

Selectmen's minutes of meeting October 22, 2018

Members present: Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke, Fred Ventresco,
Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Paul Gaudette in representing the Conservation Commission to present and review the town's Generic NOI. It essentially covers maintenance of the roads, it is separate from jurisdictional projects. Jurisdictional work has to be applied for separately. The NOI is good for 3 years with a possible 2 year extension. Some culvert work is covered under the generic NOI as long as it is in a dry area. Other culvert work has to be applied for in a separate NOI.

Maria Domato asked about a culvert by her property on Lower West St. that was filled in and there is a large hole that she tries to maintain by weedwacking it. Paul responded that that is an issue for the highway department.

Reviewed the Energy Reduction Plan submitted by the Green Community Committee. The plan was read aloud. Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to accept the Energy Reduction Plan.

Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to appoint Megan Smigel to the Recreation Committee.

We will table item 5 until next week.

Discussed the cardboard compactor grant, we were only awarded \$500.00.

Reviewed and signed the warrant for the state election.

Highway department updates:

The garage building is moving along quickly. They are starting the plumbing and electrical.

One of the new trucks may be ready in 6 weeks. Dirt road grading continues. They are working on the drainage on Sullivan Road and will have some assistance from the fire department to open a clogged culvert. They will be working on Route 183 and parts of Route 57 patching the asphalt.

Maria Domato presented a drawing of the drainage problem on Lower West Street by her property. Several years ago permission was given to build a house on stilts, that house has been replaced with a house with a basement. The owners of that house continuously drain the basement into the side of the road causing damage. The selectmen will make a site visit to assess the situation.

Discussed water to the Old Town Hall due to the fire. The well is hooked up but there is no electricity to it. It should be all set in the near future.

Selectmen's updates:

George and Brian went to a Selectmen's Dinner meeting with Senator Hines. They discussed Chapter 90 funding. Brian reviewed at that meeting the Five Town Coalition for Route 57. He explained that the \$1,000,000 cost for engineering which is required before they can get the grant to work on Route 57 is impossible for the five towns to raise. He has requested that Senator Hines and Smitty Pignatelli attend the next Five Town Coalition meeting to discuss Route 57 and the unfunded engineering costs.

Brian introduced Margaret McClellan as the new interim Town Accountant. She works for Tolland, Otis and Becket and is very experienced. She will continue to use Dennis Mountain to close the books.

Town Administrator updates:

Fred received a response from the homeowner on Dodd Road with the crushed culvert that is causing damage to the road. The homeowner will repair the culvert. Fred provided an update on technology issues. To be backed up to the "Cloud" we would need to at least double our band width. Fred will continue to work on this. Assessor Kathy Burrows asked why their side of the building was not operating at the same internet speed as the rest of the building. Dolores explained that the prior administration did not want to spend the money to wire the entire building, they only did half of the building. Since it is budget time we will look into completing the job.

Mark directed Fred to get a better exterminator for the mice issue we are having at all the town buildings.

Barbara Cormier asked about the union contract, it has not been signed yet. We have advertised for a road superintendent and a truck driver/laborer for the

highway department. Fred has also posted for a highway department secretary and town accountant opening.

Barbara suggested that the town limit the amount of jobs one person can hold so as to not be in the situation we are currently in.

Fred will be the contact person for the website administrator.

Discussed camper/trailer violations.

Reviewed and signed warrants

Reviewed mail

Kathy Burrows, Chair of the Cemetery Committee read aloud a letter from the committee requesting to be part of the mowing contract process. They have done a lot of volunteer work clearing areas of brush at the cemeteries that has not been maintained. These areas are now overgrown. They would like verbiage in the new contract that would cover maintaining areas that they clear. The Selectmen agreed to allow them to be part of the process. Fred will contact them when he works on the bid.

Discussed flag protocol.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Mark Newman

Brian O'Rourke