

Minutes of Meeting
Board of Selectmen
March 2, 2020

Present: Mark Newman, Chairman; Brian O'Rourke; George Riley;
Joanne Grybosh, Town Manager; Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Reviewed and signed minutes of meetings.

Reviewed and signed purchase orders.

Ron Bernard, a member of the Historical Commission, came before the Board to review the process for the removal of the Old Route 8 Bridge which belongs to the US Army Corps of Engineers. Ron stated "it is a historical bridge with only nine other bridges like it in MA but it would cost approximately \$800,000 to keep it going." The Town was notified September 2019 that the bridge would be taken down and only the abutments would remain. Prior to removal, a major study including any archeological evidence as well as photos will be taken at the site. The bridge will be taken apart in sections. Ron will keep the Board informed of dates for when bridge will be dismantled.

The Board reviewed and read aloud into public record the response from Town Counsel to the open meeting law complaint submitted by Alex Bowman. The response was entered into record and then public record. Barbara Cormier asked that it be included in the meeting minutes that she asked "how much is it costing the Town for this complaint?" Nina Carr asked about nature of complaint and asked if complainant felt the minutes weren't specific enough? The Chairman stated that "the minutes are to give you an understanding of what occurred and that Board of Selectmen updates were considered too vague." He then stated, "the Town Manager updates are fine the way they are." Ron Bernard asked for a copy of complaint submitted by Alex Bowman and response from Town Counsel. Ron also asked how much is this costing the town and asked for copy of legal bill to respond to this complaint. Ron will follow up with Dolores, Admin Asst. next week. The Chair accepted the lawyer's draft response as entered into public record.

The Board reviewed and signed Service Agreement for Porchlight VNA. Mark read aloud the purpose of Porchlight VNA. There was a brief discussion about what the services provided include. Porchlight VNA comes to COA once a month to do blood pressure and public health services. The agreement costs are \$3,179.61 for time period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Joanne provided an update on upcoming COMMBUYS postings. She provided the Board with an update of her meeting with Town of Sheffield and next steps for the MVP dirt road feasibility study project under the MVP grant. Joanne is also working the DPW and BSC engineers on a grant application for culvert replacement on North Beech Plain Rd. Grant application is due April 15, 2020.

The Board then reviewed the mail followed by review and signing of Warrants.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Mark Newman

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley