

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020

The regular meeting for the Board of Selectmen convened at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room in the Town Office Building at 110 Main Street. In attendance were John R. Morrell, Edward S. Harrison, and Dr. Richard M. Smith. The media was also present. Town Administrator Evan Brassard was present through teleconference, as he wasn't feeling well.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Harrison made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of December 10, 2019 – open and executive sessions. Dr. Smith seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

**Pole Petition #29244048 – Upper Hampden Road:**

Dr. Smith read the pole petition into the record. There wasn't anyone in the audience to speak against the petition. Mandy Patenaude representing National Grid explained the need for the pole is due to a dead tree. The pole location was okay with both the Highway and Water/Sewer Departments.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve pole petition #29244048 as read. Dr. Smith seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

**Public Hearing on a New Liquor License for Deborah A. Lawrence d/b/a TJ's:**

John Silva and another man from the American Legion approached the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Silva explained Ms. Lawrence is out of the state on a trip, and she asked him to represent her tonight and answer any questions on her behalf.

Mr. Silva noted Ms. Lawrence has been a life long resident of the community and knows the previous manager and owner of the establishment, as well as many of the veterans. Ms. Lawrence plans to continue the business as it has been in the past, with community involvement, supporting the veterans, charitable ventures such as scholarships, athletics programs K through 12, Open Pantry, Toys for Tots, Athletic Boosters, Mass. State Police, the Legion baseball, among others.

Mr. Harrison asked if Ms. Lawrence is the leasee, as well as the manager.

Mr. Silva responded, yes, she is.

Mr. Harrison asked about her hours of operation.

Mr. Silva said he believes she will be open either 12:00 1:00 or 3:00 to 11:00 on weekends.

It was noted on the entertainment application it states the hours 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. seven days a week.

Mr. Silva said those are the hours from the former use and felt Ms. Lawrence wouldn't be open that many hours in a day, and noted this has nothing to do with the former Tee Jay's. This TJ is after Ms. Lawrence's son, and feels she will be a good fit for the Legion.

Dr. Smith asked if Ms. Lawrence has any experience managing bars.

Mr. Silva responded Ms. Lawrence has done a lot of events in the pavilion for them in the past and has done very well; and noted her sister was one of the main bartenders at Tee Jay's, and she will be working for her.

Mr. Morrell said he is glad to see the building come to life again.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve the new liquor license application on the local level as submitted, and to forward the application to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission in Boston for their approval. Dr. Smith seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

**Public Hearing on Change of Manager for Ramadon Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a CJ's Restaurant:**

Michael Hodgdon approached the Board of Selectmen and noted his mother, who was the previous manager, recently passed away. Mr. Hodgdon noted he is also part of the Ramadon Enterprises and has worked there since he was a little kid. He has been running the business for the past few years since his father has been dealing with health issues.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve the application for the change of manager as presented on the local level, and to forward it to the A.B.C.C. for their approval. Dr. Smith seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

**Military Care Packages:**

This was tabled.

**Hospital Road Crossing Issue and Response:**

Police Chief Stephen Kozloski approached the Board of Selectmen.

It was noted a lot of the residents from Hospital Road were in the audience.

Mr. Morrell explained several calls have been received regarding the train blocking the Hospital Road railroad crossing, and added this has been going on for years, with it now getting really bad.

Mr. Morrell noted on December 20, 2019 he received a call at the Highway garage at 5:50 p.m. The train was blocking the crossing for over an hour, and said the law only allows for a five-minute blockage due to emergency access and pedestrians. On December 24, 2019 a male pedestrian called and said he couldn't get back home due to the train blocking the road, and this was for at least 15 minutes. On December 27, 2019 a Highway Dept. employee couldn't get through and radioed at 10:45 a.m. the train was blocking the road and he had to go all the way around to access work that was being done at the other end of Hospital Road. Mr. Morrell went there at 11:25 a.m. and it was still blocked when he left.

On January 7, 2020 resident Cheryl Kane called at 2:00 p.m. saying the crossing was blocked for at least fifteen minutes.

Mr. Morrell notified the Police that the crossing was blocked again so they could verify it. The Police Dept. had an officer there ten minutes after that, meaning it was blocked for at least twenty-five minutes at that point, and the officer told dispatch the train would be moved in about twenty more minutes.

Mr. Morrell explained this isn't just about people not being able to access their homes or being trapped on one side or the other, or having to go a nine-mile detour to Thompson Street, or a five-mile detour if they go through Palmer; the biggest thing is if there is ever a fire or an ambulance need and the train is blocking the roadway, creating a real big problem.

Mr. Morrell said Mr. Brassard composed a letter for the Operations Headquarters, Genesee & Wyoming Inc. in Jacksonville Florida, who control this crossing explaining the situation with the times and the way it is occurring. Mr. Morrell read the portion containing the Mass. law that states a crossing can't be blocked for any more than five minutes, and requesting this not be blocked for extended periods of time. If for any reason the crossing is going to be blocked longer than ten minutes, for NECR to call central dispatch (the Police Dept.) to let the Town know to reroute any emergency responders, to ensure our residents are serviced in a timely manner.

Chief Kozloski said any unexpected blockage of that crossing could have an extremely detrimental impact on the response of either police, fire, or ems. And this is their primary concern.

Dr. Smith said this has been an ongoing issue with Mr. Brassard speaking with the railroad in the past, and wondered what they said in the past, and why are things different.

Mr. Brassard said he has spoken to the local NECR in the past with the problem being resolved for a short period of time. There were a couple of times he called with an hour delay or an hour and a half delay, and they said they had an issue and explained what the issue was and exactly how long the roadway was blocked. Mr. Brassard noted it seems like the blockage time is increasing in frequency and it doesn't appear to be mechanical but rather they are switching cars in Palmer and sending these cars up into Monson blocking the crossing on Hospital Road.

Mr. Brassard said he does have a call into the Federal Rail Administration in their Blocked Crossing Division, as well as filing a notice with the FRA (Federal Rail Administration), regarding that crossing, which is Crossing #247453C. Mr. Brassard said if he doesn't hear back from them soon he will follow-up when he is back in the office next week.

Mr. Harrison said putting a cap of ten-minutes on a blockage, with notification, is a good solution.

Mr. Brassard and Mr. Morrell agreed for residents to be walking next to the train to go around it is extremely dangerous, and you have to walk a long way as the trains are very long.

Sarah Boisvert, 32 Hospital Road, approached the Board and said she lives right after the tracks, and across the street from her is a turn around, and wondered if people are allowed to park there. She said random civilians will park there for hours while they walk down the tracks to go hunting. This makes her nervous as she has a young daughter who plays in the back yard.

Chief Kozloski said with it being railroad property, they can park there as long as the railroad chooses not to post it, and noted we could maybe revisit this with the railroad due to her concerns. Chief Kozloski noted there are a lot of train buffs who will park there as well waiting for the trains, as they do by the Steaming Tender restaurant, to get pictures of trains coming and going.

Ms. Boisvert said it's more so the hunters who park there for hours that make her uneasy.

Mr. Brassard said we could reach out to NECR to ask if they would consider posting that area, and noted his understanding is the Developmental Center is open to hunting as is the town property on the other side. It would be up to the railroad to post their own no hunting or trespassing signs. Mr. Brassard said he could reach out to the local NECR to see if they would be willing to post that turn around across from her where the dumpster is.

Philip Rumian, 34 Hospital Road, approached the Board of Selectmen and said he doesn't like the excessive idling of the engines 48 hours straight when they were working on the tracks. Mr. Rumian said a lot of the time, they will drop a train there and it will idle all night. Mr. Rumian noted for commercial motor vehicles the town has a five-minute idle limit, and feels this needs to be addressed as it's a public nuisance. Mr. Rumian also noted several months ago, he believes the railroad had a dumpster put there for scrap metal, and this has become a trash dumpster that's overflowing and an eyesore. He believes this is a potential health hazard, and has no idea what is in it, and feels this needs to be looked into and removed.

Mr. Morrell said he didn't know what could be done about the dumpster, and noted the railroad has another one, the same identical thing, down on the Stafford Town line.

Ms. Rumian suggested the railroad put a lock on the dumpster so only they can get into it.

Mr. Morrell said someone would have to talk to the railroad about that.

Mr. Brassard said he could talk to the Board of Health to see if that dumpster is a health issue, but felt the most logical thing to do is to call the railroad to ask them to remove it.

Mr. Rumian asked if there was a time frame for the railroad to remove the dumpster, or at least to address the issue with the railroad.

Mr. Brassard said he could call them by the end of this week. The idling is overseen by the Federal Railroad Administration, so he would have to see what their regulation is, on if they can or cannot idle for any length of time.

Mrs. Rumian asked if this was something, they should be taking up with the DEP.

Mr. Brassard said during his research, the DEP has no oversight of Federal Rail Administration policies. Mr. Brassard said he could address this issue with the FRA as well.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve the letter that was read in part, and to send it out. Dr. Smith seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

**Lieutenant Contract Monson Police Department:**

Police Chief Kozloski explained Nick Gasperini just got called out to a serious car accident, therefore, this discussion could be done in his absence, or the Board could wait to see if he clears prior to the end of the meeting.

Mr. Morrell said we could wait to see if he comes back before the end of the meeting, as he would like to personally congratulate him.

Dr. Smith noted the Board has met him and know him, so it's not like bringing in a new officer.

The Board agreed to move forward with this.

Chief Kozloski explained this is an attempt to try to modernize our Police Department functions. The Lieutenant position will allow the shared administrative and operational responsibilities between the Chief and the line staff. The Lieutenant will be directly below the Chief and right above the line supervisors.

Officer Gasperini was chosen through a process consisting of Chief Kozloski, Mr. Brassard, some department heads, and the Fire Chief. Two interested candidates were interviewed, and based on a unanimous decision of the panel, it was agreed to recommend Sargent Gasperini to the position of Lieutenant. A contract has been negotiated, and is also before the Board tonight.

Dr. Smith asked if he would be eligible for the benefits with the Quinn Bill.

Chief Kozloski said yes, he would be.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve the Lieutenant contract for the Monson Police Department as submitted; effective January 17, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Dr. Smith seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

**WESTCOMM Letter of Interest:**

Chief Kozloski explained roughly eight to ten years ago they started examining the regionalization of their dispatch function with some neighboring communities. Those efforts have started and stalled, started and stalled. Chief Kozloski has identified another regional collaborative that has since been established, called the Western Massachusetts Emergency Communication District (WESTCOMM). Their charter requires a letter of interest before they even begin to undertake any type of discussions about

cost, operations of the process, etc. A letter of interest was done about ten years back with the regionalization of the towns of Warren, Palmer and Ware. Since then Warren has opted out of that group and regionalized with another dispatch center. Ware, Palmer, and Monson are still interested in discussions on the possibility of regionalization. The new regional center that has come to the area that has already been established include the towns of Chicopee, and Longmeadow. This center has the tenacity of anywhere between four or five total communities. There two other communities in various stages of filing the letter of interest, one that has filed a letter and one in the process of drafting a letter of interest.

Mr. Morrell said in Mr. Brassard's letter he mentions the net savings in joining with this particular regional group that would be about \$80,000 a year. Figuring in all the other benefits after that, it's a savings of potentially \$250,000.

Chief Kozloski said we would have to sit down to digest what our population is, what our particular needs are, and what our particular call volume is, as we can't compare ourselves with Chicopee. However, looking at Longmeadow, Longmeadow has realized a fairly substantial savings over the way they had been doing business.

Mr. Morrell said he understands it's just an estimate and it can't be totally depended upon, but even so with those numbers, even with half of those numbers, it's still maybe a savings good enough for us to get into and follow through with it.

Chief Kozloski said he feels it's certainly worth looking at. His biggest concern is the product we can offer our citizens; and explained we still continue to be a single call dispatch call center. The Police Dept. has one dispatcher that's currently handling all the fire and ambulance calls, 9-1-1 calls, business calls, and public walk-ins and that one dispatcher is spread fairly thin during incidents. Therefore, he would not only be looking at the value-added benefit to regionalization, but is there a way we can offer a better service to our residents efficiently.

Mr. Morrell said he wouldn't want to stretch out much further than Chicopee, Longmeadow, and perhaps East Longmeadow, we are starting to get out of our region a little bit, and feels we can't wait forever for Palmer and Ware to come around and to agree with us. Mr. Morrell thought it would be wise to at least approve drafting a letter of interest.

Chief Kozloski noted this is not a contract, it's not binding, it's not even a letter of intent. This will allow us to talk to them, and allow them to get in touch with the State 9-1-1 Department, because there are grant monies available. The State 9-1-1 Dept. won't respond unless they know there is a community that's interested.

Dr. Smith said one of his main concerns has always been customer service, and will it suffer because of this. Dr. Smith said he did speak with Mr. Brassard briefly about this earlier, and wanted Chief Kozloski's input on the customer service to the residents, and how he sees it being affected.

Chief Kozloski responded, probably with the exception of residents coming in to actually report something, they'll report it to the dispatcher, the dispatcher then dispatches an officer to the lobby of the Police Station to take a more detailed report. Our current dispatchers aren't empowered to really conduct police business in the lobby. When this piece of the pie is cut out of the walk-in equation, probably the next biggest reason for the public coming in to visit is licenses to carry and reports. Report requests are taken in by a dispatcher, but in the form of a report request. That report request is 99.9% not filled at the time of the first visit because they typically have to be vetted by our court officer to make sure it's appropriate to be given out; there might be certain confidential pieces of a report, both legally and for privacy wise, that might need to be redacted, and Chief Kozloski said it could be as simple as putting a stamp on an envelope and getting it mailed off or they could look at on-line report requests as an option. The other aspect is licenses to carry, and that is a Police Officer that's designated by need to take control of the licenses to carry and process those, and that's done by appointment.

Chief Kozloski said he spoke with the Town of Longmeadow as they are the most like Monson, and asked how it's working out for them. He was told they have a closed-circuit phone that rings to the dispatch center. The dispatcher determines whether or not an officer has to be dispatched to the station, which is what we do currently. Then, they either have, or are in the process, of hiring a clerk to set office hours at the window, so the public at least has an expectation of when they can come in and actually meet with someone face to face at a window. The other regional centers he has spoken to are doing something similar, where the larger facilities have staffing in the building available at any given time. The smaller agencies such as ours have looked at the net savings and have still been able to work within what they have realized is a savings to provide a clerk or clerks on a periodic basis, part-time or full-time he wasn't sure, but to actually have office hours where the public can come in and know that there is somebody there.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to do the letter. Dr. Smith seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

Chief Kozloski had the letter with him, and the Board signed it.

#### **Town Administrator Contract Renewal:**

Mr. Morrell explained the Board of Selectmen negotiated a new contract with Town Administrator Evan Brassard for the next three years starting on July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2023. Everything is pretty much the same as the previous contract with the exception of the salary, which has been increased. The evaluation done by the Board came back with high scores in all the areas and the Board felt it was important to keep Mr. Brassard, and agreed to increase his salary to \$115,000 in the first year starting on July 1, 2020-21; \$120,000 in the second year starting on July 1, 2021-22; and \$125,000 for the third year starting on July 1, 2022-23; everything else, such as vacation time, remains the same.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve the new contract for the Town Administrator. Dr. Smith seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

#### **Fire Chief Search Update:**

Mr. Brassard explained he has been working with a vendor, narrowing down the process and trying to get the price within what everyone thought was a reasonable price tag, and he was able to get down to

\$11,900 which is less than the \$12,000 price limit. Mr. Brassard said we will be moving forward with that process in the coming months; he just needs the final approval from the Finance Committee.

Mr. Brassard thanked Brian Harris for his interim work that has been great, allowing them to not have a huge amount of pressure on them making sure the process done correctly.

Dr. Smith asked if the price includes the initial process that was discussed.

It was noted it does, with the initial interviews done in-house and then the top four or five candidates going to the Assessment Center, and then bringing the best two or three to the Board of Selectmen for the final interview. The company will also perform the background check for us.

**Marijuana Bylaw Update:**

Mr. Brassard explained he received a call from the Chairman of the Planning Board, Craig Sweitzer, who was asking Mr. Brassard if he thought the Planning Board should take up this issue. Mr. Brassard feels they have the expertise, and they have been listening to the public enough with the last two passes to understand what people want, where the hangs ups are, and where the opportunity lies, and thinks within the next month or so, the Planning Board will start to take up this issue, and then have a public hearing on the matter, with the goal of having something for the Annual Town Meeting.

Town Planner Dan Laroche approached the Board of Selectmen and said he forwarded a draft bylaw to Mr. Sweitzer and everyone else on the Planning Board, that he worked with Town Counsel on back about a year ago, which he feels will be the starting point for the Planning Board. The Planning Board will tweak that and come up with something that they will feel confident with as a draft. This is on the Planning Board agenda for discussion next week.

Dr. Smith asked how different the draft Mr. Laroche forwarded to the Planning Board is from where the Marijuana Bylaw Committee left off.

Mr. Laroche responded the Adult Use Marijuana Bylaw Committee actually started with the draft he is discussing, and the committee dealt with the co-op cultivation, specifically in the rural residential district and having it be allowed by right. The draft the Planning Board is currently looking at does not allow anything by right, it requires a special permit, and there is nothing allowed currently in the rural residential district. Most of the marijuana establishments are restricted to the general commercial, central commercial, and industrial districts.

Dr. Smith noted that's the good thing about going through the process this way, it can be modified by the Planning Board, as compared to when a resident brings forward a proposed bylaw that has to go to town floor, there isn't much of a public process in developing and drafting the bylaw.

**Board of Health Administrative Assistant Appointment:**

Mr. Morrell noted Autumn Bailey has been filling in the position in the Board of Health office as the Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to appoint Autumn Bailey to the position of Board of Health Administrative Assistant effective immediately through June 30, 2020. Dr. Smith seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

Dr. Smith said generally he likes to meet the people being appointed.

Mr. Brassard said he would have Ms. Bailey come in to the next meeting to meet the Board and the public.

**Municipal Arts Council Discussion:**

Mr. Brassard asked for anyone interested in serving on the Municipal Arts Council to email him (his email is on the website). The Board will be doing their final appointments of that committee the first week of February.

**MVP Grant Award and Next Steps:**

Town Planner Dan Laroche approached the Board of Selectmen and handed out a copy of an email he received from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Manager Kara Runsten, and a table explaining the scope of work the grant will cover, as attached.

Mr. Laroche said the email explains the award we received through the MVP Program which stands for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness. Monson applied for \$200,000 which includes a town match. We received \$75,000 for our proposal, which was highly competitive. This grant is for resiliency related to energy production for this building on the solar canopy in the back-parking lot that would allow for battery storage to back up the EOC for this building during times of emergency.

Mr. Laroche explained the spreadsheet is their proposal that shows how they can do the proposed \$200,000 grant project with the \$75,000 received; to move forward with coming up with specifications and bid documents and to move forward with an energy services contract to be able to construct the solar canopy along with the battery system.

Mr. Laroche noted this will require a 25% match by the municipality, \$15,000 cash match and then a \$10,000 of in-kind match which is staff time. Tonight, he is wondering if the Board is interested in moving forward with this project now that we have gotten the money, we need to sign a contract with the State, etc. to move it forward if we are going to do that. This is just for the design and to put together the bid documentation. The actual project is much more money than we are approaching here. Mr. Laroche noted one of the cool things in doing an energy services contract is we are going to get some extra savings on the electricity, but ultimately the panels will be owned by a third party (the energy services company), we lease the space and get benefits from that.

Mr. Brassard explained this project is born out of a few things. First and foremost, we had spent some time looking at the former landfill and possibly placing solar there; then the Wilbraham Road project came up. A lot of the feedback at the time was how come the Town Offices don't have solar on the roof or any of the infrastructures it owns. This led to Mr. Laroche and Mr. Brassard having discussions on

solar canopies. This is a great project because not only does it generate energy from the sun, but it does a fantastic job mitigating storm water and snow removal.

Mr. Brassard said he and Chief Kozloski discussed having the canopy/carport structure near the entrance to the sally port which would allow the police vehicles to stay out of the weather; keeping them clear and ready to go at a moment's notice.

Mr. Morrell asked about the funding for the matching grant of \$25,000. The sheet from Mr. Laroche tonight says the certain task has to be completed by June 20, 2020.

Mr. Brassard explained the Annual Town Meeting is in May and this would be placed on the warrant; the figure isn't for the entire \$25,000 because of the \$10,000 in-kind match, it's \$15,000 that would need to be put toward the project. Mr. Brassard said it could go into the Capital Plan he has been working on.

Dr. Smith made a motion to approve the MVP grant program as described, contingent upon appropriation at the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Harrison seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

**In Other Business to Come Before the Board:**

- Dr. Smith asked Mr. Laroche how the Hillside Building demolition was coming along.

Mr. Laroche responded Hillside is moving forward and its expected within the next week there will be no more building there. All the windows are out and a third of the inside of the building is already taken out from the back. Once the building is all down, they will do some rough grading, with the seeding and the installation of the detention basin in the spring, with the completion of the project in April.

- Mary Hull approached the Board of Selectmen regarding the trains idling, and said in M.G.L. Chapter 160 Section 151 it states idling trains for more than five minutes will be fined between \$200 and \$500.

Mr. Morrell said the Board is aware of that as Mr. Brassard included this in his letter.

Mr. Brassard noted Ms. Hull's reference was different and noted this is very helpful.

- Ms. Hull said regarding the cannabis and the bylaw, she said she had a conversation twice at the Selectmen's meetings where it was said if the bylaws didn't go through, a group would be put together for the Monson citizens. As far as the Monson Planning Board, Mr. Sweitzer withdrew himself for a conflict of interest. Ms. Hull noted there are enough people in town who are interested in being on a committee and feels they should be given a chance, and she doesn't feel it should be turned over to the Planning Board.

Dr. Smith asked Ms. Hull if she didn't think the public concerns would be addressed by the Planning Board.

Ms. Hull said a group should be allowed to get together and to let people show an interest, maybe letting them know what the laws are and everything that's connected to it. Ms. Hull said she has talked with well over 200 people in town and they are not in agreement with what the Planning Board was working on, and they made this clear at the Town Meeting.

Mr. Morrell said after Town Meeting and the way it went after the second time, it was discussed about bringing the committee back. The Selectmen discussed this and felt there were only a few hitches at the Town Meeting. The distance from the street was one and the by right was another one. Those were the only two big issues between the Planning Board and the petitioners. The Board felt if the Planning Board had an opportunity to work with the petitioners, and whoever else was interested, maybe they could get this done sooner rather than later, to not keep it going on and on.

Mr. Brassard noted Ms. Hull has valid concerns and there was a discussion on moving back to a community forum. Then the Planning Board said they would like to take a stab at it and hold a public hearing on it to get feedback from the public and try to revise whatever draft they have.

Ms. Hull asked what knowledge the Planning Board has regarding the State laws, regulations, etc.

Mr. Brassard replied the Planning Board works with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Town Counsel to make sure anything they are doing falls within the regulations.

Mr. Harrison said the Planning Board meetings are open meetings and she can attend all the meetings to share her knowledge with them.

Ms. Hull said she feels there should be a group from the community that will hold four or five meetings since there is a lot of interest on all sides who will then bring their information and thoughts on what they think will be best for the community to the Planning Board.

Mr. Harrison said he wouldn't have an objection to a separate committee forming, but wouldn't stop what the Planning Board is doing either, and felt the two committees would have to get together to work on this to run it parallel to each other.

Dr. Smith added once they both come to their own conclusion, they could meet and hammer out any differences; communication during the process with each other as well.

Ms. Hull said she agrees.

It was agreed to comprise a committee of up to five people and have the people who are interested in serving on this committee submit letters of interest to Mr. Brassard, for appointment at the next meeting.

- Karen Nothe Valley of 230 Stafford Road approached the Board of Selectmen and thanked Ms. Hull for bringing this up, and noted she had similar concerns when she heard about the Planning Board taking this over, and feels they seem to be focusing strictly on commercial districts. Ms.

Valley said she feels the community should be kept in the process as they are very vested on both sides of the issue.

- Lieutenant Gasperini was now in attendance and the Board congratulated him on his promotion.
- Philip Rumian, 34 Hospital Road, approached the Board of Selectmen regarding Chapter 90 funds, and wondered about the status of the bridges at the Developmental Center.

Mr. Morrell noted the status of Hospital Road bridge is, the State is adamant about not contributing to fixing that bridge. We are trying to work with the State on repairing the other bridge on the private way. Mr. Morrell explained we told the State if they bring that bridge, sidewalk, and road up to MassDOT standards, we will present it to the town at town meeting to see if we can get them to accept it as a public way. This will also help in economic development, as right now you can't because it's a private way.

Mr. Brassard said the un-named bridge on the un-named road (the private way) has a 70% design plan on it and they are hoping to start construction in the spring. They do have DECAMM appropriated money for this project. Mr. Brassard said they are trying to do a precast drop-in bridge, as was done recently on Silver Street, and overlaying the entire stretch of road from State Ave. to Macomber Road.

Mr. Rumian asked if they close the bridge on the un-named road while they are repairing the bridge, and the train is blocking Hospital Road, how are the residents and emergency vehicles going to get through?

Mr. Morrell said that's the problem, so hopefully they can get the railroad to agree on not blocking it for any more than ten minutes and also, they hopefully will notify the Police Department if it is going to be blocked longer than that so they will know something has to be done.

Mr. Rumian said years ago both bridges were shut down for a time and they had a way to go behind the power station, and wondered if this is a viable alternative to be considered while the bridge is being repaired. Mr. Rumian felt there should be a plan in place prior to the work beginning.

Mr. Brassard said he will speak with Jason at DECAMM to see if they have any thoughts on that.

Correspondence read and completed.

At 9:08 p.m., Mr. Harrison made a motion to adjourn from open session. Dr. Smith seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

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Dr. Richard M. Smith, Clerk