

## Selectmen's minutes of meeting August 27, 2018

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

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting is being recorded

Review and signed minutes of meetings.

Highway Dept. updates provided by Bob O'Brien:

They got caught up on numerous washouts from the recent heavy rainstorms. The roads are not perfect but are passable. He will remove the road closed sign from Silverbrook Road tomorrow. Last Tuesday and Wednesday he met with the engineer and contractor's at the Rugg Bridge. More repairs are needed than originally thought. All the seams need to be redone. Mark stated that he is receiving conflicting reports from the engineer. Bob explained that the contractor wants to use a different caulk for the seams, Bob would like them to use one that's been used for a long time. Mark said there are areas that the top is actually peeling away. Bob responded that they are going to form up the joint before replacing the caulking. Brian explained that the engineer's report is quit extensive regarding needed repairs. He reviewed the extended warranty but the warranty is limited. They need more details. Fred and the Selectmen are scheduling a meeting with the highway dept., engineers and contractors to do a walk through of all the repairs and the warranty details.

The potholes on Town Hill Road are still not done. Brian responded that is you tell a resident that you are going to fix it by a certain date to please do so.

Tolland Road is now complete. Ralph Morrison would still like the ditches and drains cleaned out. Bob said they will probably get to it this fall.

Machinery is coming to Cold Spring Road Wednesday of this week. Project is on time.

The cleanup of the town garage should be starting by the end of this week.

Brian asked about the signs on Roosterville Road that were requested a month ago. Bob responded that the signs have been ordered but not installed.

Mark asked about the guardrails for West St., S. Sandisfield Rd., and Town Hill Road. Bob responded that they should be installed around October.

Barbara Cormier asked about a new employee for the DPW since it was budgeted for. Bob responded that he is not ready for a new employee. Discussed the union contract. Fred responded that it is settled, he does not have the contract yet.

Kathy Burrows asked about line painting on the roads, Bob responded that it is not happening at this time, it has not been budgeted for.

Steve Rubenstein suggested getting a legal opinion on the Rugg Bridge problems. Mark and Brian clarified that the engineer is the expert of opinion and is doing a very good job for the town. The engineer has to sign off that all is approved before we make the final payments.

Billie Anderson Pachulski in to present an update on the 5K run. She has 15 people already signed up. She has local business sponsors. They will be reaching out to local schools to see if any students are interested in participating. Brian will contact the coach at Monument Mountain. SARC will be hosting the after party event. The insurance will be all set and a copy sent to the DCR. Brian stated that there is another 5k run happening that same day for Gould Farm. Billie is having signs made and will place them around town, she is also doing a lot of advertising online. Billie will be back one more time before the event for a final update.

Discussed the FY2020 budget process. Fred stated that when we set up the budget timeline and process we didn't recognize the second half Finance Committee, the Board was not aware of the listing (numbered 1-6) after the first paragraph. Dolores clarified that the entire bylaw was voted on and certified. Fred feels the by-law requires involving the finance committee more. Joe Gelinus explained that the finance committee met this past Saturday and discussed amending the bylaw regarding the finance committee. Joe explained that the current bylaw the has the budget owners submitting their budgets to the selectmen, town administrator and finance committee simultaneously. The finance committee is submitting two bylaw change requests. Brian stated that the presented changes by the finance committee reflect exactly what the selectmen voted on for the budget timeline. Item #2 addresses joint budget meetings. The current bylaw calls for a joint meeting, the amended calls for a joint meeting only if the selectmen feel it is needed. Ralph Morrison asked about deadlines. Fred responded that all budgets are due by Nov. 30 to the selectboard, they will review and set up a meeting with the budget owners, then all budgets go to the finance committee Jan. 15, they then have 6 weeks to review. The finance committee will let the selectmen know if there are any questions on budget submissions, the selectmen will then call in the budget owners to discuss if needed. Motion by Brian, second by George, passed unanimously to amend the bylaw as follows:

Line 1 amended to read: In consultation with affected parties the Select Board or its designee shall prepare an operating budget timeline for the next fiscal year's operating budget.

Line 2 amended to read: After review of the budget requests, budget owners shall meet with and provide additional information as may be requested by the Select Board or Town Administrator.

Alex Bowman presented some of his own personal opinions on streamlining the wording of the timeline.

Motion by George, second by Mark, passed unanimously to table item 4 on the agenda.

Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to appoint the following to the Yanner Park Committee: Roger Kohler, Alexandra Tinari, Robert Tarasuk, Jessica Cofrin and Susan Tarasuk.

Discussed the marking of vehicles. Ralph would like the selectboard to contact all department heads before passing a policy on marking vehicles. He is concerned that they are not meeting Mass DOT standards and there is also a budget issue. Mark responded that they are working on creating a policy and need more time.

Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to table Item 7 on the agenda.

Jeff Martin in from the DCR seeking permission to use an old wood road on Yanner Park property for skidding logs. Their logging job is on Hammertown Road and in order to get some of the wood out they would like to use the old road. The road is currently being used by the logger doing the logging job on Yanner Park. Mark asked for a timeline, Jeff responded approximately 2 years from when the bid is awarded. Jeff explained that he/DCR has given the town \$6,000 in kind (stone and gravel) for the last timber sale and will give another 8% of the sales of the upcoming harvest. Nina Carr suggested the town work a deal in which we would let them use the road if they fixed the road into York Lake. Jeff explained why that would not be possible. Discussed work schedule. Jeff responded that they do not work on Sundays, all other days they work from sunup to sundown. Jeff will put a contract together which will cover the town under the loggers performance bond. Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to grant permission to use the old wood road.

#### Selectmen's updates:

George continues to work on the Green Communities process.

Brian updated on York Lake, the bathrooms are open and working.

Steve Rubenstein stated that the street light at Yanner Park is back on, Bob and Fred will follow up on this.

#### Town Administrator updates:

Fred stated that he has almost gotten to the bottom line number on the overage for the Rugg Bridge.

Dolores reviewed the timeline for the State Primary setup. Her main concern was that there was no water at the Old Town Hall. Bob fixed the pump Friday so the restrooms are working. She will be setting up for the primary this week.

Next week's meeting is on Tuesday due to Labor Day.

Bogart Muller read a letter (copy attached) expressing his concerns over the volunteer cleanups done by the Cemetery Committee. He feels they are doing more damage than good. He would like them to stop the cleanups. Barbara Cormier stated that as a past member of the committee she has been involved in the volunteer cleanups and strongly disagrees with him. She feels he should contact the cemetery committee instead of complaining to the Selectmen, shame on him and his derogatory comments. Kathy Burrows, chair of the committee clarified that as chair she did indeed contact the highway department secretary multiple times to let them know when they would be cutting brush and when they were done cutting the brush so that they could pick up the piles as has always been done in the past. Bob responded that he did not get the message. Brian asked if the North Beech Plain Cemetery brush pile was picked up, it has not. Brian stated that there seems to be a lack of communication going on. Bogart said that he did not have Kathy Burrows phone number. Brian suggested that the Cemetery Committee when preparing their FY2020 budget that they include funding for a contractor to pick up the brush piles and debris.

He pointed out that the finance committee was present at this meeting to hear all of this so that they will understand when the Cemetery Committee budget increases. Our highway department has so much of their own work to do on the roads that they do not have time to help with the cleanups. Bogart made a formal apology for his language towards the Committee and the room. Kathy responded that this has happened in the past. She would like the Cemetery Committee to have input when the Mowing and Cemetery Maintenance Bid is up for renewal.

Mail reviewed

Warrants reviewed

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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Mark Newman

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Brian O'Rourke

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George Riley