

Town of Dudley

Board of Selectmen
Highway Commissioners
Cemetery Commissioners

April 23, 2018 @ 6:30pm
Dudley Municipal Complex
71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA
Room 321A
Approved 5/7/2018

Some matters have been taken out of agenda order but were typed up in agenda order for ease of locating information when necessary.

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

John Marsi opened the meeting at 6:30pm. In attendance were Steven Sullivan and Jonathan Ruda. Also in attendance were Greg Balukonis, Town Administrator and Michelle Jervis, Administrative Secretary. Paul Joseph and Kerry Cyganiewicz were absent.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Steven Sullivan motioned to approve the minutes of 4/9/18 as printed. Jonathan Ruda seconded. Unanimous 3-0.

Steven Sullivan motioned to approve but not release the Executive Session Minutes of 4/9/2018. Jonathan Ruda seconded. Unanimous 3-0.

3. Appointments:

Cable access Camera Operator – Steven Sullivan motioned to appoint Patricia Battista as a camera operator for the Cable Access Department with a term to expire June 30, 2018. Jonathan Ruda seconded. Unanimous 3-0.

Police Reserve Officer – Steven Sullivan motioned to appoint Luis Pacheco to the Police Reserves with a term to expire December 31, 2018. Jonathan Ruda seconded. Unanimous 3-0.

Resignations:

Bill LePage, Jr. – Zoning Board of Appeals – Steven Sullivan motioned to accept, with regret, the resignation of Bill LePage, Jr. as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeal due to the fact that Mr. LePage will be moving to Charlton. Jonathan Ruda seconded. Unanimous 3-0.

4. Public Comments/Citizens Comments – Informational:

5. Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Balukonis reported that the FAA and Capital Improvement Planning Committee will be meeting on May 2, 2018 @ 6:30pm. All are encouraged to attend. Another issue that has come up is that the roof on the Dudley Municipal Complex needs to be replaced. While picking up specs and plans for the Fire Station Project, a roofing contractor was kind enough to draft a roof replacement quote. He will be looking for funds either this spring or in the fall. Also the Evapco HVAC unit behind the town hall has failed and the cost to replace is approximately \$90,000. He will add it to the funding list for the CIP.

The town had a 10 year warranty on the unit. He will be looking into grant money or a program for energy cost savings.

6. **Around the Town – Focusing on Local Businesses:**

7. **Public Hearing:**

8. **Licenses/Permits:**

9. **Public Business:**

a. **Toll Booth Request – South County Cheer and Football League** – Leya Brazeau came before the Board to request the use of the road for a toll booth on Saturday, June 30, 2018 from 8am to noon at the town line. After discussion **Steven Sullivan motioned to approve the request from the South County Cheer and Football to hold a toll booth on June 30, 2018 at the town line from 8am to noon. Jonathan Ruda seconded. Unanimous 3-0.**

b. **Guy Horne, Planning Board** – Discussion regarding Ramshorn Road solar proposal and Partridge Hill Road – Guy Horne, member of the Planning Board and Pat Fanning-French from Partridge Hill Road came before the Board. Mr. Horne stated that there are two lots off of Partridge Hill Road owned by Kurt and Jean Durrschmidt. The Durrschmidts have submitted an article on the Annual Town Warrant to add those two lots to the Town of Dudley’s overlay solar district. This solar array will not be visible from the road but a few residents on Partridge Hill Road will be looking down on it. Back in 2010 the Durrschmidt’s filed in the Worcester Registry of Deeds a Certificate of No Appeal. It certified that the Notice of Approval of granting two variances by the ZBA was recorded and voted on a condition that these two variances would allow the sale of these lots and that monies from the sales would go towards the finishing of the road owned by Jean Durrschmidt. These frontage waivers were granted with the stipulation they would sell the lots to bring Partridge Hill Road to current standards for the Town to accept. Unfortunately at this time they are not selling the land but leasing it. Mr. Horne stated that the Planning Board is not legally responsible to settle with private entities. Steven Sullivan stated that the land owner made promises but never had they come to fruition. They had multiple opportunities. Back in 2010 Paul Joseph and Dan Gion walked the road and Mr. Gion stated it needed another top coat. Mr. Durrschmidt was not willing to do it. Steven Sullivan stated he is not going to bend over backward to “pad the land owner’s pocket”. He wants him to fix the road and then recoup his money through the lease of the land to the solar company. Also a Letter of Commitment pending an Agreement would be required. Jonathan Ruda stated that it is the town’s fault. We have a habit of granting Letters of Credit and that should stop. He wants the land owners to fix the road, enter into the lease and repay themselves. Ms. Fanning-French stated she wants the town to step up; this has been going on too long. Steven Sullivan stated that road needs to be brought up to standards, sign off with the Highway Superintendent and the Fire Chief. Also it would be wise to contact the solar company to see if the town can get a PILOT Agreement. Mr. Balukonis stated that the ball is in their court.

c. **Agenda Policy** – Tabled to 5/7/18.

d. **Board of Health** – **Steven Sullivan motioned to approve the request from the Board of Health to use the Clarinda Wood Fund in the amount of \$384.00 to pay Harrington Memorial Hospital for Health Services in March 2018. Jonathan Ruda seconded. Unanimous 3-0.**

e. **FY19 Budget** – The Town’s municipal side of the budget has \$481,695 in new revenues and municipal departments, fixed costs/varied costs were up \$638,904. Part of the increase is fixed costs, Pension, Health Insurance and Non-Exempt Debt which is not covered by debt exclusions. The budget is balanced and we have funded all our contractual obligations. Mr. Balukonis stated that the budget received tonight will not change much. We might get more money in State Aid and that will help. There are no layoffs, meet our fixed costs and other costs he feels are important. We cannot fund, even though he would like to, highway dept. wages for an additional person, snow and ice, insurance in Treasurer/Collectors, Veteran’s budget, legal counsel and desk coverage for the police department.

After discussion Steven Sullivan motioned to accept the budget as presented holding off for a formal approval until the Annual Town Meeting. Jonathan Ruda seconded. Unanimous 3-0.

f. **Annual Town Warrant** – Mr. Balukonis stated that the Town Warrant closed on Friday, April 20, 2018. He might add to authorize to enter into a PILOT program regarding the solar array we discussed tonight. Also he put in an article to have appointed town offices and boards such as the Town Clerk and the Treasurer/Collector become appointed for a term of three years upon the resignation or vacancy of either incumbent. He stated that at this time we have qualified professional assistants and there would be continuity in the offices. Steven Sullivan stated that it is a double edge sword and believes in elected positions. Jonathan Ruda stated that he agrees with Mr. Sullivan and it would take the vote away from the voters. He recommended we look into appointed v. elected going forward.

10. Board Member Comments:

11. Departmental Communication:

Fire Chief Kochanowski and the Dudley Fire Department will be giving out free smoke detectors. The American Red Cross is working with his department. The prerequisites are that you must own your home, home must be built prior to 1975 and current smoke alarms are 10 years or older. Call the fire Department for details.

Police Chief Wojnar informed all that the annual Drug Kick Back Day will take place in the lobby of the police station on Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Drugs and syringes can be dropped off safely.

12. Adjournment:

Steven Sullivan motioned to adjourn at 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Jervis
Administrative Secretary