

Selectmen's minutes of meeting February 4, 2019

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

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of meeting reviewed and signed.

Fire Chief Ralph Morrison and Police Chief Mike Morrison in to discuss creating a position for a full time Public Safety Officer. They presented a budget handout. The total cost will be approximately \$56,584 a year not including insurance. This will be a Monday through Friday 12 hour a day job. There will be some flexibility during the busy season and around holidays when our population increases. Barbara Cormier asked if this is in addition to our police, fire and emt departments. Mike responded that there will be a reduction in the police budget. Ralph has no where to cut the fire dept. budget except for maybe \$2,000 from fire/emt compensation. Brian suggested a work session next Wednesday, February 13 at 4:00 p.m. All agreed.

Kathy Burrows requested to be on the agenda to discuss the new Short Term Rental law. She feels this is a good avenue for substantial revenue for our town. Dolores presented copies of the law. George reviewed the bylaw the town of Richmond adopted. After some discussion the Selectmen asked Roger Kohler, Chair of the Planning Board to look into creating a bylaw for our town.

The Selectmen interview three candidates for secretarial positions for the highway department and the finance committee. All three were excellent candidates.

Motion by Brian, second by George, passed unanimously to hire Joanne Grybosh as the Admin. Asst. to the DPW. She has worked with extensive knowledge of Chapter 90 and has worked with the DPW in Blandford.

Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to hire Kyle Lawrence for the Admin. Asst. for the Finance Committee.

Selectmen's updates:

Brian reviewed the work session held with the DPW Superintendent. They reviewed equipment, trucks, roads and bridges. Brad has visited every road and has recommendations. He suggested applying for a Small Grant for the bridge on Route 57 near 90 Sandisfield. He has been successful in the past applying for this type of grant. Discussed equipment needs. We would like to trade in the loader which has been red tagged and cannot be used off site. The loader is an essential piece of equipment. We would also like to trade in the F550 for a pick up truck. George reiterated that we are dealing with a lot of deferred maintenance. We will hold an open house on the new garage building after the winter. Nina Carr commented on the poor plowing job being done by the contractor at the Library. The walkways and book drop box were not cleaned up.

George continues to work on the Green Community applications. They have 2 for insulation and one for lighting.

Town Administrator updates:

Fred presented paperwork for the CDBG for signatures. Reviewed and signed.

Discussed letter of support for Smitty Pignatelli regarding Chapter 90, letter reviewed and signed.

Dolores suggested that these items be placed on the agenda in the future.

He reviewed the phone issues he has been working on for the DPW and Conservation Commission. He is setting up a voice box message for Conservation. He would like to take one phone line from the Old Town Hall and use it at the DPW garage so that they can get DSL through the phone line.

Discussed Foresight bills for the bridge. Brian asked Mike Morrison to look into the police detail hours. Brian returned the bills to Fred, it is still over by \$6,000.

No future agenda items at this time.

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

Alex Bowman asked for an update on the replacement doors. Ralph Morrison explained that 3 are in and the others are on their way. They will be installed in May.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Mark Newman

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley