Town of Otis

Selectboard/ Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

Conference Room

1 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253

Tuesday, Apr 08, 2025, at 6:30 PM

This meeting will be held in person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend. A remote option is offered via zoom with the link provided below.

Please note that while an option for remote participation is being provided as a courtesy, the meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Anyone with interest in any specific item should plan in person attendance.

Topic: Select Board
Time: Apr 8, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89404327574?pwd=r4JapuRilI4PTNUOa2qpCIzEdjdLc2.1
Meeting ID: 894 0432 7574
Passcode: 818658

Attendance: Gary Thomas-Chair, Larry Southard, Terry Gould, Brandi Page, Sue Brofman, Diane Dyer, Stacey Schultze, Lisa D'Orazio, John & Mrs. Fletcher & Frank Tolopko. On zoom: Adam Thibeault & Jim Crandall.

Call to Order: 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from 3/11/2025 were approved as written.

Library Building Project OPM Work: Brandi stated that the selection committee had scored the submissions and interviewed the top two candidates. Downes Construction Co is the firm being recommended by the group. Larry asked if the Library group had considered withdrawing from the grant with all the other things going on right now and the current economic factors. Sue Brofman felt that if they withdraw that will be the end of the project and we won't get it in the future. Terry disagreed and felt there was the possibility of Otis being selected in a future round. Larry felt in hindsight we should have established a fundraising threshold to be met prior to applying for the grant. Sue felt the fundraising was appropriate after getting the grant and wouldn't have been successful prior. Stacey felt it was important to proceed so that we realize a design and location for the project. She outlined some grants they had already applied for and were receiving. They asked the Board to let the design phase continue and see how the voters feel next year. Larry was conflicted about spending the money for the OPM and the Architect if there wasn't a good chance of success with the voters next year. Terry said she agreed with withdrawing and taking some time to sort out other large things happening and for the group to fundraise and gain support for a future round. Sue and Diane both expressed wanting to continue. Larry reluctantly agreed to move forward and award the OPM work. Gary agreed with Sue, Diane and Stacey. He seconded moving forward. Larry and Gary voted yea and Terry abstained.

Otis Library Contract Renewal: The former agreement was updated to reflect FY26 compensation and quarterly dates. Brandi will print a clean copy for the Board to sign. It was unanimously approved.

Appointments: Lyn had forwarded Anthony Middleton's interest in being Election Warden. The Board unanimously voted to appoint him to that position. We thank Carole Lombardo for all her service as Election Warden and School Committee member and wish her all the best.

Reservoir Road Culvert Project: The Board was fine with the draft easements from SK Design for the project. Motion to recommend review by Planning and setting a Public Hearing for Apr 22nd.

Highway Garage Project: Brandi stated the PowerPoint had gone out on town news and copies were available at Town Hall. Motion to request the Town Clerk put a debt exclusion vote in the election ballot. Motion seconded and passed unanimously. Brandi will draft the letter**.** Stacey Schultze asked how we got to the idea of an addition for the highway. Brandi stated that 4 years ago we had gotten a grant and completed a feasibility study. The total price tag at that time was over 20 million. The study also answered the question of what the site could and could not support. The solution of an addition to our current highway garage was worked out. This option is a modest cost compared to a new facility and allows for flexibility of the space. This will be on the agenda again on the 22nd to answer any questions.

Recent and Upcoming Events: The Board talked about the Otis Poultry Farm closing and the Pyenson's moving out of town. They felt it was the end of an era and that they will be missed. Stacey asked how long the use is maintained if the business closes. That would be a question for the building inspector. John Fletcher brought up the idea of a rotary where our 8 and 23 make the T in the center of town.

Review & Approval of Warrants: Payroll and vendor warrants are on the table for signature.

Not Anticipated by the Board: None

Adjournment: 7:44 PM