

Town of Dudley
Board of Selectmen
FAA
March 28, 2022
Dudley Municipal Complex
71 West Main Street
Dudley, MA 01571
Approved 4/4/2022

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:

Honorable Chairman John Marsi opened the meeting at 6:32pm. In attendance were Hon. Kerry Cyganiewicz, Hon. Jason Johnson, and Hon. Steven Sullivan from the Board of Selectmen. Hon. Paul Joseph were absent. Present members of the FAA were Michael Mayotte, Mark Landry, Joan Gardecki, Ann Gaudreau, Kelly Laskowski and Jon Curry. Present members of the Water/Sewer Commission were Scott Zajkowski, Tom Fournier, Bob Sullivan and Bill Connolly. Also, present were Jonathan Ruda, Town Administrator and Michelle Jervis, Administrative Secretary.

2. Consent Agenda

Jason Johnson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda encompassing approving the minutes of 3/7/22 and 3/14/22; Approving establishing a "Highway Cleanup" revolving account to offset disposal costs and costs of any and all associate equipment and vehicle upkeep, Reappointment of Jennifer FitzGerald as Inspector of Animals with a term to expire 4/1/2023; reappoint James Brinker as Registrar with a term to expire 3/31/25 and appointment of Anita Hickey to the Council on Aging with a term to expire 6/30/2022. Kerry Cyganiewicz seconded. Unanimous 4-0.

Steven Sullivan motioned to grant the Webster/Dudley Boys and Girls Club permission to hold a toll booth at the town line on Saturday, May 7, 2022, with a rain date of Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 9am to noon. Jason Johnson seconded. Unanimous 4-0.

3. New Business:

- a. Water/Sewer Infrastructure Finance Committee (WSIFC) Report and Findings –Scott Zajkowski declared the meeting open for the Water/Sewer Commissioners, Michael Mayotte declared the same. Kerry Cyganiewicz, who was on the Committee, read the report in its entirety. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes. Scott Zajkowski stated that Water/Sewer do incremental increases to their rates; the bills go out separated by water and sewer. He has an issue with the Committee asking to change its status from an ad hoc to standing and feels the Committee should be disbanded. They did their job, and they are not the elected to do it. Bill Connelly voiced his concerns that people buy our water and they want clean water, not PFAS water. It is a town problem, and the increases should reflect on everyone's tax bill, not just the users. He stated that in the past the department ran on a shoestring and now we need to improve the infrastructure, which should have been done years ago. Jonathan Ruda stated that the WSIFC was set up for another set of eyes and that the 12%

increase that was discussed per our engineer, Tighe & Bond, it does not include a percentage that is going to the PFAS filtration. Kerry Cyganiewicz stated that the WSIFC members were divided on the recommendations. Some want to debt exclude and some did not, and some want the public to make the decision. Bob Sullivan stated that we can't just go with what Tighe & Bond recommend. We are bringing in more revenue since George Patrinos introduced purchasing and replacing all the meters in town. Several homes had disconnected meters or faulty meters. Jason Johnson stated that costs are coming, and they are going to increase. We need to nail down the dollar value and need the numbers. **Jason Johnson motioned to accept the Water Infrastructure Funding Committee Report of March 10, 2022, without the recommendation of making it a permanent committee. Steven Sullivan seconded. Vote 3-0-1 with Kerry Cyganiewicz recusing himself. Steven Sullivan motioned to keep the WSIFC a committee to meet on a need-to-know basis as information comes up with the water projects. Jason Johnson seconded. Vote 3-0-1 with Kerry Cyganiewicz recusing himself. Bob Sullivan motioned to adjourn the Water/Sewer Commissioners; Tom Fournier seconded at 7:20pm. Unanimous 4-0.**

- b. William Scanlan, Town Planner – Piasta Road Acceptance Plan – Mr. Scanlan stated that the Planning Board approved the plan, ready to close the subdivision and the road is ready for acceptance. We need to follow the proper procedures to accept the road. We have the street acceptance plans and now the BOS need to formally vote. We will need to hold a Public Meeting to adopt toto accept the road. **Jason Johnson motioned that the Board of Selectmen votes its intention to lay out a portion of Piasta Road as public and refers the petition and layout plan to the Planning Board. G.L Chapter 41, §81G and §8II. Kerry Cyganiewicz seconded. Unanimous 4-0.** John Marsi stated that the process is working and that private roads are coming forward as well.
- c. Private Road Updates – Jeff Murray and Bill Scanlan – Mr. Murray stated that there are three roads that have come forward with the Betterment Program, the private section of Partridge Hill Rd., Misty Meadows and Tobin Farms Subdivision – There are some placeholder warrant articles since we do not have the costs to bring it up to town standards, waiting for Graves Engineering to give us a quote. If accepted by the residents it will go to town meeting, we will do any repairs needed, and then go for acceptance of these roads at a future town meeting.

FY23 Departmental Budget Hearings: Joint meeting with FAA – continued from 3/14/22

Bay Path Vocational Technical High School – Superintendent Dr. Brenner and Irene Houle, Business Manager, came before the Board. Chapter 70 and 71 impact is required for minimum contribution for FY23 is \$9,976,240 with the total of Chapter 70 being \$12,893,63. There is an increase of \$1,307,141, approximately 10%. After reviewing the budget with proposed assessment for FY23 for Dudley is \$1,102,992, which is an increase of 2.41%. There are no capital improvement slatted for the next year and but the sewer betterment was one that the school took on since Charlton ran water/sewer lines up the road. Regarding student enrollment in FY22 we had 128 students attend Bay Path, this year 130 which is a 1.54% increase. The school is at student capacity, the restaurant and cosmetology departments are up and running as well. The Board thanked them for their presentation.

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District (DCRSD) – Mr. Mathieu and Mr. Lamarche came before the Board. The Budget for FY23 – Mr. Lamarche stated that this year is not easy and there is no additional staff or resources. The majority of funding comes through grants and received about \$400,000. ESRA is the COVID relief money and there is an increase in student needs. Educated children from home was not the best model and will try to prevent this from happening again. We had a COVID coordinator but was cut in the fall and eliminated and

added additional nurses in the district. Adding additional summer programs as well, all through the grants. There are fixed costs moving forward increases in utilities, health insurance (2%) and increase in school choice and a charter assessment. Also, we have to budget for water for Charlton (\$1.1 million total). Contractual obligations as well (\$1 million). The increase of \$4.03% was recently approved by the school committee. We want to target a class size of 22 in order to minimize the increase in the budget. There will be a reduction of three staff members. If someone retires, they do not fill the position. Total of six positions that will not be filled. Three from retirements and three middle school teachers. Also an out of district coordinator is not being filled and will be absorbed by the district. No increases for teaching supplies or technology. Regarding enrollment, there has been a decrease since 2009 and with the COVID year, twice as many students but he feels they are bouncing back. Also, net revenue have decreased from both towns and the State. They respectfully are asking for more money for their budget.

Assessor – Lisa Berg, Principal Assessor – Ms. Berg stated that she has requested two articles on the town warrant. One for \$9,850 to fund the balance of the cost of re-certification of real estate and personal property values for FY 23 and the other is for \$21,400 to fund the cost of the cyclical inspections of all properties in town that have not been inspected in the past ten years. Total \$140,854.36.

Library – Drusilla Carter, Library Director – Ms. Carter stated that the library is requesting 2/5% increase. She is looking to hire an additional position since they have been extremely busy since COVID. The State provides us with \$25,000/year for aid and there is about \$60,000 in the Crawford Account. Total \$392,188.42.

Jonathan Ruda stated he would like to remove \$75,000 from the Capital Improvement Stabilization Account and put aside for compliance and regulatory issues. Other finance articles is funding the merit pool for \$32,000; new playground equipment for \$380,000; Fire Engine 3 for \$775,000 (next fiscal year); Capital Stabilization for \$100,000; and the betterment program funds (TBD) for Partridge Hill Rd., Tobin Farm Subdivision and Misty Meadows. We will be reviewing the budget at our next meeting along with the Capital Improvement Plan.

4. Adjournment:

Jason Johnson motioned to adjourn at 9:28pm. Kerry Cyganiewicz seconded. Unanimous 4-0.

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Jervis, Administrative Secretary