

## Selectmen's minutes of meeting March 27, 2017

Members present: Alice Boyd, Jeff Gray, John Skrip, Willie Morales, Bob O'Brien  
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 dept. updates. They dealt with wind storm issues, dirt road issues. There are problems with the Dodge pickup. They will be replacing culverts on Cronk, Shade, New Hartford and Hammertown Roads.

Discussed the FY2018 budget warrant. Reviewed the article for a new or used truck for the highway department for \$176,000. Alice believes we need a truck, bob explained that he needs a large truck as opposed to a pickup truck. The article is written to use free cash. Kathy Jacobs from the Finance Committee does not feel that we should be adding a six figure article so late in the budget season. Alice explained that we needed to wait until free cash was certified so that we would have knowledge of much we had available in our accounts. If we use free cash it will not impact the tax rate. Mark Newman suggested buying an extended warranty for the new vehicle, Bob agreed. Willie instructed Bob to be prepared to explain the need and the work that a large truck would do versus a pickup truck.

Discussed the article for the purchase of land on Route 57 for \$200,000 for the future town hall. The Strategic Planning Committee ruled out the use of Yanner Park land for the future town hall. Discussed plans for the current town buildings. Kathy Burrows pointed out that if the town buys this land on Route 57 it will then come off the tax rolls. The fire department is requesting a new truck next year at approximately \$500,000. Kathy Jacobs suggested the highway department truck be paid for out of the stabilization account with the plan of paying it back over a 5 year period. She also suggested paying for the land out of free cash. Discussed the new police cruiser for \$40,000. Kathy reviewed the justification from the police department for a new vehicle. We currently have 4 part time officers and 2 functioning cruisers now. John Skrip asked for more detail on the police reports, the reports are too vague and don't justify the need for another vehicle. John and Jeff agreed the 2 vehicles, the truck and police cruiser should pay funded out of the stabilization account and the land from free cash. Alice feels there is enough in free cash to cover all the items with no impact to the tax rate. Using stabilization will impact the tax rate for the upcoming 5 years. All selectmen agreed to fund the vehicles from stabilization and the land from free cash.

Discussed article 69 regarding the stabilization account for a Capital Improvement Plan. This is to set up an account, not to fund it this year.

Dolores reviewed the process of the 2020 Federal Census. The process has already begun. She worked on this for the 2010 Federal Census and that work began in 2007. Pauline Bakunis and Kathie Burrows will be working on this also.

Willie provided town administrator updates. He attended a three day procurement class. The town is in good shape regarding procurement.

Selectmen's updates:

John continues to work with Miller Petroleum on the gas reading program. He continues to work on the Master Plan.

Alice continues to work on broadband, negotiations will begin soon. She continues to work on Kinder Morgan issues. Kinder Morgan is returning to the Conservation Comm. on April 7, 2017. They have not met all the concerns of the Conservation Commission.

Discussed Axia who is the company that ran the fiber originally.

Discussed Kinder Morgan, we currently have no compensation agreement with them. They have contacted Bill Riiska regarding removing the logs, selling them and splitting the profit with the town.

Ralph Morrison discussed potential issues with protestors once they start the pipeline work. Kinder Morgan is hiring 2 state police for during the day and a security company for 24 hour security.

The Rugg Bridge (Route 57) is going out to bid within the next week. We are hoping to start construction by the end of May. Discussed signage for the bridge.

Discussed future agenda items:       Add the Recreation Committee for restructuring.

Reviewed and signed warrants

Reviewed mail

Ralph Morrison would like to add an article to the warrant to transfer \$5,000 from the ambulance account to purchase new radios. Dolores suggested an encumbrance as it is too late to add to the warrant. All agreed not to add the article, there will be a way to fund the \$5,000.

Motion by John, Second by Alice, passed unanimously to approve the FY2018 Warrant with minor wording changes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Alice Boyd

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Jeff Gray

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John Skrip