

**Minutes
Selectboard Meeting
Monday, June 27, 2022
Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road
Zoom Availability**

Present for the Selectboard: Phil Kantor, Chair; Erica Goleman, Chris Waldo

Others Present: Mary Wigmore, Wigmore Associates; Tessa McGann, Longview Forest; Chris Larrabee, *Greenfield Recorder*; Véronique Blanchard, Town Administrator; Louise Beckett Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes **On a motion from Erica to approve the Minutes of June 21, 2022, Phil seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Warrants None

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members Chris attended the Public Buildings meeting at the fire station and luncheon with area legislators organized by Natalie Blais and Adam Hinds. Erica and Phil attended the meeting at the fire station as well.

Public Comments None

Unfinished Business
ARPA expenditure for Zoom and conference lines; GoogleMeet vs. Zoom
Chris reported that GoogleMeet is not free as he had thought for the services we need. There are time and other restrictions. Phil said we subscribe to the full GoogleMeet suite through the school. But it's not clear if the Town can use it. **On a motion from Erica to use ARPA funds for Zoom and the conference line through June 30th, Phil seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

Additional Germain Application

On a motion from Phil to award the additional applicant the same as the applicants reviewed at the last Selectboard Meeting, \$1,750, Chris seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

New Business

Mary Wigmore update on final carbon credit report

Mary recalled that the Town signed a contract in 2021 to determine the interest level in town of private woodland owners to participate in the carbon market – selling carbon credits. They did an outreach, including giving a workshop; sending letters and emails to residents; talking about the carbon market on many occasions; and collecting the data. Tess McCann then gave a detailed report on what the outreach consisted of and the results. Mary asked for questions should the Town wish to pursue the program in any fashion. Phil said he recalled that in the workshop attended with Baystate, the next step would be a single aggregate town-wide management forest plan and asked if that was still the next requirement. Mary replied that if you do an aggregate, participants must have some form of land-stewardship adhering to restrictions on what you could or couldn't do with the land. She said the next step should be a feasibility study to determine if the stacking level is sufficient to support a profitable carbon project. Mary thought that grants could be gotten for the feasibility study. Chris questioned the size of the study, the amount of forested land being considered, and asked how the list had been compiled. Mary said the landowners questioned who were farming their land were not interested. The map she used was gotten off the Massachusetts GIS data base. Contact data was furnished by the Assessors' Office. Most of the large landowners' properties are forested. Mary

suggested sending the report she prepared to those landowners who had expressed interest in the program. **On a motion from Erica to provide a letter stating that Mary Wigmore had successfully completed the terms of the contract for the Carbon Credit program, with Phil to sign on behalf of the Selectboard, Chris seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.**

**Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours
in Advance of the Meeting**

None

Town Administrator update
June 27, 2022

- Just an FYI that the most recent materials bids have just come in from the FRCOG, and I asked how the prices looked for FY23. This was the reply ‘The increases vary depending on the product or service. In general, products unrelated to Petroleum Products (except for fuel embedded in delivery costs like aggregates and guardrail) were stable to about 12% higher. Hot Mix Asphalt and the application of pavement was up 17-20% across the board. There was a lot of grant money including increased winter repair and Ch90 funding in play this year making our estimated volumes of products and services quite a lot higher. Higher volume helps to keep the unit costs down which is why we believe we didn’t see dramatic increases in some areas. Items like water and culvert pipe and geotextile fabrics remain difficult to find and have long delivery times.’ These price increases will be affecting the highway and transfer station department projects for FY23.
- To date we have advertised twice in the Greenfield Recorder for the assistant to the town administrator’s position and received 1 application. We also advertised again for the highway assistant’s position and have not received any applications. This trend of not being able to find staff for these important, albeit part time, positions is affecting towns across the county and beyond. On a motion from Erica to authorize Phil to sign ? Chris seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

**Select Board member
comments/concerns**

None

Mail

Announcements

Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn

At 7:20 p.m. on a motion from Phil to adjourn, Erica seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.