

Selectmen's minutes of meeting Jan. 30, 2017

Members present: Alice Boyd, Jeff Gray, John Skrip, Bob O'Brien,
Willie Morales, Dolores Harasyko

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

It is with deep respect that we acknowledge the Mahican Tribe, the pathfinders of our community.

Bob provided highway department updates. Everything is good, all trucks are working. They worked on ruts on the dirt roads. Alice reviewed calls she had complaining about the condition of the dirt roads. Bob explained that he doesn't want to put a lot of materials on the dirt roads which would prevent the frost from forming. Pat Barrett responded that there has been a total miss management of the highway department going back 2 years. He is frustrated that we are down 2 members of the highway crew. He is also concerned that we are not completing New Hartford Road as it was voted on and that all our work and investments will fall apart. Alice agreed that Rood Hill Road is nasty. John Fields responded that he has never attended a meeting or complained, however, their road has been hard packed for days and no one has sanded his road. Alice feels that statement is fair. Bob said if he had a storage facility for chip he would use the chip product. Mr. Fields stated that there are roads in town such as North Beech Plain that no sand has been applied at all and he cannot get his work vehicles down those roads. Bob said he is not going to babysit the roads. He wants all calls and complaints directed to him. John Burrows complained about the very icy conditions at the dump. John recommended leaving a bucket of sand at the dump. Patrick asked about a long term plan. John discussed the trees down on the Route 183 cemetery. He has driven by them for 52 days and nothing was done. The trees are laying on top of cemetery markers. He feels this is disgraceful and disrespectful to the families. Kathy Burrows, chair of the Cemetery Committee brought this issue up 2 months ago and nothing had been done. She called Bob and he said he would get to it. John Fields volunteered his crew and cleaned it up on a Saturday on their own. Kathy Burrows suggested John submit an estimate of his donation of work to the town. Alice responded to Patrick that they are budget driven right now as far as hiring any employees. Jeff explained that he wanted to hire at least one more highway dept. employee. Bob feels that nothing has changed in the process they do their work nor do they neglect Patrick's end of town. Nick DellaGiustina explained that intersections were not cleaned up until 4 to 5 days after the storm and this has caused icy conditions. Bob feels he doesn't need any more employees as he doesn't have enough equipment for them all.

Dolores reviewed the process of the Records Access Officer. A new law went into effect Jan. 1, 2017 regarding public records. It is strongly recommended by the State to appoint a primary and secondary RAO.

Motion by John, second by Jeff to appoint Dolores Harasyko as the primary RAO and Willie Morales as the secondary RAO, passed unanimously.

Discussed the MLP (Municipal Light Plant) manager. Jeff Bye has been doing this as interim. They are looking for someone to fill this position.

Alice provided an update on Broadband. They have one bid so far and possibly 2. It is for a service contract that will string the fiber throughout the town at no upfront cost. This is part of a 4 town regional plan. Willie stated that at the state level there has been an impact by Wired Wests efforts to get us to the point we are at today.

Update on the MMA conference. Dolores explained that she enjoyed it, she enjoyed the classes, guest speakers, inspiration speakers and making connections. Dawn and Terry agreed. Willie said he noticed that at the audit and finance classes they found that we are actually doing a good job.

Discussed future agenda items., John wants to work on the Master Plan.

Reviewed and signed the warrant for the special town meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 6:30pm at the Old Town Hall on Silverbrook Road.

Discussed budget meetings.

Mail reviewed

Warrants reviewed and signed

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Alice Boyd

Jeff Gray

John Skrip