

Selectmen's minutes of meeting Sept. 19, 2016

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

Called to order at 7:03 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.

Bob provided highway dept. updates. They continue cutting the sides of the roads and will continue on all black top roads. They will not be able to do Town Hill Rd. and West St. until the spring. They will have all the prep work done. Discussed the crack sealing, have to go with the less expensive rubber not fiber. They will be working at the transfer station on the ditch. The transfer station signs have been ordered. The Wilber Park monument is up. They are working on retaining walls on West St. Nina Carr expressed her concerns about the condition of Town Hill Rd. She is concerned about the winter.

Jeff asked about allowing Bill Perry to get his items out of the town truck. Willie responded that we are not obligated to give him this property back unless he brings the original parts back. Jeff explained that the upgrades were out of Bills pocket so as not to charge the town. Jeff wants the personal property returned. John feels there are liability issues by letting Bill work on the truck. Willie will draft a liability waiver. The board agrees to let Bill have his items back as long as he can replace the items he removes.

Discussed the highway garage Osha building inspection report. Bob is working on it.

Bob said it will cost \$13,000 to fix the backhoe.

John would like Bob to consider putting a plow on one of the military trucks. Bob will follow up on it, it would be the cab over Osh Kosh.

Bob met with a Mack dealer at a show and reviewed the process of leasing to own a truck with the option to buy the truck at the end of the lease.

Bob presented a Chapter 90 project request for crack sealing. Motion by Jeff, second by John, passed unanimously to approve the project.

Willie presented his town administrator report. He is recommending the town go with Cornerstone to upgrade the Town Hall Annex phone system. Motion by John, second by Jeff, passed unanimously to accept Willies recommendation.

Willie reviewed email issues. He is recommending going with Gmail. This will allow us all to be compliant with the Open Meeting Law.

He met with the treasurer and consultant to review a financial plan. We need a comprehensive plan to separate powers. The first part of the strategy is to have Terry and Dennis supply monthly reports and the treasurer and accountant provide quarterly reports. It was suggested to have Clare English continue to help and to hire the town accountant. Discussed an audit on FY2016. Willie will not move forward until he knows that the books are reconciled and reports are filed. Terry said it is pointless until our records are in order. The town is recovering from a fiscal backlog.

Discussed bi-weekly salary paychecks with a target date by November. We will give employees plenty of time and also have everyone on direct deposit. Terry clarified whether it is direct deposit or a paper check the work is the same. Nick DellaGiustina said it is not right to force employees to use direct deposit.

Willie is prepared to present his candidate for the town accountant position. At this time Alice recused herself and left the room leaving Jeff as chair.

Willie interviewed two applicants. He offered the position to Dawn Lemon. He feels confident in Dawn. Jeff asked if we advertised in the paper, we did. Jeff asked if she filled all the qualifications, Willie feels she fits it to a tee. Nick DellaGiustina asked about checks and balances, if she could hold both positions of looking over the books and also working on boards budgets. Willie responded that Dawn wouldn't be a department head, he feels Dawn is willing to accept the job. Nick suggested Dawn give up the highway secretary job. The Town Clerk suggested that Dawn contact the Ethics Commission and explain to them all her positions with the town and get clarification from them if she can hold all positions. Dolores reviewed the classification of Special Municipal Employee.

Nick asked if the selectmen no longer do the hiring for the town, Willie responded that he as the town administrator is the Chief Personal Officer and has the hiring power. Willie explained that the selectmen vote to accept the candidate presented by the town administrator. John feels we can go forward with hiring Dawn pending the Ethics approval. Jeff asked her about dropping the secretarial job with the planning board. She said it's not a problem for her. Motion by John, second by Jeff with Alice abstaining, to hire Dawn pending successful approval from the Ethics Commission, Cori Check and Bonding.

Discussed the RFP for snowplowing. Jeff does not agree with contracted services for snow plowing. Alice clarified that we are not privatizing the DPW, this is only if we are having a blizzard or our equipment is broken. Alice said we are just fishing for the cost of contractors.

Discussed the Route 57 bridge detour. There will be some inconveniences. The River Road will be used as the detour. Discussed the Clam River bridge. There are concerns about heavy trucks using that road and bridge. Bob recommends that tractor trailers not be allowed to use that detour as they cannot make the turn. Discussed the timeline of the bridge repairs. The plans have not been approved as of this date so work will probably start in the spring. The selectmen agreed to not allow tractor trailers on River Road. There is funding for a temporary bridge. There is not any contingency money left over.

Alice provided an update on broadband. She attended a MBI meeting. Willie is working on the bonding. MBI will be negotiating with Axia and Frontier. Our broadband committee will be meeting to create our rfp.

Discussed the upcoming need for a special town meeting. We will need more funds in order to get the treasurers books in order. We will need more funding for the salaries for the treasurer and treasurer's consultant.

Discussed selectmen's goals. Alice put together a sheet showing what has and hasn't been done. She has added some new goals. She continues to work on a capitol plan. Continues to seek grant funds. Working on low cost initiatives.

John would like the police to present a monthly report, he also wants this from the Fire and EMTs. John wants to add a new program to the fuel reading program.

John would like the recreation committee to put something together for the nursing home veterans.

John would like to get a memo out to all boards to get approval for any equipment purchases whether new, used or free.

John wants the insurance company to submit in writing that the light at Yanner Park has to stay on.

Alice is working on broadband and pipeline issues. Kinder Morgan did win their lawsuit. We do have an opportunity to get more taxes on the current pipeline. She continues to work on the CBG grant. Discussed the potluck dinner meeting. Attended website training.

John stated that the school committee is getting ready to start negotiations.

Motion by John, second by Jeff to accept the letter of resignation from Ron Pachulski from the Cemetery Committee and the Cultural Council, passed unanimously with regret.

Discussed future agenda items; Foresight Engineering, solar RFP, fuels systems update.

The COA would like to use the Old Town Hall on Monday's and Friday's for classes. Permission given.

Mail reviewed

Warrants reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Alice Boyd

Jeff Gray

John Skrip