

Erving Board of Selectmen

Monday, October 23, 2017

Town Hall, Erving, MA

Selectmen Present: Jacob Smith, William Bembury, Scott Bastarache

School Committee: Erik Semb

Energy Committee: Charles Zilinski

Also Present: Bryan Smith, Jenn Eichorn

Press: Mark Hudyma, Montague Reporter; Christine Miranda, Athol Daily News

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

Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2017

The Board passed over the meeting minutes of Monday, October 16, 2017. The Board will review on October 30, 2017.

Erving Center Traffic Safety Update

There is no new update for this week.

Erving Industries 3rd Party Wastewater Agreement

Bryan Smith, Administrative Coordinator, explained to the Board that he spoke with Morris Housen, Erving Industries, on Friday, October 20, 2017. Verbally, Morris seemed comfortable with the final amendments and stated that he needed to discuss with his staff and would notify the Selectmen's Office today. So far notice has not been received. The Board discussed being comfortable with the current draft of the agreement and if Erving Industries agrees to the current draft, they asked Bryan to have the agreement executed. The Board will plan to revisit on Monday, October 30, 2017.

Miscellaneous Business

Surplus Equipment request from Fire Department

The Board reviewed a request from Chief Wonkka to deem outdated turnout gear as surplus for disposal. NFPA 1851 Standard requires turnout gear to be retired when the garment is beyond repair or 10 years from the date of manufacture. The Chief is requesting authority to dispose of outdated turnout gear when it comes due. **Selectman Bastarache** asked that the Fire Department reach out to other departments before discarding to see if the gear could be used for training purposes. **Selectman Bembury** asked that the Board of Selectmen continue to be notified of surplus equipment, noting that the Fire Chief should keep record of all turnout gear that is disposed of. **Selectman Bastarache** made a motion to approve Chief Wonkka's request to deem surplus turnout gear that is outdated by NFPA 1851 Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting and allow the Chief to surplus turnout gear as long as the Board is continually notified. **Selectman Bembury** seconded. Passed. **Chairman Smith** abstained.

The Board reviewed a request from Chief Wonkka to deem donated exercise equipment as surplus for disposal. Chief Wonkka stated that the equipment was gifted to the Town by a private school. The equipment is not used and is occupying space in the training room. **Selectman Bastarache** made a motion to approve the surplus equipment request of exercise equipment at Fire Station 2. **Selectman Bembury** seconded. Passed. **Chairman Smith** abstained.

Chapter 41 Section 11- Appointment to Committee Vacancy- Joint Meeting w/ School Committee

At 6:45 PM **Chairman Smith** called to order the joint meeting of the Board and the School Committee to order. Erik Semb, School Committee Chair, and Jennifer Eichorn joined the Board. The Board reviewed the letter of interest submitted by Jennifer Eichorn.

Chairman Smith made a motion to appoint Jennifer Eichorn to the vacant School Committee member position through the 2018 election. **Selectman Bastarache** seconded. In accordance with MGL Chapter 41 Section 11 a roll call vote was taken:

Chairman Smith	Aye
Selectman Bembury	Aye
Selectman Bastarache	Aye
School Committee Chairman Semb	Aye

At 6:48 PM the joint meeting ended.

Cell Phone Request for Fire Department

Chief Wonka has submitted a request for Full-time Firefighters to be authorized for a Town provided cell phone. **Selectman Bastarache** made a motion to approve the Chief's request for the position of Full-time Firefighter be added to the list of approved cell phone holders. **Selectman Bembury** seconded. Passed. **Chairman Smith** abstained.

FY2018 Water Commitment #6

The Board reviewed the 6th water commitment for FY2018 in the amount of \$31,691.69. **Chairman Smith** made a motion to sign the 6th water commitment for FY2018 in the amount of \$31,691.69 for the individual accounts listed. **Selectman Bastarache** seconded. Unanimously approved.

Employee Performance Planning

Selectman Bastarache explained to the Board that he has reviewed the employee performance appraisal process used with his employer and has sent the Administrative Coordinator a copy for future consideration. Selectman Bastarache explained that the Board may want to consider a revision of the new format for the supervisor to give a more detailed response to each area of review for the direct report. **Selectman Bembury** stated his preference for a condensed response, but that he would want to review feedback that is received as the process is utilized.

10 West Main Street

The Board asked Bryan Smith, Administrative Coordinator, if there was an update regarding 10 West Main Street. Bryan explained that he had spoken with the real estate agent representing the property and inquired about the well. It was explained that the well is an older well and the well head is below grade so it will have to be located. Information about the well was not readily available. A message has been sent to the Recreation Commission to ask them to discuss this topic at their next meeting. The Board would like to know if a grandfathered residential well can be used for commercial purposes, what permitting and testing would be required, and what the associated costs would be. Additionally, could the well be used as a public water supply?

Selectman Bastarache discussed the option for the Town to purchase the property while evaluating options with the knowledge that the Town can sell the parcel in the future if it doesn't make sense for the town to retain possession. **Chairman Smith** agreed that the Town could purchase the property and then conduct research, but stated his preference for identifying the purpose of the property before asking the citizens to support the purchase of the property at Town Meeting. Selectman Bembury asked that the Town convey interest in the property to the sellers while the Town investigates the questions.

Discussion of Power Options Provided By Hampshire Council of Governments- Joint Meeting w/ Energy Committee

At 7:08 PM **Chairman Smith** called the joint meeting of the Board and the Energy Committee to order.

Chairman Smith opened the meeting by clarifying that the purpose of the meeting is for the Town to learn about options available from Hampshire Council of Governments that the Board and the Energy Erving Board of Selectmen

Committee could consider. Zach Holt, Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) Electricity Department, joined the Board and provided an overview of services offered by HCOG.

HCOG Power- Nonprofit Electricity Supplier Option

HCOG Power can supply municipalities and nonprofit agencies with “green” energy, using 100% wind electricity generation. Zach explained that both National Grid and Eversource are planning rate increases this winter. National Grid has a new rate of 11.94 cents/ kWh and Eversource has not set the rate yet. Erving annually utilizes approximately 158,000 kWh in National Grid territory and approximately 770,000 kWh in Eversource territory. The largest user is the School, which is a G2 account. The demand rate is what is driving up the cost of electricity at the school.

HCOG Power- Net Metering Option

HCOG Power is utilizing net metering credits from a Granville, MA from a methane digester and a new project that is being developed in Hatfield. Zach explained that the credits are consistent throughout the year each month unlike solar production. The sale of credits saves the Town 15% on electricity supply charges. Zach has estimated that Erving could save \$11,067 annually from Eversource accounts. **Chairman Smith** asked about the commitment the Town would have to make. Zach explained that Town’s sign on for a minimum of 10 years, but usage can change. Signing on to the net metering program would not prevent the Town from pursuing solar development. HCOG Power recalculates usage every 6 months. Chairman Smith asked how the savings are generated by the credits and Zach explained that legislation allows the source to be subsidized which in turn allows for the savings. HCOG Power asks that municipalities notify them if power use changes so they can find another purchaser. **Selectman Bastarache** asked at what point it would no longer be viable for HCOG Power to sell credits to the Town if the Town is generating solar electricity. Zach explained that HCOG Power would still be interested and would want to be involved to support the Town’s efforts. **Chairman Smith** asked about early termination of the agreement, noting a one (1) year notification process in the example agreement. Zach will research and get back to the Town. **Chairman Smith** asked if the Town had to purchase electricity through HCOG Power in order to access the net metering options. Zach answered “no,” the options are stand alone. Zach clarified that the methane projects are scheduled to come on-line in spring 2018. **Chairman Smith** asked if there is a percentage of net metering credits that must be secured in order for the project to receive full funding. Zach explained that Erving’s usage would utilize the project’s remaining capacity. Zach expects the project will be filled by December 2017, therefore, if the Town is interested a decision would have to be made soon.

Zach also encouraged the Board to research a capacity pass through for the School.

Green Communities Grant Project Approval

Bryan Smith, Administrative Coordinator, and Charles Zilinski, Energy Committee, gave the Board an update regarding Energy Committee discussions of energy efficiency projects for the Green Communities Grant. The Committee has agreed to recommend the interior & exterior lighting upgrades at the Police Station. The plan would be to convert to LED fixtures with motion and light harvesting sensors to maximize efficiencies. Charles explained that he had concerns about the proposed retrofit and has spoken with the consultant with Energy Conservation Inc. As a result the proposal has been revised. Mass DOER has encouraged the Town to submit the projects that are ready for approval because the state contracting process can be slow. **Chairman Smith** made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the certification of application on behalf of the Town of Erving for the Green Communities Grant. **Selectman Bastarache** seconded. Unanimously approved. **Chairman Smith** made a motion to authorize the Administrative Coordinator to sign the agreement with National Grid. **Selectman Bastarache** seconded. Unanimously approved.

Chairman Smith thanked Charles and the members of the Energy Committee for the work on the Committee and specifically the Green Communities project review.

Cemetery Deeds Numbered 430, 431, 432, 433, 434 & 435

The Board reviewed the following Cemetery Deeds:

- Deed numbered 430 for Lot numbered 1353;
- Deed numbered 431 for Lot numbered 1354;
- Deed numbered 432 for Lot numbered 1355;
- Deed numbered 433 for Lot numbered 1356;
- Deed numbered 434 for Lot numbered 1357; and
- Deed numbered 435 for Lot numbered 1358

Chairman Smith made a motion to issue Cemetery Deeds numbered 430, 431, 432, 433, 434 and 435 to Russel Breault Jr. **Selectman Bastarache** seconded. Unanimously approved.

Upcoming Meeting Topics

The Board discussed future meeting topics that they would like to address, which included: Inventory of Town-owned land, 3rd Party Wastewater agreement with Erving Industries, Information Technology Planning, Community Compact, and personnel policies.

Adjournment

At 8:18 PM **Chairman Smith** made a motion to adjourn. **Selectman Bembury** seconded. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bryan Smith
Administrative Coordinator