

Town of Auburn
Minutes of the Meeting
Of the Board of Selectmen
Auburn Town Hall Selectmen's Meeting Room
104 Central Street, Auburn, Massachusetts
March 11, 2019

Present: Doreen M. Goodrich, Daniel S. Carpenter, Lionel R. Berthiaume, CFO/Assistant Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz and Town Manager Julie A. Jacobson
Absent: Kenneth A. Holstrom and Tristan Laliberte

Chairman Doreen Goodrich called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Ms. Goodrich announced that the meeting was being recorded and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting. No one so indicated.

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

There was no one wishing to speak under Public Comments.

Chairman Goodrich announced that, with only three board members present, all votes must be unanimous to pass an item. She said that applicants may choose to wait for their item to be taken up until a full board is present.

Public Hearings/Presentations

Petition by National Grid for Pole and Wire Locations Hearing – Homestead Avenue 7:00 PM

Homestead Ave – National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on Homestead Ave beginning at a point approximately 190 feet Northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Homestead Ave and Bryn Mawr Ave (which is pole 5) and continuing approximately +/-83' feet in an eastern direction. National Grid to install pole 6 on Homestead Ave, approximately 83 feet east of existing pole 5 in front of 80 Bryn Mawr Ave.

The Board voted to open the hearing at 7:02 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Mr. Steve Soucy, the Designer for National Grid, was present and he explained the petition to take the guy wires off the trees and put them onto poles (Pole #5 and new Pole #6) on Homestead Avenue. He said that they may need to do some trimming, but they are not taking the trees down. The wires that will go through the trees will allow the trees to continue to grow in a healthy fashion. Also, putting the support wires on the poles will correct the issue of a low wire.

Ms. Goodrich asked if the trees were on private property. Mr. Soucy said that the trees are within the street right of way.

Mr. Luis Aponte, an abutter at 80 Bryn Mawr Avenue, stated his opposition. He said that the whole matter came about due to a complaint to National Grid about the wires that were in the trees, but then the company put another wire in the other tree just six months ago. Mr. Aponte presented two photos of the trees. He said that he did meet with Steve Soucy and he showed him where the new pole would be. This is the first he's heard of the guy wire coming down; he thought they were only installing the new pole. Mr. Aponte said that he wanted the new pole to be in another spot by the church and not on private property. He gave the Board additional photos of the area.

Mr. Soucy disputed Mr. Aponte's statement about placing the pole by the church. He said that the proposed #6 was in line with the other poles at the corner and continuing down Homestead Avenue. He said that the result would be an off-angle that would not be supported by the wires and could result in the poles leaning and jeopardizing the church's electric service. If placed by the church the angle would need additional support wires and/or push braces.

Mr. Aponte talked about observing the wires on other utility poles around town and how they were set up. He said that he had noted that some poles were dead-ended without any support and he asked about the potential for a stronger line for the dead-end pole.

Mr. Soucy stated that these are primary wires on both sides of the street and they have to be dead-ended properly and push braces are not an option. A push brace on pole #5 would go onto the property or sidewalk near the church. Push braces would not be an option there or by the poles on the other side of Homestead Avenue because they would go into the sidewalks or the street and affect snow plowing operations.

Town Manager Jacobson asked if there were street lights on the poles that would be impacted by the plan. Mr. Soucy said that there were no street lights on those poles. He explained the procedure to install the SO pole (which is pole 5).

Mr. Berthiaume questioned what pole 6 would be supporting. Mr. Soucy said that pole 6 would be supporting poles on both sides of Homestead Avenue. Mr. Berthiaume asked about different options to locate pole #6. Mr. Soucy discussed the problems with angles that would be created.

Mr. Soucy replied that taking the wires off pole #6 would cause leaning in the future and would not be supporting poles 22 and 7 and 8 properly. He said that he has met with Mr. Aponte before to explain it.

Mr. Soucy said that he can't relocate pole #5 because it supports the church's underground service and it would cost the church to completely re-do the entire existing service.

Mr. Aponte presented a photo showing different styles of guy wires and a push brace with a 4' difference between the pole and the push brace.

Mr. Soucy stated that the National Grid standard is 15 feet.

Mr. Carpenter asked if Mr. Aponte was troubled by the current service or if he wanted it left as it is. Mr. Aponte responded that he doesn't like lines in the tree because it has compromised it or the line in the other tree. He stated that he doesn't agree that the only option is to locate the pole right next to his fence. He asserted that he has done the research that's relevant and showed photos to the Board and he doesn't understand why Mr. Soucy says that it's not relevant.

Mr. Soucy said that this has been his job for over ten years and that the situation with the guy wires is out of the National Grid standards and they are trying to correct it. He said that in some cases guy wires and push braces are installed temporarily.

Mr. Soucy discussed issues that there would be with the other placements suggested and he said that if National Grid can't install pole #6 there would need to be two or more additional poles for proper support.

The Chairman stated that the Board might consider asking the DPW Director and Town Engineer Bill Coyle could review the plan and provide his input with respect to the snow plowing issue.

Mr. Berthiaume asked about moving pole #5. Mr. Soucy said that the church would have to bear the cost to move the existing service. Mr. Soucy added that there would be off-angles and still one pole needed by his property.

Jean Aponte of 80 Bryn Mawr Avenue questioned why adding two or three more poles would be a problem.

Mr. Berthiaume said that he would like to see a diagram showing the potential additional poles that Mr. Soucy has discussed. He said that he would also want to visit the area himself.

Mr. Berthiaume made a motion to continue the hearing to the next meeting on March 25th. Mr. Carpenter seconded.

In discussion, the Board discussed procedural issues. Mrs. Goodrich asked if this was time-sensitive. Mr. Soucy replied that it was not.

The Board voted 3 to 0 in favor of continuing the hearing.

Communications

There were no items.

Board of Selectmen General Items

Seasonal Open Air License on Town Property - Troop 53 Auburn for a Flower Sale at the Auburn Fire Station 47 Auburn Street on Mother's Day Weekend.

David Keyes of Troop 53 was present and explained plans for the annual flower sale. The Fire Chief has approved the location for the sale on Mother's Day Weekend.

The Board of Selectmen voted to approve the license, provided that all applicable requirements of the state and town and any of its departments, boards and commissions have been fulfilled. Said license is subject to all the conditions stated upon it. Failure to comply with any and all the conditions shall invalidate the license and render it null and void (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 3 to 0.

The Board voted to waive the fee (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 3 to 0.

One Day Outdoor Entertainment License Faith Baptist Church for Easter Egg Hunt at Lemansky Park.

Pastor Doug Geeze was present as well as Patricia Lake, the pastor of the children's ministry.

Pastor Lake explained the plans for the event, which they have decided to hold on Sunday April 14th because of a conflict with the park on Saturday April 13th. Participants would have to pre-register for the event and could do so via their web site. The

Mr. Carpenter made a motion to amend the agenda with the correct date of Sunday April 14, 2019. Mr. Berthiaume seconded the motion and the Board voted in favor 3 to 0.

The Development Coordinating Group (DCG) provided the following recommendations on the application:

- The applicant shall obtain all necessary permits and inspections from Town Departments, Boards, Commissions, most notably the Board of Health.
- The applicant shall notify the Board of Selectmen of their final venue choice prior to the event.
- The applicant shall work with the Board of Selectmen's Office to provide appropriate liability insurance for the event if it takes place on town property.
- The applicant shall ensure Public Safety officials have appropriate access to the event at all times.
- The applicant shall work with the DPW Director for the placement of stakes/anchors for any bounce houses and/or tents if utilizing Lemansky field.
- The applicant shall work with the Police Department to ensure that there is an adequate number of police details at the event.
- The applicant shall work with the Board of Health to permit any additional portable restrooms.
- The applicant shall submit a copy of an approved field use form for Lemansky Park.

The Board of Selectmen voted to approve the license, provided that all applicable requirements of the state and town and any of its departments, boards and commissions have been fulfilled. Said license is subject to all the conditions stated upon it. Failure to comply with any and all the conditions shall invalidate the license and render it null and void, and with the conditions of the DCG to be placed on the license and the additional recommendation by the Town Manager that the applicant shall meet the requirements of state law with respect to Sunday hours (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 3 to 0.

The Board voted to move forward agenda item 5i Approve Vote/Sign Notes for the Sale of the \$82,049.00 Bond Anticipation Note (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 3 to 0.

CFO Ed Kazanovicz explained the sale of the \$82,049.00 Bond Anticipation Note and the resulting interest rate. The Town Manager advised that this note provides short term funding for the LED Street Light Replacement Program approved by Town Meeting until the Town receives a credit for an incentive grant package relating to the overall program. The note could not be included in the recent bond issue because the funds received through the incentive program will be used to pay down the notes.

Selectmen Lionel Berthiaume made a motion that the sale of the \$82,049.00 Bond Anticipation Note, dated March 15, 2019 (the “Note”), to Hometown Bank, at the price of \$82,049.00 is hereby approved and confirmed. The Note shall be payable on June 14, 2019, and shall bear interest at the rate of 2.29%. Selectmen Daniel Carpenter seconded the motion and the Board voted in favor 3 to 0.

Proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendments for the Drury Square Village District for the May 7, 2019 Annual Town Meeting – Vote on transmitting the proposed amendments to the Planning Board for the required public hearings in accordance with MGL Chapter 40A §. Town Planner Adam Menard submitted the proposed Drury Square Village District zoning bylaw.

The Board of Selectmen voted to transmit the proposed zoning bylaw amendments to the Planning Board for the required public hearings in accordance with MGL Chapter 40A, §5 (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendment for the Tiny House for the May 7, 2019 Annual Town Meeting – Vote on transmitting the proposed amendment to the Planning Board for the required public hearings in accordance with MGL Chapter 40A §5. Town Planner Adam Menard explained the proposed Tiny House bylaw amendment sponsored by the Planning Board.

The Board of Selectmen voted to transmit the proposed zoning bylaw amendments to the Planning Board for the required public hearings in accordance with MGL Chapter 40A, §5 (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Citizens Petition for Proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendment for the Tiny House for the May 7, 2019 Annual Town Meeting – Vote on transmitting the proposed amendment to the Planning Board for the required public hearings in accordance with MGL Chapter 40A §5.

The Board of Selectmen voted to transmit the proposed amendment to the Planning Board for the required public hearings in accordance with MGL Chapter 40A§ (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 3 to 0.

The Board voted to move forward agenda item 6a) Vote on SAFER Grant Application (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Fire Chief Stephen Coleman was in attendance. He advised the Board that he had met with the Finance Committee and the Committee voted unanimously to support filing the SAFER Grant Application. Chief Coleman said that he would return to the Board for additional discussion if the department was awarded the grant funds.

The Board of Selectmen then voted to authorize filing the SAFER Grant Application and acceptance of grant funds (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Drainlayer License – WW Contracting Corp. of Upton, MA.

The Board reviewed the application documents and recommendation from the Sewer Commission. The Board of Selectmen voted to approve the Drainlayer License as submitted (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Gift Acceptances in Accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 53A

The Board voted on the following gift acceptances:

- To the Fire/Rescue Department from Laurence G. Fitts in the amount of \$200.00 for the Fire Department Gift Account. Mr. Carpenter made a motion to approve with gratitude. Mr. Berthiaume seconded the motion and the Board voted in favor 3 to 0.
- To the DPW Highway Division from Home Depot of Auburn, a gift of an electric range and microwave (approximate market value \$900.00) for the Highway break room. Mr. Carpenter made a motion to approve the gift with a letter signed by the Chairman. Mr. Berthiaume seconded the motion and the Board voted in favor 3 to 0.

Proclamations/Recognitions

There were no items.

Town Manager Items

Vote on Revised Draft of Proposed Debt Management Policy per Recommendation of Chief Financial Officer

CFO Kazanovicz discussed corrections to the Proposed Debt Management Policy and the Overall Financial Management Policies.

The Board of Selectmen voted to accept the amended draft Town of Auburn Debt Management Policy (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 3 to 0.

The Board voted to amend the Capital Budget portion of the existing Overall Financial Management Policies to include the language as the Board discussed (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Vote to Authorize Filing and Acceptance of 2018 SHSP/CCP (Citizens Corp Program) Grant Application for \$3,500.00. The Town Manager explained the grant application to the State Homeland Security Program. She said that it is a competitive grant through FEMA/MEMA for which the Town applies each year. The maximum amount is \$3,500.00 and, if awarded, funds various items for CERT such as equipment, training and supplies. This year CERT wants to apply

any awarded funds for portable first aid kits, headlamps, batteries and safety wand light diffusers for each of their 30 members.

The Board of Selectmen voted to authorize filing the grant application and acceptance of funds (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Tabled Items

There were no items.

Board of Selectmen Member Items

There were no items

Public Comments

There were no additional public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) voted in favor 3 to 0.

Submitted: Sharon A. Kwiatkowski
Adm. Assistant to the Town Manager

The following documents were part of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of March 11, 2019 and are retained in the Executive Office of the Town Manager:

- March 11, 2019 Agenda
- Petition by National Grid to Locate Poles, Wires, and Fixtures, including Necessary Sustaining and Protecting Fixtures, on Homestead Avenue
- Application Documents – Seasonal Open Air License on Town Property – Troop 53 Auburn for Flower Sale on Mother's Day Weekend 2019 at the Auburn Fire Station, 47 Auburn Street; Recommendation by Fire Chief via Email
- Application Documents – One Day Outdoor Entertainment License - Faith Church for Easter Egg Hunt at Lemansky Park Auburn, MA on April 14, 2019: Recommendations by Development Coordinating Group (DCG) on February 20, 2019
- Required Board Vote for \$82,049.00 Bond Anticipation Note for LED Street Light Replacement Program
- Letter from Town Planner Adam Menard and Proposed Drury Square Village District Zoning Bylaw Requesting Board of Selectmen Vote to Transmit to Planning Board for Public Hearing in Accordance with MGL Chapter 40A §5
- Letter from Town Planner Adam Menard and Draft Tiny Homes Zoning Bylaw Requesting Board of Selectmen Vote to Transmit to Planning Board for Public Hearing in Accordance with MGL Chapter 40A §5
- Citizens Petition for Tiny Homes Zoning Bylaw
- Drainlayer License Application Documents – WW Contracting Corp. of Upton, MA.
- Proposed Corrections to Debt Management Policy and Overall Financial Management Policies (Capital Budget Section)