

**Board:** Select Board / Water Commissioner's Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, April 26, 2021  
**Location:** Online Video/Audio Conference Pursuant to Governor Baker's Executive Order in Response to the COVID-19 State of Emergency

**Select Board Present:** Jacob Smith, William Bembury  
**Also, Present:** Bryan Smith, Glenn McCrory, Peter Sanders, Robert Holst, Joseph Popielarczyk, Mariah Kurtz, Michael Gordon, Philip Wonkka, Scott Bastarache  
**Press:** Kathleen Nolan, Montague Reporter

At 6:33 PM **Chairman Smith** called the meeting to order.

**Chairman Smith** explained that the meeting is being recorded and provided an overview of the functions of the video/audio conferencing platform.

#### **Executive Session**

At 6:34 PM **Chairman Smith** made a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining ...if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining ... position of the public body and the chair so declares (New England Police Benevolent Association). **Selectman Bembury** seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

<b>Chairman Smith</b>	Aye
<b>Selectman Bembury</b>	Aye

At 6:57 PM the Select Board resumed regular session.

#### **Police Dept. Policy- 1.01 Use of Force by Sworn Personnel- 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**

Robert Holst, Chief of Police, joined the Select Board to review the revised Police Department policies. The Select Board conducted the third reading of Police Department Policy 1.01- Use of Force by Sworn Personnel. The Select Board members discussed having no concerns with the policy as presented. **Chairman Smith** made a motion to adopt the Police Department Policy 1.01- Use of Force by Sworn Personnel with an effective date of April 26, 2021. **Selectman Bembury** seconded. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

#### **Police Dept Policy- 4.10 Bias- Free Professional Policing Policy- 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**

The Select Board conducted the third reading of Police Department Policy 4.10- Bias-Free Professional Policing Policy. The Select Board members discussed having no concerns with the policy as presented. **Chairman Smith** made a motion to adopt Police Department Policy 4.10- Bias-Free Professional Policing Policy with an effective date of April 26, 2021. **Selectman Bembury** seconded. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

#### **Discussion Regarding Vacant Police Sergeant Position**

The Select Board members reviewed the revised position description for Police Sergeant. **Chairman Smith** explained that the amended position description reflects revisions requested by the then Police Sergeant and agreed to by the Town on May 05, 2020. The Select Board members discussed support for the revised position description. **Chairman Smith** made a motion to adopt the Police Sergeant position description as amended on May 05, 2020. **Selectman Bembury** seconded. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

Chief Holst submitted a recommendation to promote Officer Adam Paicos to the position of Sergeant, with a recommended starting rate of Grade P3, Step 3. The Select Board members discussed support for the recommendation from Chief Holst and the appointment of Officer Paicos to the position of Sergeant. **Selectman Bembury** made a motion to appoint, at will, Adam Paicos to the position of Sergeant, at Grade P3, Step 3, by May 24, 2021, with a 90-day probation, conditional upon successful completion of health examinations. **Chairman Smith** seconded. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

#### **Vacant Patrol Officer Position**

The Select Board members discussed the vacancy in the position of Patrol Officer that is created by the appointment of Officer Paicos to the position of Sergeant. **Chairman Smith** explained that the recent Patrol Officer Screening Committee identified finalists for consideration by the Select Board and suggested that the Select Board could reach out to the identified finalists to see if they are still available. Chief Holst confirmed this understanding and expressed support for this approach. **Chairman Smith** and **Selectman Bembury** both discussed support for proceeding. **Selectman Bembury** discussed his experience with the finalists having served on the previous Screening Committee. The Select Board agreed to revisit this topic on May 03, 2021.

#### **Review of Arch Street Force Sewer Main Replacement Project Procurement Bids**

Peter Sanders, Wastewater & Water Superintendent, and Joseph Popielarczyk, Project Manager with Tighe & Bond, joined the Select Board to review the procurement for the Arch Street Force Sewer Main Replacement project. Joseph explained that as of the deadline, the Town received four (4) bids, as follows:

<b>Contractor</b>		<b>Total Amount of Base Bid</b>	<b>Total Amount with Bid Alternate 1</b>
Aqua Line Utility, Inc.		\$1,168,140.00	\$1,205,940.00
Revoli Construction Co., Inc.		\$1,638,896.80	\$1,718,896.80
Ludlow Construction Co., Inc.		\$1,910,150.00	\$2,035,150.00
Baltazar Contractors Inc.		\$2,190,400.00	\$2,275,400.00
Tighe & Bond's Opinion of Probable Cost <sup>1</sup>	Construction	\$1,208,200.00 <sup>1</sup>	\$1,258,200.00 <sup>1</sup>

Joseph explained that the lowest bid was from Aqua Line Utility, Inc. with a base bid of \$1,168,140.00 and a base bid and alternate 1 of \$1,205,940.00. Joseph explained that Tighe & Bond has worked with Aqua Line Utility, Inc. previously and that the experience was positive. Joseph explained that he has spoken with references, provided by Aqua Line Utility, and that as a result there are no concerns with responsibility of the vendor. Joseph explained that Tighe & Bond recommends awarding the procurement to Aqua Line Utility, Inc. for the base bid and alternate 1. Peter explained that he has no concerns with the recommendation. Bryan explained that the bid amount is within the funding that is available as allowed by the borrowing authority. **Chairman Smith** asked about the significant difference between the lowest and highest bids. Joseph explained that the procurement occurred later in the construction season when most horizontal work has been secured. Joseph discussed some of the bidding factors that may contribute to a greater spread between bid amounts. Joseph explained that Tighe & Bond has reviewed the bid amounts and that there are no concerns in the amounts carried throughout the bid. The Select Board members discussed having no further questions and agreed to award with the base bid and alternate 1. **Selectman Bembury** made a motion to award the Arch Street sewer force main replacement project to Aqua Line Utility, Inc., the total amount of the base bid is \$1,168,140 and the total amount with

base bid and alternate 1 is \$1,205,940. **Chairman Smith** seconded. **Discussion:** **Chairman Smith** clarified that the Select Board would be awarding base bid and alternate 1. **Selectman Bembury** expressed agreement. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

**Selectman Bembury** made a motion to authorize Bryan Smith, Town Administrator, to act as signatory on the contract. **Chairman Smith** seconded. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

**Chairman Smith** asked for an explanation of the anticipated construction timeline. Peter explained that the construction would begin in late summer. Joseph explained that if construction can begin in July, final work is expected to be completed by the end of Calendar Year 2021.

#### **Route 2 Force Sewer Line Repair Project**

**Chairman Smith** asked for a status update on the repair project for the Route 2 force sewer main. Peter explained that the repair project is complete, noting that the line was operational as of April 23, 2021. Peter explained that heat traces have been installed to prevent future freezing of the line and that the pumps are running. **Chairman Smith** asked Peter to provide the Select Board with a summary memo on the project.

#### **Discussion Regarding Town Response to COVID-19**

**Chairman Smith** provided an update regarding COVID-19, noting no significant changes recently. **Chairman Smith** discussed exploring the relaxation of some of the mask mandates in private workspaces when employees are working alone. **Chairman Smith** noted that the State mandate is still in place but that changes may be coming in the near future. **Selectman Bembury** discussed waiting until May 03, 2021 if changes are forth coming. Philip Wonkka, Fire Chief & Emergency Management Director, joined to discuss updates on vaccination efforts in Franklin County. Chief Wonkka explained that the Greenfield clinic at the Jon Zon Community Center is closing and a new drive through vaccination site at Greenfield Community College is launching. An estimated 70% of Franklin County residents have received a 1<sup>st</sup> dose of the vaccine. Chief Wonkka noted that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is allowed for use again. **Chairman Smith** thanked Chief Wonkka, Director Paula Betters, and partners from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and Greenfield for the team effort.

#### **Library Construction Project Update & Review of Change Order Requests**

**Chairman Smith** asked for an update on the solar array generation. Bryan explained that the April Eversource invoice includes generation but does not explain the previous months. Bryan explained that the Town's liaison at Eversource is working with Natane Halasz, Library Director, to review the matter. Glenn McCrory, Highway Superintendent, joined the Select Board to discuss repairs that are planned for the main entrance threshold, working on door hardware, and the lawn has been reseeded and irrigation is being setup this week. Glenn explained that Care Drive has a lower water pressure so the system will be using a hydrant and pump system to improve the pressure and irrigation attempt.

#### **Review of Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2021**

The Select Board passed over this agenda item.

#### **Review of Meeting Minutes for January 25, 2021**

The Select Board passed over this agenda item.

#### **Review of Meeting Minutes for February 08, 2021**

The Select Board passed over this agenda item.

**Review of Meeting Minutes for March 01, 2021**

The Select Board passed over this agenda item.

**Review of Meeting Minutes for March 08, 2021**

The Select Board passed over this agenda item.

**Review of Meeting Minutes for April 12, 2021**

The Select Board members reviewed the meeting minutes for Monday, April 12, 2021. **Selectman Bembury** made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of April 12, 2021, as presented. **Chairman Smith** seconded. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

**Conservation Commission Resignation- Elizabeth Bazler**

**Chairman Smith** explained that the Select Board is in receipt of a letter of resignation from Elizabeth "Beth" Bazler as a member of the Conservation Commission. **Chairman Smith** expressed appreciation to Beth for her years of service to the Town and an invitation to return in the future if the opportunity is of interest. Bryan will advertise the vacancy on the Commission and invite letters of interest.

**River, Warner & Strachan Street Project Update & Change Orders**

Glenn joined the Select Board to discuss the roadway improvement project for River, Warner and Strachan streets. Glenn explained that a survey crew has been to the site after the corrective action plan had been approved. Glenn explained that final markings will be applied this week, that the Sub-contractor will have exact measurements and that the General Contractor will need to adjust structure heights. Glenn explained that he is expecting a few days of work in the field.

**Review of Erving Voting Precincts**

The Select Board reviewed the draft description of a single voting precinct for the voters of Erving. The draft description was accompanied with a recommendation for the Select Board to vote and maintain a single voting precinct for the Town. **Chairman Smith** explained that the Town Clerk has recommended remaining a single precinct and the recommended vote and draft description maintains what voters currently know. **Chairman Smith** made a motion for the Town of Erving to remain one (1) voting precinct. **Selectman Bembury** seconded. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

**Chairman Smith** made a motion for Precinct 1 to be described within the Town boundaries. **Selectman Bembury** seconded. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

**Review of Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Contract**

Chief Wonkka rejoined The Select Board to review a grant award notification from the Fiscal Year 2021 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program. Chief Wonkka explained that the Fire Department was awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,900 from the Department of Fire Services to purchase ten (10) thermal imagers. Chief Wonkka explained that the grant will allow the Department to augment existing equipment with new technology, adding that the grant is a reimbursement grant but that no matching funds are required. **Selectman Bembury** asked about useful life of the equipment. Chief Wonkka explained that while the proposed equipment is electronic the Department is still using imagers from 1999. The Select Board members discussed support for accepting the grant award. **Chairman Smith** made a motion to accept the Firefighter Safety grant and to authorize Chief Wonkka as the signatory on the contract. **Selectman Bembury** seconded. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

### **Review of French King Bridge Barrier Project Support Letter**

**Chairman Smith** provided an overview of the status of the proposed French King Bridge barrier project and the recommendation from Senator Comerford for the towns of Erving and Gill to submit a letter of support for the proposed project to Governor Baker's attention. The Select Board members reviewed a draft letter of support. Mariah Kurtz, Assistant Town Planner, joined the meeting and explained the recent update to the report that the Town maintains to demonstrate the demand on public safety responders each time an event occurs at the Bridge. Mariah noted that to date there have been nine (9) calls for service in Calendar Year 2021. Chief Wonkka suggested copying the letter of support to Congressman McGovern as well. The Select Board members agreed to issue the letter of support as amended. **Chairman Smith** discussed the work that the Police Department has done with the Town of Gill to work on the camera equipment that helps to monitor events at the Bridge.

### **Adjournment**

At 7:54 PM **Chairman Smith** made a motion to adjourn. **Selectman Bembury** seconded. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bryan Smith  
Town Administrator