

Selectmen's minutes of meeting August 29, 2016

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 that we dedicate the opening of our meeting to.

Alice introduced Willie Morales our new Town Administrator.

Reviewed, signed and notarized the documents for the disposal of town property to Kim Spring.

Bob provided highway department updates. The finished patching Route 183 with approx. 200 tons of material. They will continue to work on West St.

Alice inquired about Ralph Leavenworth's status with his CDL license, he has obtained it.

Bob followed up on flagger certification classes. He will work on putting together a class for this area, he needs at least 7 to sign up. Discussed retro fitting a military truck for snow plowing.

Alice asked about the truck that was involved in an accident in February. Bob said it should be back by this Wednesday. Another truck is at Nutmeg having recall work done on it, it is also having air modulator work done. Discussed the Osh Kosh. Bob feels it would take a lot of money to get it running. Ralph Morrison pointed out that the Osh Kosh belongs to the Police Dept. Bob asked if the town was buying one of the military trucks from the Fire Dept. Inc. Ralph will give it to the town as long as he is notified if the town wants to sell it, it has to be offered back to the DCR. George Green asked about capping New Hartford Rd. He stated that the town voted to cap it and are not following through on it. Bob responded that the road is sinking and he wants to let it settle for another year and then chip seal it. Jeff does not agree with the chip seal process. He feels strongly that this is a waste of money. The road was not designed for a chip seal. He used the current work being done on Route 23 by the Town of Monterey. We used the same process on New Hartford Road and need to complete it by capping the whole section. We will place this on next weeks agenda to discuss.

Discussed going out to bid for snow plowing contractors for this winter. Jeff does not agree with private contracting. He knows it will cost more. George Green asked about the truck committee which did not do their job. The voters voted to create a committee to recommend which new truck to buy. The committee recommended to not purchase any truck. John feels we need to plow the roads first and then follow up with the sanding. Ralph will work with Bob on putting together bid specs for snow plowing contractors. Nina Carr expressed her concerns regarding the mixed feelings on the selectboard. He finds it disturbing to see the difference in opinions. She would like to hear unbiased results from the board. All the board members agreed that they do have different opinions but respect each other and each others opinions.

Alice provided an update on the Route 57 bridge. There is a very good article in the Sandisfield Times this month that provides a lot of information. The final plans will take a few months to

approve before it can go out to bid. Ralph would like the town to be able to review the final set of plans. Discussed the detour route. All agreed we need better signage. Willie will organize a meeting between Highway, Police, Fire and Emergency Management to review the detour route.

Willie presented information on State House Notes and bond council Locke & Lord. The town will need a "green light letter" from a bonds counsel in order to move forward with any funding. He will set up a meeting with the Treasurer and Uni Bank representative Clark Rowell to review the process. Alice explained that we cannot get a bond at this time for MBI until 2018/2019. MBI is looking into companies that can string the fiber at no cost to the town.

Reviewed and discussed a Class 1 Dealers License for the New Boston Crane and Sled Shop. Ralph Morrison would like to see a limit on the amount of trailers they will have on site. We will ask a representative from the shop to come in next week. Jeff feel we should just sign the license. Motion by John, second by Alice to hold off until next week to sign the letter. Alice will make a site visit this week and if she agrees all is ok we will sign the license.

Dolores provided an update on the revised zoning bylaws voted on at this past annual town meeting. The Planning Board missed one of the required posting dates by 5 days. The Attorney General is willing to work with us in lieu of re doing the entire process. Dolores will post the required posting in the newspaper and on the bulletin board. She will ask for a reserve fund transfer to cover the cost of the ad.

Alice updated the status of the town's finances. She explained that we have been paying insurances for former and deceased employees. There are IRS issues, bills not being paid, vendors not being paid, phones being shut off. Terry Sponholz is working very hard to straighten things out. The IRS was paid for the first quarter of years 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016. Reports are missing. We think what happened is that payments were made but the paperwork and reports were not submitted. We do however have money in the bank, but have horrific accounting books. We cannot get traditional bonding without audits. We will be bringing in an accountant. Alice thanked Dolores for straightening out the lapse in bonding certificates. Terry is working 40 hours a week with help from Dennis Mountain and Clare English. The 2016 books are all wrong. Jeff responded that he was surprised to find out how bad things are. Willie said we now have a very strong treasurer and will straighten this out.

John reviewed the meeting last week with Commissioner Roy from the DCR to discuss Spectacle Pond. They discussed allowing the town to use Spectacle Pond as a town beach, boat launch, picnic area, camping. The DCR feels they will be ready in 2018. They have agreed to allow this to happen, there may be a 10 year lease. The pipeline impact may slow the process down. Mary Turek discussed security issues.

John is working on bringing a 5K run to town on New Hartford Rd. perhaps once a year.

Ralph Morrison complained about the lack of roadside mowing on Route 8.

Jeff reviewed items he has been working on, the logging bid and board appointments.

Nina Carr asked about the vista pruning at the cemetery. Bob said he can cut in the ditches and then selected vista pruning.

Alice has been working closely with the Treasurer. She asked Willie to get a Softright trainer as soon as possible. She met with the taxpayers association on Saturday and then with the finance committee.

Future agenda items: Specs and bid for contracted snow plowing services, transfer stations issues.

Reviewed mail

Reviewed and sign warrants.

John presented a letter for Alternative Energy, Willie will review it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Alice Boyd

Jeff Gray

John Skrip