

Select Board
April 29, 2024
Meeting Minutes



Public present: C. DeFalco, T. Cofske, P. Adams
Members present: M. Kelly, G. Adams, A. Bercovici, P. Vandal

Chair M. Kelly called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. M. Kelly announced that the meeting is being recorded.

New Business

Approve Action Ambulance Service Proposal for Medical Standby Services (2024 Antique Shows First Aid Tent) at the Rate of \$100 Hourly

MOTION: G. Adams, to accept the contract for Action Ambulance service proposal for 2024 Antique Shows First Aid Tent (May 14-19, July 9-14, September 3-8) located at Francesco's parking area.

SECOND: A. Bercovici

VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR

ABSTAIN: M. Kelly

Discussion of Facilities Maintenance Account for FY2025

M. Kelly said the Facilities Maintenance account was normally set at \$50,000. T. Cofske said every year there is an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to appropriate \$50,000 into that account but over the course of the last year there had been changes in the use of the account. The Facilities Maintenance account is now charged for the Certified Water Operator and Pest Management Control for both the Public Safety Complex and the Town Hall Annex. In the last appropriation report, on March 31st, \$55,476 had already been expended from the account, and \$5-10,000 more could be expected before the end of the fiscal year. M. Kelly said he had suggested making the appropriation \$150,000 and wanted the item on the agenda for the Board to discuss and decide. T. Cofske added that there is also some additional maintenance that may need to be done. A. Bercovici suggested raising the appropriation to \$65,000, and letting any excess flow back into the General Fund. M. Kelly said the \$150,000 would be able to include some of the things that needed to be done to the Town Hall and added that it could be amended down at Annual Town Meeting. M. Kelly also suggested discussing the matter with the Finance Committee. G. Adams said that even if the funds were approved on May 8th at the Special Town Meeting for the municipal offices project, there are still structural issues that need to be addressed, particularly the roof.

P. Vandal asked if anything was going to be done with the windows on the Town Hall and if the meetings were going to be held at the Elementary School going forward. M. Kelly said a lot of what happens depends on if the Town decides to go forward with the municipal offices project on May 8th. M. Kelly

added that the Elementary School had been booked through the end of the year, just in case, and a price for the windows had been obtained, although a quote for the installation had not yet been. M. Kelly said there is a company listed on the state contract that they can hire without having to go out to bid. P. Vandal said it would still have to go out to bid. T. Cofske said it would depend on the threshold. T. Cofske added that if it was just for services it would probably not be procurement but it may be because it includes construction.

P. Vandal added that it takes two to three weeks to get the Select Board meetings posted on Public Access every time they hold a meeting at the Elementary School. P. Vandal asked if there was anything the Board could write in to ensure the videos would be posted in three to five days. T. Cofske said she did not believe there was the equipment to do it much quicker than it was currently being done. M. Kelly said the Board could not get into the matter because it was not on the agenda. G. Adams asked for the matter to be added to the next agenda.

MOTION: G. Adams, to raise the Facilities Maintenance account for FY2025 to \$150,000.

SECOND: A. Bercovici

VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR

Discussion of Presenting the Town Flag at the Annual Town Meeting

The Board discussed the presentation of the Town Flag at Annual Town Meeting. M. Kelly said there were two flags made, one went to the designer while the Historical Commission wanted to present the other one at Annual Town Meeting. T. Cofske said the Historical Commission wanted to present the flag to the artist at Annual Town Meeting. M. Kelly asked if the flag was going to be presented to the Board and T. Cofske replied the Historical Commission would probably do that as well. M. Kelly said the Board was okay with it but it would ultimately be up to the Moderator. G. Adams asked if this was the same flag as the one flying in the State House. M. Kelly said it was. M. Kelly added that the Board will have to make sure the artist is notified.

Old Business

Set Location and Time for 2024 Annual Town Meeting to be Held June 10, 2024

The Board continued its discussion of the location for Annual Town Meeting from the previous meeting. M. Kelly said A. Soto conducted the straw poll but was not present. T. Cofske said she was not sure a straw poll was actually conducted. T. Cofske went on to say that the poll would have only had three days online and a large number of people who attend are not online. T. Cofske recommended to the Board that they choose a location for the 2024 Annual Town Meeting and then use the clicker system at Annual Town Meeting to take a survey for a location going forward. P. Vandal agreed. P. Vandal added that he spoke to the Building Inspector and with everything set up for Annual Town Meeting, the capacity would be 206 people, or around 300 with standing. P. Vandal mentioned that the Fire Chief

agreed with the Building Inspector's numbers. P. Vandal asked if the Board had numbers for attendance in previous years. M. Kelly said in recent years it was around 250.

A. Bercovici said he assumed no one wanted Tantasqua. M. Kelly and P. Vandal both said no. A. Bercovici said that being indoors had the advantage of not having to worry about bugs, temperature, or rain and concluded that he had no problem with using the Elementary School. P. Vandal said the New England Motel was nice to offer but he did not believe they had as much parking. M. Kelly said the New England Motel had a lot of parking in the back. M. Kelly added that the advantage of the New England Motel was that its bathrooms were only 20 feet from the pavillion and that it was lighted. T. Cofske asked if the stage would be used for Finance Committee, Select Board, the Moderator, and the Town Clerk. M. Kelly said probably. G. Adams said he was in favor of the Elementary School and suggested picking up the tables and just laying chairs out. G. Adams added that the Board could test out that layout with the Special Town Meeting. P. Vandal asked if there were enough chairs. T. Cofske said the Elementary School had 150 chairs but Tantasqua had additional chairs. G. Adams said he believed the majority of people would prefer to be indoors. A. Bercovici said it was admirable that the other locations offered to donate their time and space.

MOTION: A. Bercovici, to have the 2024 Annual Town Meeting at the Brimfield Elementary School at 6:00 P.M.

SECOND: P. Vandal

VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: G. Adams, to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: A. Bercovici

VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR

The meeting adjourned at 5:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Christopher DeFalco



Martin J. Kelly, Chairperson

MEETING MATERIALS:

- Posting Updated 4-29-24
- Action Ambulance Service Proposal