

Selectmen's minutes of meeting Nov. 14, 2016

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. They are done grading for the year, continue to patch, preparing culverts and drainage for Town Hill Rd. Alice asked about signs for the Transfer Station, Bob will put them up tomorrow. The security system is up and running at the transfer station. John asked about the highway dept. vehicles, Bob responded that they are all running and in good shape. Nina Carr expressed her concerns regarding Bob hiring his son to work for the town. Alice responded that we did advertise the job and no one but his son applied. She suggested that we re-post the job.

Joe Gelinas will be in next week to be sworn in to the Finance Committee.

Discussed the appointment of Chief Procurement officer. Motion by John, second by Jeff, passed unanimously to appoint Town Administrator Willie Morales as Chief Procurement officer.

Discussed IT options. Willie contacted Network Engineer, they provided a robust packet which encompasses backup, storage and server needs for approx. \$15,000. Jean Atwater Williams reviewed the packet and feels she can achieve security and functionality using carbonite storage in the Cloud. Alice asked about retention requirements, Willie responded it is for 5 years. He explained that we have current issues which need to be addressed. Dawn Lemon explained that the past few weeks have been a disaster trying to get tech help for the Treasurer/Accountant office. Terry explained that working wirelessly is slowing work down. Dawn and Terry said they need to hear back from Tech Support on the same day as they need their computers to get their work done. Willie asked Jean about servers, Jean said it can be done. John feels the big issue is service. Jeff said storage is an issue. Willie said we need an IT audit. Jean can do it on Tuesday of this week. Willie will get 2 more quotes. We will place this on the agenda to review and possibly vote on an IT contract.

Willie presented and reviewed a letter regarding taxes.

Discussed the FY2018 budget process. Willie will be meeting with all boards on Thursdays before the All Boards Meeting in January. Dolores has prepared the budget requests and will get them out in the mail this week.

Discussed a date for a Special Town Meeting, it will be held on Monday, December 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall. Pat Barrett asked what will be on the warrant, Alice responded there will be some tax issues, treasurer office expenses and some odds and ends.

Willie presented Town Administrator updates. He presented a personnel manual. The Selectmen will review and vote on it next week. Willie explained that we can now apply for State House Notes. Discussed the Asst. Building Inspector, he has been filling in for the Building Inspector free. Willie suggested we at least reimburse his mileage. The Selectmen all agreed.

Selectmen updates.

Alice has had several meetings regarding broadband. They are putting together an RFP. Their goal is to wire the town at no charge. MBI is moving forward with their own RFP and would like us to hold off with ours.

Jean clarified that it is not actually free.

Alice continues to work on the electrical aggregation and should have a price nailed down on Nov. 17, 2016. Discussed the dry well drought conditions. We have a lot of households with dry wells. Alice would like a list of people who are willing to help out donating water.

John presented a tee shirt as a fund raiser to the COA, they would like the shirts to be made in America not China. John will look into it. He continues to work with the Energy Committee, they have been corresponding by email with Ameresco regarding solar arrays. He would like to write another letter to the DCR regarding Spectacle Pond. He has discussed Recreation Committee issues with Robbing Campetti. She has a plan in place to hold bingo games at the nursing home for the veterans. John is suggesting increasing the number of members on the Recreation Committee to 7. We will look into this, it may be a bylaw issue. John asked Jean about gas readings. Jean explained that she created a database but lost it. She explained that the electricity at the highway garage building surges and fries the computers.

Discussed future agenda items: Discuss and vote on IT contract, vote to adopt personnel manual, Master Planning Committee with BRPC, discuss warrant articles for the special town meeting, introduce Joe Gelinas, follow up on transfer station signage, discuss time clocks.

Jean discussed the town's new website, there are links that are still going to the old website, Alice will follow up. Willie asked about having Virtual Towns & Schools back in for training, it will happen in January.

Patrick Barrett in expecting to be on the agenda and he is not on. He sent an email to Dolores requesting to be on the agenda to discuss New Hartford Rd and winter road maintenance, he also requested minutes of an executive session. Alice responded that it was an oversight. Patrick requested to be on next weeks agenda. Willie will respond to his request for the executive session minutes on Nov. 17, 2016.

Motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Alice Boyd

Jeff Gray

John Skrip