

Selectmen's minutes of meeting January 13, 2020

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

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Reviewed and signed minutes of meetings
Reviewed and signed purchase orders

Joanne presented the following budget submissions:

Yanner Park, budget submission reduced
Recreation Committee, level fund

Motion by Mark, second by Brian, passed unanimously to accept the budgets.

All agreed to designate Brian as the point person for the remaining budgets.

Discussed the lack of communication from the school regarding the FY2021 budget.

Selectmen's updates:

They have all been working on budgets, holding several work sessions and addressing concerns from citizens regarding the road conditions.

Town Manager updates:

Joanne will prepare monthly reports for the selectmen.

She is meeting with the Finance Committee this Saturday.

We will schedule a work session on Jan. 16 at 3 p.m. to finalize budgets.

She posted the Finance Committee Secretarial position. She has received the Community Compact Information Grant for \$17,450.

Reviewed the contract for Western Mass Recycling.

Reviewed the culvert list for Route 57, 10 out of 22 culverts will be replaced by the grant.

Future agenda items:

Next weeks meeting is on Tuesday.

Discuss the town credit card

Recycling

Bridgette Ruthman in to discuss Dodd Road

Reviewed mail

Reviewed and signed warrants

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

Zoe Marinelli Nelson expressed her concerns about the safety of the dirt roads. She had a difficult time getting in and out of Dodd Road. Mark responded that he and Brad were on the phone by 6a.m. Sunday morning creating a plan to be proactive about the mud.

Brian responded to a social media comment, the comment was that “all they got was a sign”. He explained how hard all the employees of the DPW actually worked on all the dirt roads during this exceptionally warm January thaw.

Brian reviewed a work session that was held last March 2019 in which it was discussed to do a full depth reclamation using Chapter 90 funds however since then we have become eligible for the MVP Grant which we qualify for in the amount of \$200,000. This grant is specifically for climate change impact which our dirt roads qualify for. The grant is for continuous preparing of rural unpaved infrastructure due to climate change.

Brian reviewed the amount of work that we have going on:

Rugg Bridge, painting and approaches, hired a new town manager, Mass Works infrastructure grant for Route 57 and 183, Broadband, Route 57 meetings with surrounding towns that has evolved into getting Route 57 paved from the New Marlborough line to New Hartford Road and from Tolland to Route 8 at no cost to the town and a commitment from Kinder Morgan to pave Cold Spring road. He explained how they prioritize all jobs. It will take time but we will be addressing the dirt roads. This past weekend’s warm weather was completely unanticipated. It was also hard to get larger stone as all surrounding towns were also looking for the same product. The DPW did get good comments from several residents from other dirt roads.

Anina Carr commended the DPW on a job well done. Zoe thanked the board for listening.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Mark Newman

Brian O’Rourke

George Riley