



**Chesterfield Select Board Minutes
Monday, September 25, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
Town Office Building - 422 Main Road**

Mr. Fuller called the Select Board meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

Select Board Members Present: Roger Fuller, Trish Colson-Montgomery and Don Willard III

Select Board Members Participating Remotely:

Town Administrator Present via ZOOM: Brenda Lessard

Public Officials Present: Joe Gazillo, MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) Executive Committee

Public Officials Present via ZOOM:

General Public Present: Dave Christopolis and Marjorie Liscombe, Hilltown Community Development Corp. (HCDC)

General Public Present via ZOOM:

Recorder of Minutes: Brenda Lessard

On March 29, 2023, Governor Healey signed into law a supplemental budget bill, which, among other things, extends the temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2025. Specifically, this further extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings. The language does not make any substantive changes to the Open Meeting Law other than extending the expiration date of the temporary provisions regarding remote meetings from March 31, 2023 to March 31, 2025.

This meeting was conducted with ZOOM access for the public.

3:15 P.M.: Dave Christopolis and Marjorie Liscombe, HCDC re: Loan Forgiveness:

Mr. Christopolis requested to attend the meeting to discuss a subordination of a loan with a loan forgiveness for a property in Chesterfield. Mr. Christopolis was contacted by a lawyer in Springfield representing the potential buyer. They were discussing with the HCDC the loan due on the housing rehab loan. The property was reported to have been through a foreclosure. The new buyer was willing to pay the housing rehab loan off but the DHCD (Department of Housing and Community Development) told the HCDC that it may not be legal to collect the money from the new buyer. They suggested the forgiveness of the loan. Mr. Fuller opined that it would be a loss of program income. The Select Board opined that if the new buyer is willing to pay off the loan, they do not comprehend why the DHCD said that was not advisable. Mr. Fuller noted the offer was given, not forced. After some discussion, there were more questions than answers. The Select Board would like more information. Mr. Christopolis will come in to the next meeting with more information. Mr. Christopolis may contact their attorney to discuss the issue.

Additions to the Agenda:

Joe Gazillo, MVP Executive Committee:

Mr. Gazillo came in to report that there was a typographical error in an email address in the RFP (Request for Proposals) for the MVP 2.0 Grant Vendor. The PVPC (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission) had tried to submit a proposal which bounced back. They were able to submit on Monday, September 25 but it was late as the proposals were due on September 22. It was suggested that the typo be corrected and the RFP be sent to the four companies who had expressed interest and reposted with an addendum on the Town website extending the new due date to Thursday, October 5. The PVPC will also be notified to resubmit the proposal they had tried to send.

Ms Colson-Montgomery reported that the MVP Executive Committee has spoken with Ken Comia from PVPC (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission) regarding the DLTA Grant in the amount of \$7,500 that was awarded to Chesterfield. The MVP Executive Committee hopes to use that money to produce a video of the conditions of Town Offices and the Fire Department for the public. They are also working on a mission statement for the committee.

Complaint Sent to Mr. Willard's Select Board email:

Mr. Willard reported that he had received a complaint against New Hingham on his Select Board email account. The complaint was about the morning routine and the children gathering in the gym. The complaint involved a public health concern with the children gathering so close in the gym. The complaint also expressed concern about hand washing and unnecessary dirt on the gym floor. It was decided to not act on the complaint which was under the purview of the school committee.

Public Safety Building Committee Meeting:

Mr. Willard reported he had attended the Public Safety Building Committee meeting. The next meeting is being planned. The Select Board expressed their opinion that all members should be in attendance, not just some.

Complaint about Spraying:

A complaint was made about the Highway Department spraying the knotweed. Mr. Willard opined there should be a written policy with a five year plan in place for the town. Mr. Fuller will follow-up with Matt Smith, Highway Superintendent.

Fall Tree Removal Bids:

Ms Lessard reported that the Tree Warden had requested a fall tree removal bid

Highway Surplus Items:

Matt Smith, Highway Superintendent has provided a list of surplus items at the Highway Garage. These items are a John Deere 425 Tractor with attachments (51" broom, 47" snowblower, and plow blade), a Stihl BR 350 leaf blower, a FS 131 R weed trimmer, a truck bed tool box and three old plows. Ms Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard and unanimously voted to declare the listed items surplus. They will be listed on Municibid.

Minutes:

Ms Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard and unanimously voted, to approve the Minutes of August 28, 2023 as amended.

Warrants:

The Select Board reviewed and signed the W24-07 and WP24-07.

Reports:

Edwards Museum Updates:

Mr. Fuller reported that an invoice came in for payment for half of the contracted amount for painting the building. He has approved the invoice. The shutters and lattice for the porch still need to be done.

Hilltown Junior Olympics:

Mr. Willard reported that the Olympics day went well. There were five children that were not from the participating towns that attended. They were assigned to a team to participate. Plainfield/Cummington came in first, Goshen came in second and Chesterfield came in third. Mr. Willard summarized that the day was a success.

Town Administrator Report:

Tables for Town Hall:

The six folding tables have been delivered to the Town Office. Mr. Willard has offered to move them to the Town Hall.

Police Department Room:

Martin's Flooring gave a revised quote to install the floor once a carpenter levels the floor up. Ms. Lessard has reached out to Dennis Pittsinger, who declined. Ms Lessard also contacted Matt Wainscott and Ridaway Home Improvement in Goshen. She has not heard back from either of them yet. The electrical work also needs to be started. The Select Board and the Police Department would like to move the project along.

Website Annual Support:

Ms Lessard received an email stating our annual support will be going up. She will reach out to the account manager to discuss this increase as the Town has only \$2,400 budgeted in that line. The increase is a 10% increase. Mr. Fuller will be on the phone call with CivicPlus.

Entre:

Ms Lessard received a quote from Entre to renew the six SonicWALL annual security services. Ms Lessard spoke with John Drake from Entre to see if there are any other recurring annual costs. This cost was not budgeted to be voted at Town Meeting. A meeting will be set up to discuss this charge with Mr. Drake. The annual security renewal cost is \$4,385.52

Locks at COA:

Ms Lessard spoke with Florence Lock and Key. They asked for some pictures of the locks at the Council on Aging building and may need to schedule a visit to look at the locks.

HCDC Audit Contributions:

Ms Lessard spoke with Denise LeDuc about the contributions. She explained that the amount they contribute is based on a certain percentage of the grant. The state decreased the amount of administrative reporting they can provide in the grants but increased the amount of administrative reporting that is required from the HCDC. They are hoping to rally their colleagues across the state to lobby with them to get the state to approve an increase in the administrative costs allowed in the grants to pre-2016 levels. The Select Board is hoping to see more of a contribution to the cost of the audits.

Board of Health Community Compact Grant:

The Board of Health applied for a Community Compact Best Practices grant to construct a Reuse shed at the Transfer Station.

Library Chimney:

J Mals Chimney started the repointing and repair of the Library Chimney on Wednesday, September 20 and finished the work on September 22.

Action Items:

Mount Cemetery Land Donation:

Ms Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard and unanimously voted to accept the land donation for the Town to increase the land with the Mount Cemetery, subject to Town Meeting approval. Bob and Inge Osborne from Mount Road are donating 1.19 acres to the Town to enlarge the cemetery. The Select Board is very appreciative of the donation. Mr. Holmberg drew up the plan which will go to the next Town Meeting to ask for approval by the Town to accept the gift.

Adjourn:

Ms Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. The Select Board will be meeting on Wednesday, October 11 at 3 p.m. One of the Select Board members will come in early in the week to sign the warrants.