

Selectmen's minutes of meeting August 26, 2019

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

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Public Hearing to discuss the licensing agreement with Charter was opened by Mark Newman at 7:00p.m. Meeting is being recorded.

George has done extensive research concerning Charters unwillingness to provide and guarantee fiber optics to all homes. He followed up with several towns to discuss their experience with Charter. He contacted Rick White who stated that he was skeptical at first but was very happy with the work that was done. Fiber is cheaper and cheaper to maintain. Bottom line is we are not going to get a guarantee to have fiber to every household but it is plausible that we will get fiber to the homes. George now feels confident moving forward with Charter. He recommends going forward. Brian read the response from Town Counsel regarding the licensing application, they approved and recommended the application. Total cost of the project is \$2.6 million with \$1.6 million coming from MBI. The remainder which may be as low as \$800,000 will come from Sandisfield. There are a few options to pay for this, one would be to pay it back from the Cherry Sheet revenue, bond it out, or take all or a portion from free cash. The monthly rate for the service will be the same as the rates in Hartford, CT. Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to accept the final licensing agreement with Charter.

The waiver document was also signed. Discussed the timeline of the project. The make ready portion is the time consuming part. The utility poles all need to be inspected and may need to be replaced. Once that has been done it should be up and running quickly. Total time is approx. 1 ½ years.

Public Hearing closed at 7:25 p.m.

Reviewed and signed minutes of meetings
Reviewed and signed purchase orders.

Ralph Morrison in to update on the request to register and insure vehicles. Ralph was to have a quote on the additional insurance costs which he did not have. Brian contacted town counsel regarding giving back the 1980 tanker to the Fire Dept., Inc. They want the old tanker back to trade in for services for the 1988 tanker. Since the value of the 1980 is under \$10,000 the town can give it to a non profit. Dolores said we have a policy in place for items under \$5,000. She will review the policy and have it ready for the next meeting. Ralph asked if he could register the two army trucks, Hummer and tanker. Brian responded that there is no money in the budget for additional vehicles. Ralph would like us to appropriate funding at the next special town meeting. There is no need for a special town meeting at this time. Ralph will obtain a quote from the insurance company. Brain asked for an explanation of what the vehicles would be used for. Ralph responded that one of the army trucks will be for John Burrows for Emergency Management, the other army truck will be used for brush fires and the Hummer will be outfitted for search and rescues.

Roseann Skrip in representing SARC. She explained that the holdup on the sign is because they have not heard back from our conservation commission. Vista pruning is no acceptable. The sign company is ready to move the sign. Tabled until next week.

There is no update on the sign request from Berkshire Natural Resources. Tabled until next week.

Larry Dwyer from the Green Team presented the 3 bids for insulation for the Town Hall Annex. They are: Double R for \$13,402, R & M for \$18,138 and Advantage Insulation for \$15,938. This is a reimbursable grant, we pay up front and then apply for reimbursement. They continue to work on the lights for the Town Hall Annex and the Library. Ralph suggested they contact National Grid. Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to award the bid to Double R for \$13,402.

Mark reviewed the three quotes for the cardboard compactor. They are: International Container for \$12,148, Wastequip for \$18,239.50 and United Compactor & Baler for \$18,700.00. Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to award the bid to International Container for \$12,148.

Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to appoint Jennifer Lenzi to the Cultural Council.

Motion by Brian, second by George, passed unanimously to appoint Ron Bernard, Rosanne Carinci-Hoekstra and Jean Atwater Williams to the Historical Commission. The Selectmen suggested that there may be a problem having a majority of the board as spouses. They will look for 2 more members to fill the board. Ron discussed the National Registry of Historic Homes. Kathy Burrows suggested a review of the information on the Historic District designation be printed in the Sandisfield Times. George thinks its great to get the Historical Commission up and running again. Mark asked Ron to get them all the documents regarding the designation of a historical district before their meeting on Sept. 9.

Selectmen's updates:

Mark and Brian attended a meeting in Lenox with state reps, MassDOT, senators, Smitty Pignatelli and various state engineers to discuss Route 57. They discussed the Tip Program and Strap Grants. Discussed the unfairness of how small towns are overlooked. We do have a good shot at the Mass Works Grant. We may be able to get the Tolland Mountain portion of Route 57 done through Granville and Tolland. There is \$350 million set aside from state funds for route numbers roads such as Route 57 and Route 183. The state has offered to help by inspecting our ditches and culverts on those numbered routes. They have formed an asset management program that Brian and Road Super. Brad Curry will be on.

Chip sealing will start Sept. 12 for River Road and West Hubbard Rd. John Burrows asked about a top coat for New Hartford Road. It was never completed. Brian will follow up on this through the asset management program. Their next meeting is Sept. 20, 2019.

Mail reviewed

Warrants reviewed and signed

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Mark Newman

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley