

Selectmen's minutes of meeting January 27, 2020

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

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting is being recorded

Reviewed and signed minutes of meeting

Reviewed and signed purchase orders

Emergency Management Director John Burrows in to provide information on ICS and NIMS. Joanne has taken the 100 & 700 classes. John reviewed the process for taking the classes on line. He recommends that the Selectmen take the ICS 100 & 700. ICS is the Incident Command System created for emergency situations. Bob Barry is the new MEMA coordinator. He is willing to come to Sandisfield to do a work session.

Dolores read aloud the Selectmen's response to the Open Meeting Law Violation filed by Kim Spring. A copy of the full response is on file.

"The Board reviewed the November 21 minutes at its meeting on December 30, 2019 and the Board members that had been present on November 21, Mark Newman and Brian O'Rourke, voted to approve them. It is the Board's firm position that these minutes are accurate and contain an adequate summary of all statements made. The Board notes Ms. Harasyko's statement at the end of the minutes that due only to the complainant's behavior, it was difficult to record the minutes, but the Board maintains that it is an accurate summary of the proceedings, including statements made by Ms. Spring.

In considering Ms. Spring's complaint, the Board reviewed its minutes from November 21 and reaffirms their accuracy and compliance with the requirements of the Open Meeting Law. The Board therefore submits that no remedial action is required."

Roger Kohler, Chair of the Planning Board in to present a draft of the Marijuana Bylaw. Copy of the draft and letter to the selectmen in on file. Discussed several issues. It is an eight page document. Brian asked several questions. Discussed the overlay district. Permitted establishments would only be allowed on Route 8 and Route 57. Discussed a consumption facility, there are no licensed facilities at this time. Discussed the "Seed to Sale" process which is highly regulated. Discussed the Community Host Agreement. Discussed revenues for the town, the on going revenue is 3%. Brian stated that verbiage needs to be changed and clarified. As it reads you could not fit a 5,000 square foot facility on one hundred acres with 2,000 feet of frontage. There is not a single parcel on Route 8 or Route 57 that fits this criteria. There probably isn't a parcel in town that would fit this criteria. This bylaw would essentially eliminate any facilities.

There needs to be distinctions on the types of establishments.

An overlay district is reasonable for retail but not for growth.

The requirements for greenhouses is too restrictive.

Discussed steel buildings versus greenhouses. There is more of a long term environmental impact with steel buildings.

Discussed hemp. Hemp is an agricultural product and is permitted with a license from the state as we are a "Right to Farm" community.

Brian addressed concerns with wording regarding "Private Clubs", how would this be regulated.

Brian addressed limitations on allowing only one non-medical retailer.

Discussed deliveries, this is already regulated by the State.

Mark suggested stopping on page 4 at 1.1.5.

Mark would like to see a separation of retail and growth.

Roger will take the bylaw back to the Planning board for review. The selectmen thanked him for all his hard work putting this bylaw together. It is a good start.

Discussed the Mass Recycling Contract. Joanne has been working on this. We are a dual stream community and the deadline has been extended until Feb. 28, 2020.

Reviewed and signed letter of support for the CDGB Grant.

Selectmen's updates:

Mark and Brian attended the presentation of the Mass Works Grant for Route 57. The work is to begin this spring.

Brian stated that he will be attending the MVP Grant award meeting next Wednesday in New Bedford. Joanne explained that Sandisfield is a pilot program for how to do a study of gravel roads.

Kinder Morgan has committed to re paving Cold Spring Road at no cost to the town.

The total for all the above work comes close to 2 million dollars of work to begin this spring at no cost to the town.

George continues to work with the Green Team, they are working on the RFP for a heat/pump system and solar system for the Town Hall Annex.

Town Manager updates:

Following are a list of projects Joanne has been working on.

Magna 5 phone system upgrades

Levy limit

School budget update

Mass DEP recycling contract

Finance Comm. questions

Cemetery issues

Ambulance update

Assessors/Patriot/Network Engineering

Posting communications to intranet

DOR-Gateway account

MVP Planning and Action grants

Retrieve HW data

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

We will hold the next two weeks of Selectmen's meetings on Tuesday's. February 11 & 18, 2020.

Larry Dwyer is requesting check numbers for payments regarding the insulation. Joanne will get in touch with Margaret for this information.

Reviewed mail

Reviewed and signed warrants

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Mark Newman

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley