section 15, package store licensees, were not affected with shut down as restaurants and others have. The section 15s in Town are Nejaime's, the convenience store and Elm Street Market. Roxanne asked about COVID-19 funds that could be applied for loss of revenue to the Town and Mike said that money was set aside. Roxanne said that she felt it would be beneficial to waive the pouring license fees for those people who have suffered. Patrick made a motion that the Board waive the section 12 pouring licenses for calendar year 2021. Roxanne seconded; all were in favor.

Last on the agenda were COVID updates. Mike discussed with the Board plans going forward and that he has been developing a plan to outline what would be done operationally at Town Hall, Highway and Water/Sewer if things get worse. He said that we are running in phase one currently with limited use of appointments. If things get more severe Mike would like a phase two and phase three plan in place. Phase two would be shutting down Town Hall to appointments and shutting down individual offices, where people will work out of their individual, closed offices, minimizing inner office contact. The third phase (level 1 shut down) would involve moving the non-essential workers to work from home and essential offices be isolated. Mike said that we work off of the Governor's phases. Mike stated that Water/Sewer is the most important department and plans need to be in place; as also with the highway. With Water/Sewer they are now trying to limit contact with the public, phase 2 would include staggered hours with limited staff contact, followed by going to phase 3 with alternating on/off days. The Town cannot afford to have multiple staff out. Moving into winter it is the same with highway. Mikes said he would

like to be prepared with two different teams where they stagger their start time, end time and lunch breaks; one team coming in 7 – 2:30 and the other group working 8 – 3:30 with communications by phone. In phase three they would move to a 3-2 alternating schedule; half the crew on for three days and half on for two, alternating weekly. They all will be coming in for snow storms where they can isolate to their vehicles. Mike said that the police are already staggered and Chief Fennelly will address his staffing. Mike would set criteria for those working from home to keep Town Hall fully operational. Patrick stated that he felt that office employees could start working from home now. Mike said that he understood his concern but that his number one concern was still Water/Sewer and that they can quickly move office staff to home as needed.

Roxanne stated that the latest she heard on the Glendale Post Office closure was that the landlord did not sign the lease but she did not have confirmation on this. Clarence Fanto said that he was in contact with Representative Neal's office and hopes to hear back today. Roxanne also said that she had heard that one customer was told by the Glendale clerk that on Friday night they will be installing boxes on some outside wall of the main post office. She also stated that there is very little space now in the post office to keep social distancing.

Patrick said that they are working on ways to provide COVID relief, especially around hunger, home security, heating oil, etc. through some form of organization.

Mike again stated that if anyone is interested in the school committee position please submit their interest before the first meeting in December.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Roxanne adjourned the meeting.