

Selectboard
January 11, 2021
Virtual Special Meeting

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Members Present: None
Members Virtual: Susan Bartlett, Chair; Roland Boivin; Dave Gagnier; Roger Audet, Brian Shackett
Members Absent: None
Virtual Attendees: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Matt Morin; Eric Bornemann

Susan opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m. Welcome & changes to agenda (no change)

- 1) **FY2021-2022 Budget** – Matt Morin said he has reviewed the youth sports programs with the school principal, Diane Reilly, and found the school is supportive of the town organizing soccer and basketball instead of the school, which has not run basketball for two consecutive years. Matt proposed a first-year budget of \$3,000 with \$1,000 already in the annual town budget for youth baseball and \$2,000 needed to help get started with a town-run soccer and basketball program. Matt stated that Eric Bornemann is leading youth baseball program and Eric sees participant numbers going down with multi-town teams likely in the future. Eric noted that the annual \$1,000 baseball/softball appropriation was used to support those teams and with fees, so he feels the \$1,000 is adequate moving forward. Eric supported joining together with the Recreation Committee to help increase parent participation. Eric stated that mounds are portable to allow easy conversion of the field for softball. Roland asked if LUHS would allow the teams to play on their fields and Eric noted that the fields are setup for 13 and older and the Finnegan field near Route 15 has manhole covers and safety concerns from the state highway. Matt stated that the Garfield facility is perfect for soccer, baseball, and softball. Matt noted that additional events could be added to generate activity at the ballfields. The school did have funds for programs, but excess funds would go back to the district at year end, not kept for future uses. Roland noted that the ballfields in Garfield are planned to be removed to allow gravel excavation. Dave asked about the adult softball league being supportive of youth baseball and being on same page and Eric said Gary Nolan is supportive of having more people on board to help run the programs. Matt noted that he has helped put fences up at the ballfields and completed some field maintenance with Eric, so he is aware of the need to work together. Matt and Eric will check with other recreation committee members to see if \$2,000 from the recreation reserve can be used for this first year. Susan stated that if ok with the committee, then \$2,000 from recreation reserve could help get things started and possibly the reserve would be refunded with new activities and donations. Eric suggested that the facility could be used more by taxpayers but only a few get to use it now with one program, adult softball. Matt suggested the town could help repair the basketball court surface at HPES, damaged by chair legs from lunch being served in the gym. Dave clearly stated that fixing the floor will only come out of the school budget, not the town budget. The Board reviewed the draft FY22 budget and will continue work to finalize the budget on Jan 18th.
- 2) **Town Meeting** – Australian ballot to be used. Motion by Roland to use Australian ballot on all questions at Town Meeting 2021. Seconded Roger. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 3) **Membership on Committees** – DRB and PC are having quorum issues over the past 18 months. Ron reported that there are 5 members on DRB with two vacancies and there are 3 or 4 that participate on the PC regularly, on that 5-member commission. Ron advised reducing the 7 DRB membership to 5 will help avoid canceled meetings for lack of quorum. The Town Planning Commission prefers to stay at 5 and seek new members. Motion by Roger to reduce the membership on the Town Development Review Board to 5. Seconded by Roland. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 4) **Law Enforcement Study Group** – Peter Gallo is one of two town representatives on the regional group after Chris Jones resigned. Susan asked if one of the Selectboard members could start attending the meetings with Johnson and Wolcott, noting the study group will be conducting a lot of research and reading. Roger Audet said he would join the group and Susan said she would be backup, if needed.
- 5) **Old and New** – Roger A asked about the Michael Bartlett closing and water fees and Susan and Ron will check into that before signing the deed back to Mr. Bartlett. Highway needs to have masks on and not all are being worn currently. Ron will write up a note and send to highway.
- 6) **Adjourn** – Motion by Roger to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Seconded by Roland. So, voted.