

Town of Dudley

Board of Selectmen, Highway and Cemetery Commissioners

Monday, March 11, 2024 @ 7:00pm

Dudley Municipal Complex

71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571

Room 321A

Approved 4/1/2024

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

Open Public Meeting, Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm. The Chairman stated that this meeting is being recorded.

In attendance were the Honorable Kerry Cyganiewicz, the Honorable John Marsi, the Honorable Mark Landry, the Honorable Steven Sullivan and the Honorable Jason Johnson. Also present were Jonathan Ruda, Town Administrator and Michelle Jervis, Assistant Town Administrator.

1. **Acceptance of Minutes** – John Marsi motioned to accept the minutes of 2/26/24 and 2/29/24. Mark Landry seconded. Unanimous 5-0.
2. **Citizens Comments:** Mr. Clark of Airport Rd. was concerned about this meeting and that it was originally posted as a joint meeting with the Planning Board. It was changed and he had concerns.
3. **Public Hearing: National Grid and Verizon – Pole Hearing on School Court** – Due to the weather conditions this evening all National Grid employees were placed on call, so the Public Hearing has been rescheduled to April 1, 2024.

4. Public Business:

- a. Paul Wieloch -Dudley Conservation Land Trust – Permission to plant trees on town properties. Mr. Wieloch came before the Board. He stated that he will be applying for a Janet Malser Humanities Grant for the purchase of some trees. Mr. Ruda would like him to work with our office for proposed locations, and after agreement, the Board can vote on the specific spots where the trees will be planted. The town will plant the trees. All thanked him for his efforts.
- b. Board of Health – Earth Day 2024 – Pat Hannon, Health Agent came before the Board requesting the use of the highway garage and the town hall parking lot to hold Earth Day on Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 8am to noon (picking up rubbish) and from noon to 3pm for events at the town hall. The Boy Scouts will be selling hot dogs, and it will be a great event. John Marsi motioned to hold Earth Day on April 20, 2024, at the town garage and the parking lot. Steven Sullivan seconded. Unanimous 5-0.
- c. Review of the changes based on previous input to Airport Road Grant – Shared Streets Grant – Engineers from Tighe & Bond came before the Board with an updated plan on the Airport Road, Tanyard Rd. intersection. Residents of Tanyard Road were invited to attend this meeting for input. With this new plan Tanyard Road stays the way it is, and they eliminated the cul du

sac. The intersection plan did not change much, and they will be working with Nichols College regarding the entrance to the golf course by reducing the entrance to 24 feet and removing one parking space. A median would also be possible, but all agreed it needs to be wide enough for a fire truck to enter. Also keeping the sidewalk on the southern side. There will be drainage and grading improvements too. This grant is funded for \$171,000 but the final cost will be approximately \$400,000 and will be funded by Chapter 90. Chief Karlowicz stated that this new plan, from a public safety aspect, is very good. He reached out to the Cross-Country coach at Shepherd Hill about the sidewalks and he was quite happy that his team would have sidewalks to run on. Richard Clark, who is a member of the Planning Board, voiced his concerns about the sidewalks and that the Planning Board is the Complete Streets committee. Bill Scanlan, Town Planner, stated that CMRPC sponsored Shared streets and Spaces, a grant whose origin came from the Baker Administration. CMRPC targeted this area, and they wrote the grant application. The intent of this program is to fix modest problems and this grant is under the purview of the Board of Selectmen and not the Planning Board. The Highway Superintendent and the Town Administrator oversee this grant and the Complete Streets Committee prioritized the needs in town and their work is complete. We still have not decided where the sidewalks will go but feel the plan is good. Fire Chief Kochanowski's stated that this updated plan gives his fire vehicles adequate space entering the golf course parking lot. Jason Johnson motioned to approve the updated plan submitted by Tighe & Bond Engineering on the Airport Road Grant. Steven Sullivan seconded. Unanimous 5-0.

- d. The Board of Selectmen vote on releasing escrow funds in the amount of \$10,070.23 to repair/complete sewer pump station on Eisenhower Drive – George Patrinos, Water/Sewer Superintendent requested this item to be tabled. Steven Sullivan wants to see the existing balance and plan before they vote.
- e. Board of Selectmen vote on debt exclusion ballot question for capital projects approved by voters on 9/6/22. Jon Ruda stated that the vote was taken and now we need to fund it. This debt exclusion would be for the roof, public safety equipment and radios for the DCRSD. New roofs were installed last summer on Dudley Elementary and Charlton Elementary. The cost would be \$385,000. This would be a debt exclusion to pay out for 2029 and it is not permanent. Richard Carmignani stated that it would be a 2.4% increase in tax rate and he feels it is a pretty good number to start. Steven Sullivan stated that the source of funding was not an issue to the schools and if the vote does not go through, we will need to take it out of our operational account. It was a project that needed to be done. John Marsi requested hard numbers. He does not want to vote on something until he gets more information, more data. All agreed to table it for our next meeting and ask the Principal Assessor to get the numbers and work with the Treasurer/Collector on it. Tabled until March 18, 2024.
- f. Town Meeting Warrant – Steven Sullivan motioned to open the warrant tonight at 9:00pm and close it on Friday, March 22, 2024 @ 9:00am. Jason Johnson seconded. Unanimous 5-0.

5. Town Administrator's Report: Mr. Ruda stated we will be having a Green Communities Kick Off meeting for weatherization of the highway garage, heat pumps in the highway garage, weatherization at the fire station and the library as well. CMRPC is very helpful with this grant and thanked them. We also will be applying for a cybersecurity grant for duo authentication enhancements on remote access security, back up at the Fire Department and rectifying issues on our town hall network. Also we might be receiving earmark funds for the Brandon Road Mill

Race Bridge. We can thank State Representative John Marsi for championing this project. Finally, we have posted the Municipal Finance Clerk position and have received several resumes. All will be forwarded to Richard Carmignani and Debi Thibaudeau to review. Steven Sullivan motioned to accept the Town Administrator's Report. John Marsi seconded. Unanimous 5-0.

6. Departmental Communications: MJ Gatske, Acting Highway Superintendent, reported what his department has been doing around town. Patching potholes, plow damage repairs and working extensively on the rail trail to prepare for paving. This grant ends on June 30th. Also he is still training new employees and that takes time.

George Patrinos, Water/Sewer Superintendent, stated that his crew have been working on a sewer leak on West Main Street.

Fire Chief Kochanowski asked everyone who owns a kayak to please secure it. Today there was a kayak on Merino Pond overturned, since this kayak was overturned, the department went into rescue mode, but no one was found. After this occurred the owner of the kayak was found.

Police Chief Karlowicz stated that his department has been providing details to the gas company replacing the gas main in town. They are now working on Dresser Hill Rd. #2 and then down to Dudley -Southbridge Rd. This is a whole year project. Also, our new police officer, Dylan Reney, had his first day.

7. Adjournment/Executive Session:

The Board adjourned at 7:35 and to convene into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A §21(a)(3) – To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares and not to reconvene into public session.

Roll Call Vote:

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

John Marsi, Aye

Mark Landry, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Jervis

Assistant Town Administrator

Cc: documents discussed or/and voted on:

Updated Airport Road plan provided by Tighe & Bond.

Debt Exclusion Question – tabled for 3/18/24.