

SELECTBOARD MEETING
JUNE 12, 2017

Meeting opened at 6:02pm

Present: David DiNicola, Chair; Judith Hoag
Duane Pease, Town Administrator

First item on the agenda was the open assessor's position.

Judy stated she had sent an email to Town Counsel, Jonathan Silverstein, as the Friday conference call was canceled as Dave was not available. She then spoke with him to advise of no conference call but would email with her questions and questioned the Mass General Law regarding the appointment made by the Board in conjunction with the remaining assessors. She was given the 3 options: appoint to complete vacant term, appoint until Special Election or wait until the annual election to fill the position. There was further discussion between Dave and Judy regarding the financial burden as there was not money appropriated in the budget to hire an outside person and the appointment would be less expensive. Dave felt this should not be "dumped" on the Selectboard. He said the assessors should work as a team even though there are only 3 members at this time. Laura Lafreniere said she and Marin are getting along fine but there is a lot to learn in the position.

Joe Kearns said there is a lot to do and the Board has a duty to the Town to make sure all is done so the fiscal year can be closed and the tax rate be worked on for the next fiscal year. Laura said appointing Gita would be the simplest, smoothest and easiest way to maintain the assessor's office. The vote at the Annual Town Meeting was pretty much split 50-50 with only 2 vote separating the two.

There was discussion on changing the assessor's position to an appointed position rather than elected, Dave was advised this was attempted a number of years ago and was defeated to the ATM.

Howard Knickerbocker said Laura was not authorized to send a letter to the Selectboard without approval of the board of Assessors. She is the chair and as such has to obey all of the Town By-Laws. He advised the Selectboard to ignore all of her comments. Howard also advised he will be submitting written documentation of this that he would like made part of the Selectboard record. (See attached)

Sherri Venditti said this appointment should not be complicated, the vote was evenly split and appointing gita would make both sides happy, she is qualified and willing to do the job and the Selectboard has the legal right to appoint her.

Noreen Suriner stated she had attended the meeting with the hope of finding open minds and the Board would make a difference and find for the greater good of the Town.

Dave felt strongly that the loser of the annual election should not be put back in without going through another election.

Howard Knickerbocker said there are 2 openings on the Historical Commission with the deaths of Jack Cobb and Marge Batorski. Also, he wondered if the town buildings were ever inspected by the Fire Inspector for occupancy.

The Tanglewood Runners will be coming through on 7/1 and permission was given to use the Town Hall. They usually arrive between 6:30-9:30am.

The Planning Board (PB) requested a short meeting with the Selectboard just prior to the Selectboard adjourning. PB is holding a public hearing on the change for Special Permits to be handled by the PB rather than the ZBA. Also, the PB will not request a Special Town Meeting to address this change until they have a Marijuana By-Law ready. They will send the proposed By-Law to the Selectboard for review and comments prior to posting any public hearing.

Next Selectboard meeting to be on Wednesday, June 21st.

Dave motioned to adjourn, July 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Judith Hoag