

**Carver Select Board
Minutes
Carver Town Hall – Meeting Room #1
December 15, 2020 – 7:00pm**

In Attendance: Chair Sarah Hewins, Vice-Chair Robert Belbin, Jen Bogart, Jim Hoffman, Mark Townsend, Interim Town Administrator Rick LaFond & Shelby Blair

The chair led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and Townsend read the community prayer.

Citizens Participation: None

Chapter 61 A-ADGA Realty, Inc. Plymouth County Reg. of Deeds Book 20 p.333 Lots 8 & 9 Indian St.:

Monty Seif was present for this and Hewins explained that this has already gone through Planning & Assessing. Bogart questioned if there was an appraisal price for this location and Seif could not provide this information at the time. Hewins explained that having the price is not required. Belbin questioned that since this is two properties is there only one septic and Seif responded that there is only one.

Motion by Townsend to decline the Town's first right of purchase, second by Belbin

Bogart abstained

Vote 3-1-1

New Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA) rates to begin on January 1, 2021. These rates apply to electricity supply only (not delivery):

Hewins read the handout attached titled 'Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA)'.

Belbin questioned if there is a place to know how many residents do not join.

Hewins responded that we would have to contact the company to request those numbers.

LaFond suggested that The Board wait until January to discuss more on this.

Request of the Conservation Land Ad Hoc Committee to be re-named "Carver Trail and Conservation Stewards" to reflect more accurately what the committee does and to request a town hall email of the same name:

This item was added as a revision to the agenda. It was questioned if this should have been held off until the next meeting or if it qualified as an item unforeseen 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Motion to table by Townsend, second by Belbin

Vote 5-0

Town Administrator Update:

COVID-19 Update:

LaFond listed the safety precautions that Town Hall has in place. There has been plexiglass installed at public counters. The public is required to wear masks along with employees except for when they are at their workstations. The goal is to keep the Town Hall open as much as possible and departments should be more cautious about employees working closely.

Cares Act Update:

LaFond explained that there will be another submission at the end of this week in the \$100,000 range. The Town will be able to submit invoices/receipts for reimbursement 45 days after the 12/30 original deadline.

Carver Marion Wareham Regional Refuse Disposal District Update:

The Wareham Board will not be making a decision tonight, so there are no further details for a sticker price as of right now. LaFond explained that the current stickers will have an extended expiration date of February 1, 2020. Residents will need to buy the yellow bags for their trash instead of using their own. The location to purchase bags is to be determined but most likely could be Aubuchon or Shaws. The Transfer Station will open January 5, 2021.

Green Communities Grant Update:

The Green Communities designation grant of \$157,670 has been completed. This project was successfully spearheaded by Elaine Weston in collaboration with Dave Siedentopf. The total cost to the town was: \$1,335.37. In addition, the Town received Eversource Utility Incentives totaling \$53,212.00.

It is projected town-wide we will save approximately 212,800 kwh annually which equates to an estimated savings of \$40,000 from all the locations; school and town, at the current electricity rates.

Town Beach Sticker Update:

LaFond explained that the Board would have to decide on how they are going to handle this sticker in the future. The new fee will need to be set. LaFond suggested making it a 2-year sticker for cost savings and ease for residents as well as staff. Hewins would like to find out prices other towns are charging and if it is comparable. Belbin would like to take into account the cost of the sticker and what each beach in town has to offer.

Motion by Townsend, second by Belbin to go out of order and go to item "Discussion and possible vote on proposed changes to Select Board By-Law" after this item.

Vote 5-0

Request for Common Victualler License: Amanda Anusewicz and Cheryl Anusewicz d/b/a Fresh and Friendly Seafood.

Cheryl Anusewicz was present for this request. She and her daughter had taken this business over in June and both have a lot of experience in the restaurant industry. They are very excited and look forward to getting to know the people in Town. They are open Wednesday – Sunday from 11am to 7pm and the fish market is open daily.

Belbin asked if they have a delivery option and Cheryl responded that this is something that they are thinking about doing in the future.

Motion to approve by Belbin, second by Hoffman

Vote 5-0

Discussion and possible vote on proposed changes to Select Board By-Law:

LaFond stated at the end of the last meeting it was left that the Board would get back to him with suggested changes. He has not received any to date.

Tabled to next meeting.

Minutes:

9/8/20 – Motion to approve by Townsend, second by Belbin

Vote 5-0

10/22/20 – Motion to approve by Townsend, second by Belbin

Vote 5-0

11/5/20 – Motion to approve by Townsend, second by Belbin

Vote 5-0

11/17/20 – Motion to approve by Townsend, second by Belbin

Vote 5-0

Community Announcements:

Belbin: Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and encouraged residents to prepare for the snow and to help your neighbors.

Bogart: Wishes everyone a Happy Holidays and have fun on Thursday with the snow.

Hoffman: Wishes everyone a Happy Holidays & Happy New Year.

Townsend: Wishes everyone a Happy Holidays.

Hewins: Reminded everyone that there is a dedication ceremony for Robert (Bob) "Grumpy" Conway this Saturday December 19, 2020 at 10am at the Cole Property. There are directions for this location on the Conservation Commission webpage & wishes everyone a Happy Holiday and good health.

Select Board Notes:

1. Belbin –CMWRRDD meeting is tomorrow December 16, 2020 at the Middle/High School at 5pm.
2. Bogart -
3. Hoffman -
4. Townsend -
5. Hewins -

Motion to adjourn at 8:09pm by Hoffman, second by Townsend

Vote 5-0

Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA)

New Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA) rates will begin on January 1, 2021. These rates apply to electricity supply only (not delivery). Electricity users will not see a rate change on their January bill, but it will be reflected in their February bill.

The new rate that was negotiated was \$0.10385/kWh or 10.385 cents/kWh for the next 35 months. This rate was down from \$0.10430/kWh for the previous 36 months. Mr. Townsend and I negotiated this new rate in April 2020, representing Carver along with representatives of 22 other municipalities.

In an email to the Town of Carver, John O'Rourke, **Director of Marketing and Municipal Affairs at Good Energy, L.P, our energy consultant, explained:** "Subsequently, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") announced a new CES-E—or Clean Energy Standard—on July 10, 2020. This new CES-E Standard will result in a slight price increase under the Electricity Supply Agreement (ESA) of \$0.00085 cents/kWh and will increase the default option from \$0.10385 to \$0.10470. This would result in an annual increase for the average electricity user (7,500 kWh per year) of \$6.38."

However, it should be noted that Eversource's price for supplying electricity as of now remains even higher—at \$0.11882 per kWh. Customers who continue to use our Community Electricity Aggregation program will still see a better savings of \$0.01412 per kWh over the 35-month time period than they would if they used Eversource as the supplier.

The advantage of joining with these municipalities is that this bulk-purchasing program provides a competitive choice in electricity suppliers, long-term price stability, and reduced electricity rates for participating residents and businesses.

For those residents and businesses that stay with the Community Electricity Aggregation program, these rates will remain the same for the entire 35-month period we negotiated for, whereas Eversource's electricity supply rates for residential and small businesses change every six months and their large business rates change every three months.

If you wish to participate in this program, you don't need to do anything since the Town of Carver is participating as a municipality. If you do not wish to participate in the program, you may fill out and return the card you'll receive in the mail from Good Energy sometime during the month of January 2021.

There will be an explanation of the program and of rate comparisons from our energy consultant by the end of this week that will be posted on the town's website for more information.

Sarah Hewins | December 15, 2020