

Selectmen's minutes of meeting October 6, 2020

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

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Remote participation information provided to the public.

Brian opened the special permit public hearing for Rose Nelson DBA Sunny Rose Farm. Zoe and Rose Nelson present. The special permit request is for all things related to equine care and events such as riding, boarding and lessons. Brian reviewed the bylaw. He reviewed the application which includes insurance policies, approved building permit and plans. Brian asked if any selectmen had questions or concerns, they did not. Brian asked the public if they had any questions or concerns, they did not.

Motion by Brian, second by George, passed unanimously to grant the special permit.

Roll call: Brian, yes, George, yes, Mark, yes. Mark disclosed that he is an employee for a farm that has sold hay to Rose Nelson in the past.

Public Hearing adjourned at 7:05p.m.

Regular meeting convened.

Minutes reviewed and signed.

Purchase orders reviewed and signed.

Dolores presented the history of the creation of the Transfer Sticker Account. It's original intent was to pay for various recycling programs and for transfer site improvements. In the past we have replaced fencing, signage and have done some paving. Currently we have \$63,504 in the Revolving Transfer Station Account. This account is separate from the budgeted raise and appropriate \$60,000 at the Town Meeting. She then compared bills from last July, August and September to this years bills. Due to the purchase of the cardboard compactor we have saved an average of \$1,000 per month. She is confident that we can reduce the raise and appropriate number for FY22 by at least \$7,500.

Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to allow Pauline Bakunis to continue working on the website. She is to keep track of her actual weekly time for the next 30 days and present that information to the Board.

George would like to look into hiring a proper Webmaster. He feels there are fundamental problems with the website that need to be corrected.

Nina Carr in for the COA. She would like to move the chair yoga classes indoor at the Old Town Hall. It is the only activity the COA is currently doing and would like to continue it as this is the only interaction some of our seniors have outside of their home. She has reached out to Board

of Health member Roger Kohler for Covid Protocol but has not had a response. The person doing the classes will take temperatures before they enter the building. They get 7 to 10 people per class. Brian responded that he received an email with the protocols from Roger Kohler. They require masks, 6 foot social distancing, 50% occupancy, hand sanitizer and disinfecting surfaces. Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to allow the COA to use the Old Town Hall as long as they clean and wipe down the chairs, door nobs, bathrooms and any surfaces they come in contact with.

Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to accept the letter of resignation from John Burrows as the Emergency Management Director. The Selectmen thanked him for all his years of service to the town.

John is recommending Eric Pachulski as his replacement. He will stay on to train Eric for a smooth transition.

Motion by Brian, second by Mark, passed unanimously to appoint Eric Pachulski as the Emergency Management Director.

John Burrows thanked the Selectmen, Police, Fire Dept. , and Town Clerk for all their assistance through the years. He gave a special thank you to Dolores for all her help.

Reviewed and discussed the potential bylaw changes regarding the finance committee's involvement with the budget process. Finance Committee does not want to give any impression that they own the budget. The budget belongs to the Selectmen. They want to remove the words "Draft Budget" from the bylaw.

Roger Brown would like to review the policies and procedures.

Reviewed and signed the State and Presidential Warrant.

Town Manager updates:

She participated in two Cares Act Calls, MEMA and DLS were also on the call and realize there is a lot of stress involved in the reporting. There is a lot of duplicate work being done. She has been working on it by herself.

She participated in a meeting with Great Barrington Town Manager regarding senior transportation. She will be reaching out to the COA to conduct a survey regarding transportation needs.

The Route 57 drainage culvert work will start next week and continue for the next 2 weeks. George asked who is going to service the work being done. Joanne responded that they have contracted with BETA for a civil engineer. George asked about the extension of time, Joanne responded that New Marlborough has given the extension.

Future agenda items:

Discuss the sale of cemetery plots

Vote to increase the Revolving Transfer Sticker account

Approve the draft of the Finance Committee bylaw

Reviewed mail

Reviewed and signed warrants

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

Larry Dwyer spoke to a few people regarding the annual report for the Green Committee regarding energy usage. In order to be eligible for future grant money he has to file the report this week. He needs gas, propane, heating and electric numbers for 2019 and 2020 for the DPW garage building. Joanne responded that she has asked the town accountant 3 times for the info.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley

Mark Newman