

Selectmen's minutes of meeting Nov. 13, 2018

Members present: Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke (Brian participated remotely by conference call) George Riley, Fred Ventresco, Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Reviewed and signed minutes of meeting

Discussed the open meeting law complaint filed by Bridgette Ruthman. George reviewed the complaint which refers to the redacted minutes from the executive session held on Sept. 20, 2018. Town Council responded that it is not an open meeting law violation, technically it is a Public Records complaint. Town Counsel has drafted a written response which will be sent to Ms. Ruthman and the Attorney General.

Rita Kasky in to thank the DPW for their efforts on Silverbrook Road but she is still concerned about the condition of the road. She presented pictures showing potholes in the milled area. Mark responded that the biggest problem is that that area is on ledge. They would actually have to blast it to remove the ledge which would be extremely costly. They have put several loads of stone in the area.

At 7:17p.m. Brian called in, he is on speaker phone.

Mark has abstained from the following 2 votes.

George reviewed the work session held this morning regarding the laborer and road superintendent positions. They reviewed 9 resumes for the road superintendent and narrowed it down to 4 to be interviewed. They only received one for the laborer position.

Motion by George, second by Brian with Mark abstaining to hire Keith Larson as laborer for the DPW. Roll call vote: George, yes, Brian, yes.

Motion by George, second by Brian with Mark abstaining to appoint Mark Newman as interim Road Superintendent until a permanent hire. Roll call, George, yes, Brian, yes.

Continued the discussion on Silverbrook Road. Mark explained that snow is coming this week and they need to wrap some things up. The asphalt plants close this Friday. They will be getting a load of cold patch that will hopefully help with Silverbrook Road through the winter.

Highway Dept. updates:

They have been cleaning ditches, grading in the rain and have brought several loads of gravel to Shade Road. The garage is moving along. They are now working on the inside of the building and hope to be in it within a few weeks. We currently have 5 trucks ready for snow plowing.

#### Selectmen's updates:

George reviewed the Five Town Coalition meeting held last Thursday in Sandisfield. They had representatives from Granville, Tolland, Sandisfield, New Marlborough and Monterey along with State Rep. Smitty Pignatelli. Smitty was very supportive of the 5 towns working together to approach the State to help with Route 57. Mark explained that we need to catalogue every culvert on Route 57 including the location, length, width and condition. He is asking Barbara Cormier to present this task as a senior tax workoff project. Barbara agreed and will work on it. This is part of the pre engineering work that needs to be done. George explained there is a bond item for 5 million for Route 57 for only the Berkshire county section and it does not include engineering costs. Any work we can do together with neighboring towns will look favorably upon us. We need to produce a comprehensive plan.

#### Town Admin. updates:

Fred did receive a quote on pest control. As all the companies he has contacted they are all busy. This one will require \$1,000 up front and then \$295 a month. It will cover the Library, Old Town Hall and Town Hall Annex. We will need to look the budget over before committing as this was not budgeted for. Ron Bernard suggested a much more affordable process using buckets with water and peanut butter. He has been very successful at his house with this method.

Barbara Cormier asked Fred if he had completed the job description for the senior tax workoff project of trash pickup. He has not, he will have it ready tomorrow.

Reviewed and signed warrants

Reviewed mail

Ron Bernard discussed the condition of Cold Spring Road since it was chip sealed. There is so much loose gravel the entire length of the road. The stone is making travel conditions dangerous, it is hard to apply your brakes, makes walking very difficult and will cause a conservation issue when the gravel makes its way into vernal pools and wetlands. Mark responded that this was a Kinder Morgan job and they should be responsible for completing the job. Mark has called 4 different companies to get the loose gravel swept up but everyone is busy until next year. Ron will forward contact information for Kinder Morgan and FERC for the town to follow up.

Ron questioned the salary for interim road superintendent Mark Newman. George responded that he feels he should get the same pay as the previous road super. They will be interviewing for a permanent road superintendent within the next 2 weeks. They are also considering a part time seasonal employee for the dpw.

Brenda Larson commended on how hard the crew works with the amount of miles they are responsible for.

Barbara asked for an update on the Dodd Road culvert problem. Fred has sent a letter giving the homeowner until Nov. 30, 2018 to fix the culvert or the town will fix it and then bill the homeowner.

Bogart Muller asked about the tree at Wilbur Park. It is dying and he would like to take care of it.

Meeting adjourned at 7:8 p.m.

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Mark Newman

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Brian O'Rourke

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George Riley