

Selectmen's minutes of meeting October 17, 2016

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

Called to order at 6:35

Motion to enter into Executive Session for the express purpose of discussing litigation and to resume the regular selectmen's meeting after.

Roll call: Alice, yes, Jeff, yes, John, yes

Regular meeting resumed at 7:00 p.m.

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

Discussed bids for Snow Plowing and Solar Energy. Both bids were advertised for 2 consecutive weeks. No bids were received for either.

Kim Spring and Margaret O'Clair in to resign from the Board of Health. Margaret explained that she has always had a plan to quit all her town positions at the age of 70. She explained the complexities of the volunteer Board of Health in this day in age. She feels the position needs educated professional members especially regarding housing issues. Kim suggested hiring an outside firm twice a year to do health inspections. The Board thanked Margaret and Kim for all their work. Kim will stay on for 30 to 60 days. She stated that all the restaurants passed inspections.

Police Chief Mike Morrison in to discuss funding issues for the IMC program for the computer for the police cruiser. He stated that he encumbered funds from 2014 and 2015 for this and the funds are not available. Treasurer Terry explained that encumbrances are for a specific contracted service. Dolores explained the difference between encumbered accounts and roll over accounts. Mike presented documentation that he submitted from the last fiscal year but that had never made it to the Selectmen for approval. Discussed having an article on a future special town meeting warrant for \$12,500. Mike explained that he is working with the Otis Police Dept. for shared services. Mike explained the difficulty in finding part time officers, there is extensive training involved.

Treasurer discussed funds for Yanner Park. Terry found documentation that the Friends of Yanner Park turned over a cashiers check for \$13,815.93 to be used towards Yanner Park. The account was not set up. Robbin Campetti explained that the funds were raised through many pancake breakfasts, steak and lobster dinners and other events to raise money to improve Yanner Park. They were a non profit organization. Robbin shared their plans for the park. Kathy Jacobs said there is an obligation to fulfill the intent of all the donations made. Dolores suggested creating a

revolving account. All agreed to place an article on the next special town meeting warrant to create a specific revolving account for Yanner Park and transfer the \$13,815.93 from free cash into this account to be used for Yanner Park only. Kathy explained that the logging assets from the park should also go into the revolving enterprise account. Steve Harasyko said that the Yanner Park sign is laying on the ground and would like to have it fixed. Discussed the upcoming logging job.

Discussed the special town meeting. It will be early December. There will be some additional costs for the treasurer's office. Kathy Jacobs would like funds to hire a secretary for the finance committee.

Alice called to DOT for an extension for the Complete Streets Contract.

Reviewed and signed a grant contract for the Berkshire Regional Planning Comm. For \$23,705.40

Reviewed and signed the Rugg Bridge submission letter to Mass DOT. Jeff read the agreement aloud. Motion by John, second by Jeff, passed unanimously to approve.

Discussed allocating \$1,000 of the town council budget to offset MBI Outside Council. Alice suggesting amending the amount to \$500. Motion by John, second by Jeff, passed unanimously to allocate \$500.

Discussed the selectmen's meeting schedule. Due to the town administrator's expertise, we can cut our meeting back. We will meet on the second, third and fourth Mondays of the month. Discussion followed.

Alice provided an update on Broadband. Monterey and Sandisfield are putting out an RFP for the wiring of broadband. The five town group continues to move forward.

Motion by John, second by Jeff to accept the letter of resignation from Kathy Burrows from the Historical Comm. All Selectmen thanked her for her work.

Willie provided town administrator updates. Discussed the Green Light letter for broadband financing. Willie reviewed the bonding fees. Discussed the RFP. He presented a new budget format for department heads created by the town accountant.

Discussed the new tax rate of \$13.29. Willie explained that we had to use historical averages to create the tax rate due to fiscal issues.

John reviewed the medical waste collection. The Fire Dept., Inc. will pay the \$125. Bill.

John continues to work with Miller Petroleum on the gas readings.

Discussed the fuel reading system. Terry would like the new fuel system program to be kept at the Town Hall buildings, not on someones personal computer. All agreed.

John reviewed the use of the fire dept. owned military truck for the highway department.

Jeff is not happy with the new tax rate.

Alice provided an update regarding the successful pot luck dinner. She has a list of many volunteers from the dinner.

Alice followed up on the clothing box at the transfer station.

Discussed transfer station issues.

Discussed future agenda items, discuss highway dept truck and sign presidential election warrant.

Reviewed and signed minutes of meeting

Reviewed mail

Reviewed and signed warrants

John Burrows asked about the Energy Aggregation, Alice will look into this.

The Board of Assessors and Treasurer thanked Bob and the Highway Dept. for all their help last week.

Willie reviewed customer service with the town hall staff.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Alice Boyd

Jeff Gray

John Skrip