

Selectmen's minutes of meeting September 16, 2019

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

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of meeting reviewed and signed

Purchase orders reviewed and signed.

Barbara Cormier and Nina Carr in from the Council on Aging to question a purchase order that was signed last week. They are questioning why they needed an insurance certificate for the yoga instructor and if the check is being held up pending the insurance certificate. Brian responded that per the law any contracted service that is paid over \$600 a year needs to provide a certificate of insurance. Brian will follow up with the Town Accountant to let her know that the purchase order was approved and to process the check. Nina would like to have the Town Accountant available during regular town hall hours.

School Committee member Jennifer Hibbins in to provide an update on the school.

They have purchased new playground equipment which was paid for by the PTA and grants.

They have increased the cost of breakfast and lunch by a nickel each.

They have had a lengthy ongoing discussion on replacing the grant money for pre school. The state was providing \$48,000 in funding a year, next year the state is reducing that number to \$38,000 and then discontinuing the funding all together. They are looking into incorporating 4 year olds into the regular school count as early kindergarten.

Discussed busing for out of district students. They have adopted a policy prohibiting busing for out of district school choice students. Busing is only available for in district students.

They have created a subcommittee for the upcoming union contract negotiations for the teachers and the para professionals.

Jennifer would like to amend the regional agreement assessment regarding the rolling average to every 5 years in lieu of every 3 years. The towns would need to get together and agree on any changes.

The School Committee voted to change their meeting dates during the November budget cycle so that someone from the town can attend their meetings. It is difficult when both the school committee and selectmen meet on Monday nights.

Brian asked for a heads up on anything important that may be on their agenda in which they should attend. The agendas are posted on the website and e-alert.

The Selectmen thanked Jennifer for coming in and providing the updates, it is much appreciated.

Roseann Skrip in representing SARC. They have moved their sign the required footage on Sept. 13, 2019. Permits reviewed and signed.

Motion by George, second by Brian, passed unanimously to appoint Constance Canty Donaldson to the Historical Commission.

Selectmen's updates:

Brian reviewed the bridge painting on the Route 57 Bridge. The painting was never completed. He reviewed the email from Mass DOT rescheduling their meeting on the repaving of Route 57. Mark reviewed that River Road chip seal is done and they are moving on to West Hubbard Road.

Future agenda items:

Discuss the sign request from Berkshire Natural Resources
Award bids from the Green Team for insulation and electrical work
Discuss funding for the Contribution and Assessment Agreement for Charter
Ralph would like to present a grant for review and vote

George provided an update regarding the sign request from BNR. He contacted Town Counsel. Per Town Counsel municipal uses are allowed by right but that signs are considered an "accessory use" so a special permit may be needed for a town hall sign. He suggested having the DPW apply for a special permit and waive the fees. There are no restrictions for what is placed on the sign. We could also amend the bylaws regarding signs. We will re address this at the Sept. 30 meeting.

Reviewed mail
Reviewed and signed warrants
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Mark Newman

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley