BOARD OF SELECTMEN

P.O. Box 372

West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2022

PRESENT: Mr. David Pierce; Chairman, Mr. Roland Sickenberger; Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Eric von Bleicken, Clerk
ATTENDEES: Angela Schofield, Pam Marquis, Atty. Chris Petrini, Ruifan Zhang, Dave Brown, Chief Lapierre, members of Advisory Committee, John Madden, Jim Daley

Called meeting to Order at 6:15 PM

MASS DOT PROJECT – PHASE I & II

Members from MassDOT were in attendance this evening to discuss the ongoing projects on Rte. 9

The town is responsible for the Right of Way (ROW) matters. In total, the projects are more than 12 million dollars. For projects such as these to come to fruition, there is a fair amount of background work that is required such as funding for design and engineering, title searches, both temporary and permanent easement, legal work, and town meeting approval for funding.

Both projects have temporary and permanent easements. The Board of Selectmen agreed that in order for the projects to move forward, any additional legal work will be paid for from the BOS's legal line item. Jim Daley reminded all that town meeting voted three time in favor of engineering and he would hate to see a lack of funding at this point to watch the town miss out on the projects.

Phase I has 18 permanent and 32 temporary easements and Phase II has 20 permanent and 80 temporary. Easements are for a five (5) year time period. This is a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes in order to be shovel ready. All departments will need to b e responsible for their role in this. When asked by Ms. Loughlin, the new Treasurer stated that she is too new to say if a bond can be put in place for this work.

It was agreed that Mr. Daley would be able to use his town road maintenance funds to pay for the work done by Howard Dono and Associates. After a discussion on all aspects, the following motion was made:

Motion to allow the expenditure of legal funds (BOS budget) to cover the costs associated with title exams and to further allow the use of town road maintenance (Highway budget) to cover the costs for Howard Dono & Associates made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT PHYSICALS

In light of the fact that the town has seen an exorbitant amount of turnover with personnel, the line item for pre-employment physicals has been fully expended. After a discussion, the Advisory Committee said that they would approve Reserve Fund Transfers as needed.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra

Rebecca Acerra
Executive Secretary

Eric von Bleicken/ra

Eric von Bleicken, Clerk

1-31-23

Date Approved