



**Town of Savoy  
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**Select Board Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, October 24, 2023**

**Select Board Attendees:** Gerry Bergeron, Justin Kaczowski, Marie Saucier

**Recorder:** Jennifer Falk

**Attendees:** Arleigh Cooper, Erin Malloy, Samantha Zwirba, Steph Harris, Mike Harwood, Karen Harwood, Stephanie Sayers, Casey Pease, Allen Haskins, Julie Pavia, Brenda G Smith

**Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM by G. Bergeron, J. Kaczowski second, Marie Saucier third.**

**Meeting closed at 6:45 PM by G. Bergeron, J. Kaczowski second, Marie Saucier third.**

**Minutes:**

- Minutes for October 10, 2023, reviewed, corrected (a name), and approved.
- **School Board Committee**
  - ***Vote for S. Sayers Joining School Committee***
    - A. Cooper explained the school committee has had a vacancy for years. A town resident – S. Sayers – wishes to fill that position. The school committee has had two school committee meetings, met with S. Sayers, and accepted S. Sayers. Then the committee found that the town required the vacancy be brought to the select board, posted, and accepted by select board. The vacancy was posted, and so the school committee asked that S. Sayers be voted in via roll call and then sworn in by Val Reiner.
    - At M. Saucier's request, confirmation that the vacancy was posted was provided and that S. Sayers was the only candidate.
    - A vote via roll call indicated a majority in favor of S. Sayers joining the School Committee. She was sworn in for one year, after which she will be on the ballot.
  - ***Other School Committee Matters***
    - A. Cooper brought up using ARPA funds for a generator for the school. She would like to discuss the matter at the next meeting. In addition, it was suggested that ARPA funds could be used to fix burst or frozen pipes.
    - G. Bergeron asked if the opening of the gate at the school had been widened so town vehicles could get through. It was confirmed that the fence has a larger entrance.

- Jennifer Morse suggested we talk to Dave Stoakes at MADOT – he was helpful with highway matters.
- There will need to be a posting for Michael Hubby's position.
- Michael Fortini, M. Saucier's neighbor, offered to help out if we were short highway workers. He has licenses to drive vehicles.
- School contact after Michael Hubby leaves? Michael will be here until 11/6
- Applicant for superintendent looks promising.
- Gerry will phone him to discuss the position.
- Put placeholder on the next agenda for interview.
- Gerry knows of a possibility for Michael Hubby's position. Gerry will talk with him this week.
- Backhoe: Gerry noted that it hasn't been running for a year. He has received an estimate for the parts. Gerry mentioned the money from repair might be able to fit in with the money approved for grader repair.
- Gerry asked if School found someone to shovel and spread sand. Gerry suggests finding someone for both Town Hall and School. Question why Highway Dept. doesn't take care of this. Gerry explained Highway Dept. is too busy.
- J. Falk will post on a website – looking for someone to clear walkways and doorways at school and town hall. There is a snowblower at each place.
- Question about subcontracting – how would school do it? Gerry said that subcontracting is a more complicated process. We would do it if necessary.
- There is another town to help us in a mutual aid agreement if necessary.
- **1Berkshire Support Letter**
  - Select Board agreed to send support letter.
  - J. Falk can sign with role.
- **Vouchers will be filled in more completely.**
  - Department Heads will sign on applicable vouchers.
- **Attorney's response to Complaint pursuant to 940 CMR 29.05 (5)**
  - The town's attorney has distributed responses to all necessary required. No further action required.
- **Treasury Warrants**
  - The school give warrants to J. Falk before meetings instead of leaving outside.
  - Select Board signed treasury warrants.
- **Public Comment**
  - B. Smith said we need to have a Tax Rate Consultation meeting. J. Falk will post a meeting for Tuesday, October 31, 2023, at 5:00 PM at the Senior Center. The town needs to vote to continue with one rate rather than two.
  - B. Smith mentioned that Val did not receive the STM warrant. G. Bergeron said it was put under her door. If the way to deliver warrants needs to change, then she and Phil need to arrange that. One possibility is putting a box on her door.
  - It was suggested to put a streetlight by the church. This can go on the ARPA committee wish list. Streetlights need to be agreed upon by nearby residents.

- M. Saucier mentioned that if the school committee could get an estimate for the ARPA committee that would be helpful.
- The school committee special meeting adjourned at 5:08.
- **Zoning Board**
  - M. Saucier has found 5 people for the board. The appointment forms for all the new members were at the meeting.
  - Select board approved, and Val swore in the members who were present.
  - M. Saucier offered to forward everyone's email address. She reminded members of Open Meeting Laws.
  - **New members:**
    - Casey Pease: Works for Senator Paul Mark. He wants to help however he can.
    - Tom: <sup>Schwartz</sup> lived in Maine before this and has moved back to Savoy. Tom is an engineer.
    - April LeSage rejoining, Melanie Glynn volunteered, Paula Markland is joining. This makes a full committee.
- **Planning Board**
  - We need 5 for a planning board; still looking.
  - Question: What does the Planning Board do?
  - B. Smith: The planning board looks forward and plans a future for the town. More specifically, examples are: Supervising when someone wants to split their property. The marijuana bylaw was created by the planning board.
  - Suggested that some committees function *ad hoc*.
- **Start time of Select Board Meetings:**
  - Suggested: Move our start time later. Some people can't make it to a 5pm meeting.
  - The select board members will think about if/how to change the start time.
- **Trunk or Treat**
  - At the firehouse on Saturday. Requested parks commission contribute money.
  - The select board would need to be approved to act in the parks commission, which would require a special meeting.
- **Parks Commission**
  - B. Smith volunteered to be on the parks commission.
  - M. Saucier volunteered her husband, Bill Saucier, to be on parks commission.
  - B. Smith's and B. Saucier's appointment approved by elect board. These people still need to be sworn in. Along with Steph Harris, the parks commission now has the required three people.
- **Highway Updates**
  - Highway superintendent position posted in Hampshire Gazette and MMA.
  - Previous applicants did not show up for the interview.
  - J. Falk will investigate Hire Me Western Mass for additional posting.
  - Jennifer Morse from Chesire said she would forward applicants they received.

- Update on Sam Zwirba's water issue: G. Bergeron spoke with the attorney who said that the town should not be addressing this issue because the drainage system has existed for over 20 years. He did mention it might fit in the ARPA fund. ARPA is meeting on November 14.
- C. Pease offered to help with website. He mentioned that free WordPress does not provide security. Further developing the website was supported by other members of the community.
- **Selectboard items**
  - The sander had a tree fall on it. It can be fixed by G. Bergeron. He said he would do the repair if he was compensated. It would take about 4 hours @ 65\$ per hour. It was approved that G. Bergeron will fix it.
  - Camp survey: We don't have any. J. Falk will send the reply.
  - Marie received an email from Chesire. Chesire is putting together a working group for an ambulance service in conjunction with Adams in accordance with DPH and MGL 111C. This is unrelated to Adams Ambulance. Is Savoy interested in joining this regional plan? The first meeting will take place next week. G. Bergeron wants more specific information. The board wondered whether this was an effort to replace Adams Ambulance. J. Kaczowski emphasized the amount of training and maintenance that an ambulance service would require. J. Kaczowski said it would be better to give money to Adams Ambulance than try to maintain a new ambulance service. He will email for more information.

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Gerry Bergeron (Chair)



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Justin Kaczowski



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Marie Saucier