



**Chesterfield Select Board Minutes
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.
Town Office Building - 422 Main Road**

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by Mr. Fuller.

Select Board Members Participating via ZOOM: Roger Fuller, Trish Colson-Montgomery & Don Willard

Select Board Members Absent:

Town Administrator Present: Brenda Lessard

Town Officials Present via ZOOM: Justin West, MLP Manager & Jack Henry, Assistant MLP Manager

General Public Present Via ZOOM:

Recorder of Minutes: Brenda Lessard

This meeting was held via ZOOM Platform

Meeting with MLP Managers:

The Select Board asked to meet with the MLP Managers via ZOOM after a memo was received from the MLP managers in response to a question that was posed to them regarding some software purchases.

At the Select Board meeting held on February 14, 2022, the Select Board had a question about an invoice that was submitted by the MLP managers regarding a software purchase. An email was sent to Justin West, MLP Manager inquiring what the software was used for and what other software that had been previously purchased was being used for. Mr. West sent an email stating he would be contacting the MLP attorney about the request and he would get back to the Board. Several days later Mr. West sent a memo to which the Select Board wished to meet with the MLP Managers to discuss.

Mr. Fuller opined that under M.G.L. Chapter 164 §56, the Select Board has the authority to question any warrant that comes before them, inspect the invoices and request an explanation before they sign off on payment of that warrant.

Mr. West stated in the memo that non-tax funds are used in their budget and the situation is different than normal warrant submittals. Mr. West stated the Select Board can only question an expense but has to put it in writing if they are in the opinion the MLP has overstepped their authority or were spending excessively. Mr. West noted that the MLP has the judgement of purchases and in effect that is what the MLP attorney wrote in the memo. Mr. West also opined the MLP Board oversees the MLP managers. He also opined the MLP Board could set policies but cannot say what the managers may or may not purchase.

Mr. Fuller stated the Select Board are not questioning the MLP manager's judgement. The Select Board are only inquiring what the software was and what is the purpose. They had noted that several software programs had been purchased over the last several months.

Mr. West noted that the software purchase for AirTable, which was the software that was questioned by the Select Board at the February 14th meeting, was a task management program that helps the managers accomplish any and all tasks. It will let the managers know when bills are due, when emails are answered and what tasks need to be completed.

Ms. Colson-Montgomery does not agree with the interpretation that the Select Board do not have the right to question any purchase by the MLP. She noted there should be collaboration and transparency in a small town. The Select Board has to sign off on any of the "bills" the Town pays.

Mr. West stated he would draft a list of the software they have and what the software is used for. That way if any Town Board or Committee would like to use the software, that could be arranged.

Mr. Fuller opined that the list is all they had asked for. The Select Board will ask the Town Attorney for their interpretation of the Select Board's authority regarding the MLP warrants.

Personnel Policy:

The Select Board had met with Don Jacobs on February 3, 2022. The Select Board reviewed more changes that needed to be discussed. There were several amendments and deletions made to the personnel policy after some brief discussion. Ms. Colson-Montgomery will incorporate those amendments into the final policy before approval by the Select Board of the final policy.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.