

## Selectmen's minutes of meeting October 9, 2018

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

Called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Mark opened the Tax Classification Hearing. Assessors Bethany Perry, Kathy Burrows, Steve Kopiec and Principle Assessor Jackie Bitso present. Bethany reviewed the tax allocation. She explained the history of the town keeping with one tax rate for all, not splitting it between residential and commercial. There is not enough commercial business. Reviewed the Tax Rate Recap sheet. The tax rate will go down from \$13.29 to \$12.03, however the tax bills will not go down. The Assessors job is to work with what the voters approved. Bethany reviewed the 4 questions regarding the tax allocation. Discussed "Open Space". The town does not have registered open space. Discussed the different Chapter programs and tax except properties. Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to make no changes to the allocation.

Minutes reviewed and signed.

Jeff Bye in for Broadband. He presented two versions of an Action Plan. One path moves us forward more quickly and mirrors the process the town of Tolland is doing. The other places us in a waiting mode for the next 6 to 9 months before we find out if Crocker is able to get USDA funding. George feels that if we wait until the third quarter of 2019 it will be a major setback. By signing the action plan it does not preclude us from looking into other companies and exploring other options. There is some interest from Charter Communications. Jean Atwater Williams asked about the shortfall, Jeff responded that it is \$990,000. The previous selectboard agreed to keep the buildout at 96% of households, Brian responded that they would not change this. There has been discussion with other vendors. Jeff stated that they are in the procurement process now and can begin to negotiate. The selectmen agreed to wait one week before signing the action plan. We will place it on next weeks agenda. Barbara Cormier thanked Jeff and the Broadband Committee for all their hard work on this issue, also thanked by the Select Board.

Highway Dept. updates:

The Rugg Bridge repair has begun.

The highway garage is moving right along.

They continue to work on the dirt roads.

They met with Mass DOT and have gravel coming.

Hammertown Road is now open and passable.

Brenda Larson asked about grading, Mark responded that they actually grade twice a year. Brian responded that we need more gravel on all our dirt roads. Also pointed out that we have had an excessive amount of rain this year. Mark explained that it takes 7 times the amount of money to maintain a dirt road as opposed to the paved roads. Discussed chip sealing. Ron Bernard, who lives on Cold Spring Road likes the job they did on that road with the chip sealing process.

Maria Domato asked about regulations regarding sub pumps draining into ditches. She stated that a neighbor is pumping out into the road. Mark responded that they have been very busy checking culverts and ditches. Mark has asked home owners to clean their driveway culverts as it is not the town's responsibility. Chuck Nelson stated that no one has the right to pump into the road. Brian and Mark will follow up with Maria Domato.

#### Selectmen updates:

George reviewed the October 3<sup>rd</sup> five town meeting in New Marlborough. The towns of New Marlborough, Granville, Tolland, Monterey and Sandisfield are taking a united approach towards getting Route 57 repaired and repaved. There is \$5,000,000 available for New Marlborough, Monterey and Sandisfield for culvert and prep work. They are seeking clarification on the engineering funding. They are working on setting up a meeting with Smitty Pignatelli and Senator Hines. Nina commended the board for working together with other towns, this is the most action she has seen on Route 57 in at least 10 years. Brian stated that their goal is to work with the 5 towns to become shovel ready.

George continues to work on Green Communities issues.

#### Town Admin. updates:

Fred provided an update on the meeting he had regarding the campers with Kim Spring, Dolores and Eric Munson, Zoning Code Enforcement Officer. Kim went to Great Barrington Court and obtained a copy of a violation form other towns use. Fred has sent this to town council for guidance. Using this violation form will pass the cost of any court costs on to the owner not the town. Town Council did advise Fred to send in addition to a certified letter and letter by regular mail to the same violators. We are still having a problem identifying the New Hartford Road camper. The Board of Health is meeting next Monday, and this issue is on their agenda. John Burrows provided the license plate for the New Hartford Road camper. Alex Bowman also has this information and will forward it to all selectmen.

Fred was not able to follow up on the crushed culvert on Dodd Road as he doesn't know who it belongs to.

Brian approached the owners of a camper that popped up on West Street. They were unaware of our bylaws and were very receptive to Brian.

Chuck Nelson discussed water problems on Dodd Road from the crushed culvert. Fred will send a registered letter informing the homeowner to repair the culvert.

Discussed the light at Yanner Park. Fred followed up on it, it cost about \$6.00 per month. If we turn the light off the power company will remove the poll. When we want to add a light back on we will have to pay for a new poll. Fred feels it will be cheaper to just pay the \$6.00 a month since the Yanner Park Committee is active now. Steve Rubenstein said that if we turn off the light and the pole is removed he will personally pay for the new poll when it's needed.

#### Future agenda items:

Conservation Commission will be in to review the Town's Generic NOI and culvert NOI.

Consideration and vote on the Broadband Action Plan.

Discuss the Transfer Station Mailer.

Reviewed and signed the warrants  
Reviewed the mail

Nina Carr is requesting use of the Old Town Hall for yoga classes on Thursday afternoons.  
Permission given.

Alex Bowman asked about transitional plans for the Town Accountant Job. Fred responded that he is working on job descriptions and advertisements.

Dawn Lemon presented paperwork for final bridge work and chapter 90 reimbursements. All documents reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

---

Mark Newman

---

Brian O'Rourke

---

George Riley