

**Minutes of the
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Thursday, February 20, 2020 @6:00 p.m.
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

First Selectwoman Catherine Iino called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:03 pm. In attendance were Selectman Lou Annino, Jr., Selectman Eileen Blewett (by phone).

Visitors: Finance Director Regina Regolo, Robert & Marcella Sassi, Parmelee Farm representatives Tim Gannon, Peg Scofield, Bruce Dodson, Scott Hawkins, and John Byrnes; Youth & Family Services representatives Laurie Ruderfer, Karen Dupuis, and Kerry Emerson.

Tim Gannon, chairman of Parmelee Farm Committee, presented an overview of the operating and capital request for FY20/21. Gannon stated that for the coming year, the committee will be focusing on maintaining the farm assets as they stand rather than adding anything. They are asking for \$1,900 for two small painting projects: the Stone Barn and the Pavillion. They would like to repair a 2 ½ x 2 ½ x 50 foot section of the stonewall located between the Pavilion and the butterfly garden. At the estimated cost of \$100 per foot they are asking for \$5,000. They are also requesting a John Deere Gator utility vehicle, at an estimated cost of \$12,100. At the moment, they are using a golf cart as a work vehicle. The cart was purchased with a grant to help shuttle handicapped visitors during the larger community events. The concern is that the golf cart, which is not designed for utility work, will prematurely age as a result of the additional use. They are also asking for a residential-grade medium sized John Deere tractor at an estimated cost of \$39,000 allowing them to complete maintenance work without relying on private tractors or help from the town crew. Over the past several years, the assistance from the town crew has been very limited. There was a lengthy discussion regarding possible adjustments to the Parmelee budget requests if the Board of Selectmen were to consider the capital and operating requests for the Highway Department. Gannon stated that the \$15,000 operating request could be cut back to \$12,000 if the needs could be met either through the purchase of equipment and/or some reliable assistance from the town crew. Iino suggested that we may be able to get the painting projects taken care of in this fiscal year using our repair line in the operating budget. Gannon will check with the contractor on their availability.

Laurie Ruderfer, Program Director for Youth & Family Services, presented the request for \$87,516, up from last year by 2.0%. Ruderfer described the challenges faced by diminished grant opportunities, difficulties retaining personnel due to an inability to provide benefits, along with growing demands for their services. Ruderfer reported that the audited financials will be completed in the next few months, which should increase the potential for future grant funding.

The Selectmen expressed their support and their belief that community needs are not going away.

lino reported that she and the Health Director had interviewed a promising candidate for the Health Director position.

lino found information in 2013 Town Office Building Committee meeting minutes referencing estimate to replace the TOB modular with similar units. Cost was estimated to be between \$900,000 and \$1,000,000.

lino moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Blewett and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Regolo
Acting Recording Secretary