

Selectmen's minutes of meeting August 7, 2018

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

Members absent: Bob O'Brien

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Consideration and vote to appoint Paul Gaudette to the Planning Board. Motion by George, second by Brian, passed by majority.

Consideration and vote to accept the letter of resignation from George Wheeler from the Broadband Committee. Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously.

Consideration and vote to appoint Bill Haines to the Broadband Committee. Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously.

Discussed the final agreement from Kinder Morgan. The town was offered \$50,000 from Kinder Morgan and in exchange we would release them from any past, present or future claims. This started off as a gift but now has many conditions attached to it. Paul Gaudette from the Conservation Commission verified that this agreement does not apply to the conservation issues. Attorneys consulted by the Town strongly suggested not to accept and sign the agreement, it is definitely not in the best interest of the town. The selectmen are all in agreement not to sign. Fred has been directed to return it with instructions that we are open to negotiations. Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to reject the agreement.

Billie Anderson Pachulski in from the Recreation/Community Center Committee to review the 5K run progress. She has received and completed the registration with the DCR. Mark asked her to make sure she keeps the police department involved, she has and will continue to. She has insurance coverage for the event.

Reviewed and approved the one day all alcohol permit for the Sandisfield Fire Dept., Inc. steak roast.

Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to table item 8 regarding Fire and Police dept. insurance.

Discussed the FY2020 budget process. Fred and Dolores met to review the schedule. We will send out budget packets the second week of September. Accountant Dawn Lemon will send the spreadsheets electronically. The deadline for budget submission will be November 30, 2018. The selectmen will review them and meet with departments and boards/committees as needed until Jan. 15, 2019. Budgets will be then handed to the Finance Committee who will have until Feb. 28 to review and meet with departments and boards/committees as needed. March 15, 2019 is the final date for any changes to the warrant or for any submission such as initiative petitions. Fred

will reach out to department and boards starting November 1, 2018 to make sure they are progressing on their budgets. We will adhere to the deadlines. Fred will notify the Finance Committee of this revised schedule and procedure. Dolores requested information on the annual town report. This past year was the first time the annual town report book was not mailed to every registered voters household. There were some complaints that voters were asked to vote on something they had not seen. The bylaw requires that the warrant be mailed to every registered voters household. She reduced the amount of books printed last year as directed by the selectboard. Bill Price from the Sandisfield Times will run an article to survey what the voters think about not receiving the book. Brian suggested voters request ahead of time whether they want a book. Discussed having them available at the town meeting. We will follow up on this as opinions come in.

Reviewed and signed the warrant for the State Primary to be held on Sept. 4, 2018.

Discussed Transfer Stickers fee and annual business license fees. Dolores reviewed the history of the fees. Discussion on who is required to have a business license. Discussed business certificates. Dolores suggested that Fred use his town administrator/manager email connections to survey towns our size for what they charge for fees and how they handle business licenses. He will follow up on this. Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to keep all fees the same.

Discussed the additional funding to the Rugg Bridge, Route 57. Fred reviewed the October 2017 special town meeting vote that authorized the town to use \$220,000 from stabilization, \$100,000 from Chapter 90 and the rest from a bond or loan. The board does not want to use chapter 90, they all agree that the funds should be used on the roads as that funding is limited. Fred and Dolores met with the Treasurer Terry Spohnholz and feel that the only place to get the additional funding would be from stabilization and suggest to the finance committee that the additional funding be paid back to stabilization. Brian suggested paying it back once free cash is certified. Brian would like Fred to get a better final number and to confirm the holdback amount. Perhaps the holdback could be used instead of stabilization. Fred will also confirm with Dennis Mountain that Free Cash will not be available instead of using stabilization. Fred will follow up. Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to take the \$78,000 from stabilization. This will require a special town meeting. We will place this on the August 20 agenda. Fred will contact the finance committee.

Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to sign the Release Assignment from The Travelers Insurance Company regarding the Treasurers Bond Reimbursement issue. Per Fred we have recouped all but \$8000.

Selectmen's updates:

Brian continues to work on York Lake. He contacted Smitty Pignatelli, discussed the rodent issue and mold problems with the bathrooms. There is a mold remediation company scheduled to address the issue. The state is supplying porta potties. Going forward all complaints and suggestions for York Lake will go through Brian, it will be more efficient to have one point of contact. He has assurances that York Lake will be open next summer.

Brian continues to work on an article regarding the condition of Route 57.

Town Administrator updates:

Fred continues to move forward with the Green Communities and working with BRPC. BRPC will also be helping with the MVP grant.

Barbara Cormier asked about the van grant for the seniors. Fred and George responded that they felt the hurdles to jump through were too high, we simply do not meet the points required to get the grant on our own. They may look into applying with another town.

Mark asked about the Complete Streets Grant, Fred is working on speed limit signs and bike racks. Discussed the signs for Roosterville Road, they will be posting a "closed to through traffic" sign. Fred and Bob are working on this together. Brian discussed the speeding issue with the UPS driver.

Future agenda items:

York Lake update

Special Town Meeting

Fire/Police Insurance

George discussed the Green Communities Team. They will need to make 3 bylaw changes to the Solar Bylaw. Dolores explained that the recently passed Solar Bylaw has not been approved by the Attorney General yet. They cannot start to change a bylaw until the attorney general has approved the current one. Larry Dwyer would like to start soon and possibly have it on the special town meeting warrant.

Discussed selectmen's meetings. Due to the amount of work to be done we will go back to regular weekly meetings starting Aug. 20, 2018.

Mark reviewed the Attorney General's opinion on "topics not reasonably anticipated." It is okay to discuss items but best to put them on the next meetings agenda.

Reviewed and signed Chapter 90 project requests for S. Beech Plain Road work and gravel for the dirt roads.

Mail reviewed

Warrants reviewed and signed

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Mark Newman

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley

