

Selectmen's minutes of meeting May 24, 2021

Members present: Mark Newman, George Riley by remote, Alex Bowman,
Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Remote participation information provided for the public.

Mark as the senior selectboard member opened the meeting. First order of business is the board reorganization.

George stated that he is interested in being the chair of the selectboard. Motion by Mark, second by Alex, passed unanimously to appoint George Riley as the Chair of the Select Board.

Roll call vote, Mark, yes, George, yes, Alex, yes.

Motion by Mark, second by George, passed unanimously to appoint Alex Bowman as the Clerk of the Select Board.

Roll call vote, Mark, yes, George, yes, Alex, yes.

George appointed Mark as the temporary chair specifically for this meeting since George is not in the building.

Minutes tabled until George comes back to sign.

Reviewed and signed purchase orders.

Discussed the Town Hall Annex sign. Berkshire Natural Resources obtained 2 quotes for the sign, one from Ghi Sign Service for \$1,790 and one from Larkin LTD for \$1,960. BNRC will contribute towards the cost of the sign. Mark explained that there is no budget for this item. He would like a work session to discuss this funding and to discuss the end of the year transfers. There are several accounts deficit spending. He also explained that the sign is to be placed in the septic leach field. He would like to have the DPW check to find a good spot for the sign. Mark would like to table discussion until they find a good spot. George is not in favor of tabling. Barbara Cormier does not agree with allowing a private entity permission to place a sign on the town hall sign on town property. She feels this is setting a precedence. George responded that BNRC is a non profit entity that has a trail that benefits the town. The trail starts at the Town Hall Annex parking lot. Alex questioned the difference in cost. He agrees there should be a directional sign and feels there is enough funding in the budget. Mark suggested that they place a sign on their actual driveway entrance on Route 57 stating that parking is available at the Town Hall Annex. Steve Harasyko asked if businesses such as Tucker's or A & M Auto could place directional signs on town property also. He stated this sets a bad precedence. George does not agree.

Motion by George, second by Mark, passed unanimously to order the sign from Larkin.

Roll call vote: George, yes, Alex, yes, Mark, opposed.

Discussed a date for SAMA LLC special permit public hearing to construct and operate a cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility located on Route 8, map and parcel 416-0-18. The hearing will be on June 22 at 6:00 p.m. at the DPW building in person and by Zoom.

Reviewed and signed a cemetery deed.

Motion by Mark, second by Alex, passed unanimously to appoint Liana Toscanini to the Historical Commission.

Roll call vote: George, yes, Mark, yes, Alex, yes.

Discussed the summer schedule for Select Board meetings. We will meet every other week with July 5 as the first off week. Meetings for the summer are July 12, 26, August 7 & 23.

Future agenda items:

Simon Winchester asked about replacing the Town Manager. Mark responded that we will address this under topics not anticipated.

Reviewed mail

Reviewed and signed warrants

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

George explained that last Monday the board agreed to a separation agreement with severance pay, vacation and sick time pay for the Town Manager Joanne Grybosh. She has one week and one day of vacation time. She has not been keeping track of personal time so there are no personal days left. Motion by George to transfer \$19,041 from the Public Safety Officer Salary account and \$10,700 from the Employee Incentive Account to the Town Manager Salary account. Those transfers combined with the remainder of the Town Manager salary account for the rest of the fiscal year should satisfy the separation agreement. Mark stated that we should not vote on this under Topics not reasonably anticipated, it should be a work session or on next weeks agenda. George said he checked on it and it was ok to vote on it today. Alex stated that we could meet on Wednesday or Thursday to approve the transfers. Mark stated that in his opinion this vote is improper. Motion seconded by Mark, passed unanimously.

Roll call vote: George, yes, Mark, yes, Alex, yes.

Seth Kershner asked if there is a non disclosure in the separation agreement, George responded that yes there is.

Simon Winchester asked if the town will be able to function efficiently without a Town Manager and a Town Clerk. George responded that he understands that the state will supply interim help.

Simon asked if there has been any interest in using the Villa Mia property as a cannabis dispensary business, Mark responded that no papers have come across the table.

Carl Nett gave a heads up on the Farmington River School. They have communicated to Joanne that a Sandisfield student is going to a vocational school and that the town is responsible for the cost of tuition and transportation.

Mark discussed the offer from the school for used playground equipment. Lynn Rubinstein did a site visit and explained that the equipment is old and fragile. We will respectfully thank the school but decline the offer of the equipment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

George Riley

Mark Newman

Alex Bowman