

Town of Dudley

Board of Selectmen

Highway Commissioners

Cemetery Commissioners

February 7, 2022

Dudley Municipal Complex

71 West Main Street

Dudley, MA 01571

Approved 2/28/22

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. Also, present were Jonathan Ruda, Town Administrator and Michelle Jervis, Administrative Secretary. Hon. Paul Joseph was absent.

2. Consent Agenda

Steven Sullivan motioned to approve the Consent Agenda which encompassed approving the meeting minutes of January 24, 2022; approval of a request to hold a Boot Drive on February 19, 2022 with a rain date of February 26, 2022 sponsored by the Shepherd Hill Music Parents; Approve the declaration of a total revenue loss of \$3,432,263 or some such sum, as defined in accordance with the guidelines established by the ARPA Fund/Interim Final Rule, and further approve the application of all such qualifying funds to all qualifying purposes and a motion to approve a special designation of Special Counsel, Town Counsel and Labor Counsel as Special Municipal Employee for Marc Terry, Esquire from Mirick, O'Connell Attorneys At Law under G.L c. 268A. Kerry Cyganiewicz seconded. Unanimous 4-0.

3. Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Ruda informed members that there is a Shared Streets and Spaces Grant that the Planner will be applying through CMRPC. This grant would change the intersection of Dudley Hill Rd. and Airport Rd. so it is safer for pedestrians. Also we are in receipt of our audit and it is posted on the website. Regarding the Brandon Road Race Mill bridge, he met with engineers from MassDOT as well as the highway superintendent. He will be updating the Board on the bridge in the near future. Finally we will be public forum for residents of Mason Road affected by the new sidewalk being installed with funds from Complete Streets Grant. The sidewalks will be built within the street layout. Steven Sullivan motioned to approve the Town Administrator's report. Kerry Cyganiewicz seconded. Unanimous 4-0.

4. New Business:

a. Police Sergeant position – Chief Wojnar stated that he declared a police sergeant position back in December after Lt. Karlowicz was promoted to Lieutenant. There were five

candidates with three top contenders, James Annese, Chandler Boyd and Keith Remillard. All three candidates were present and came before the board for four (4) questions. Question 1: Please tell us about yourself, including your background and experience with the Town of Dudley and the Police Department?

J. Annese – Born and bred in Webster, MA. At the age of 23 I served part time for 7 years. In 2002 I became a full-time police officer and now I am the detective.

K. Remillard – Born and bred in Dudley, MA. Shepherd Hill graduate. In 2011 I became a reservist on the force and in 2015 full time. I serve on the Drug Task Force and would like to further my career in a supervisor role.

C. Boyd – Born and bred in Sturbridge. Tantasqua graduate. In 2002 became a full-time police officer in Dudley. I do firearms training and would like to further my career.

Question 2 – How do you see your role in the department as a sergeant as it relates to your duties and responsibilities to the Chief of Police, as well as the officers under your charge?

J. Annese – I was the school resource officer and many of the kids still recognize me and talk to me. He also works on the gun buyback program. He loves the community and look forward working with the Police Chief.

K. Remillard – I would like to bring back some community sports activities. He works with Officer Pacheco on the Toys for Tots and really enjoys it.

C. Boyd – I work with the Christmas Toy Drive but younger officers took it over. He is open to any community policing.

Question 3 – As sergeant, you serve as a mid-level supervisor. How you see your role as advancing from “buddy and boss” as it relates to such matters such as the Grievance procedure or disciplinary process.

J. Annese – This is a leadership position, and it is leading and supervising. Respecting the officers and has no problem with any grievance issues. He would like to work things out before a grievance is filed.

K. Remillard – We are a very close-knit department, and we all respect one another. No problem with supervising his officers.

C. Boyd – Has no problem with the buddy to boss role since we all respect one another.

Steven Sullivan stated that the last question was the most important and he wishes to publicly say he respects their answers. Chief Wojnar stated that he appreciated with independent answers but recommends James Annese for the sergeant position. He has the most seniority and scores the highest on the assessment exam. Steven Sullivan motioned that based on the recommendation of the Chief Wojnar and the assessment score to appoint Officer James Annese as Sergeant for the Dudley Police Department effective immediately (2/7/22). Kerry Cyganiewicz seconded. Unanimous 4-0. Sergeant Annese thanked the Board.

- b. Jeff Blake, Esquire – Update related to status of Betterment Program for Private Roads – Along with Attorney Blake, Jeff Murray and Bill Scanlan came before the Board. Bill

Scanlan stated that there were two projects, Tobin Farms and Partridge Hill Rd. that have submitted petitions to have the betterment program on their streets. Jeff Walsh, the third party engineer hired by the Town, will provide a cost estimate and he is reviewing at this time. He will also oversee the projects. The plan is for the residents to know what the estimate is and go forward. If it is too expensive and they don't want to go forward with the betterment that would be the end of the project. After the roads are repaired and brought up to standard, they can be accepted. They can't accept until they are built out. Under the bylaws we need to appropriate funds at town meeting to be paid by betterments and then come back later for acceptance. At this time road acceptances can only be done at the annual town meeting in the spring. He feels we should think about putting in an article to have roads accepted at the special town meeting as well. It would be a majority vote. Jason Johnson proposed paying for town counsel legal fees and engineering costs, the smaller expenses. He would like to find some funds without raising taxes. Also he would like to have a bylaw for the town to work on private roads. Jonathan Ruda would like to work with Jason Johnson to see about legal review and engineering at our next meeting. Attorney Blake left at 7:05pm.

5. Old Business:

- a. Thursday Evening Hours – tabled for 3/14/22.
- b. Town Accountant position – Votes to appoint screening and interview committee – **Steven Sullivan motioned to appoint Michael Mayotte, who represents the FAA, Mark Landry who represents the CIP and Kerry Cyganiewicz as member of the screening committee. Jason Johnson seconded. Vote 4-0-1 with Kerry Cyganiewicz abstaining.** Richard Carmignani asked to be on the screening committee as an Ad hoc member. All agreed. Regarding the Interview Committee, **Steven Sullivan motioned to appoint Deborah Thibaudeau, Jason Johnson and Jonathan Ruda to serve on the Interview Committee for the new Town Accountant. Vote 3-0-1 with Jason Johnson abstaining.**

6. Department Head Comments:

Jeff Murray, Highway Superintendent stated that he is hearing complaints about residents not getting sand/salt. The Town needs to comply with the MS4 stormwater, and that the town is not using sand on their roadways per MassDEP. Also, he is aware of all the pot holes in town and is acquiring more hot mix to fill the holes.

Chief Wojnar stressed to all to drive slowly in snow and ice storms. There were several crashes on Tuft Hill recently and it is a treacherous hill.

7. Adjournment/Executive Session:

Jason Johnson motioned to adjourn at 7:52pm. Kerry Cyganiewicz seconded. Unanimous 4-0

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Jervis
Administrative Secretary

Town of Dudley

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