

Selectmen's minutes of meeting March 20, 2017

Members present: Alice Boyd, Jeff Gray, John Skrip, Willie Morales, Bob O'Brien, Dolores Harasyko

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

It is with deep respect that we acknowledge the Mahican Tribe, the pathfinders of our community.

Bob provided highway department updates. Reviewed last weeks snow storm. They fixed small trucks and plows. They then worked on pushing back the snow banks. Bob admitted to being the driver that hit the gate at the Center Cemetery while plowing. He will have it fixed in the spring. The dirt roads are not in bad shape. Discussed the damage to mailboxes damaged during the storm. He has purchased 2 small plows. Alice is waiting for figures for a new truck. Bob is looking at a 6 wheel with slide in truck and body for \$176,000 from the state bid. David Hubbard said it is fiscally irresponsible to purchase a new truck when we own the Osh Kosh and army surplus vehicles. Ralph Morrison responded that our vehicles are junk. Alice said they will use the surplus army trucks in the summer season. Bob said they are good for hauling only. Kathy Jacobs responded that this is the first time the finance committee has been notified about a truck. Alice suggested funding it from free cash. David suggested and supports training the the dpw employees.

David Hubbard and Kathy Jacobs in representing the finance committee to discuss a capital account. An account has to be set up with windfall money, perhaps from logging, stumpage fees and money left over from the school bond. They also suggested adding a meal and beverage tax. Alice responded that this was discussed at the last selectmen's meeting and it was agreed upon to use stabilization. Willie reviewed the law regarding the stabilization fund. He stated that a Capital Improvement Plan needs to be developed first. David responded that they did a lot of this through the various Strategic Planning Committee meetings. David feels a separate plan is needed for the highway department and the roads. Kathy feels that they should be able to set up a capital account. Willie clarified that this is not a valid account. Willie would like to do a presentation on the Capital Improvement Plan, Kathy doesn't feel it is necessary.

Willie presented a power point presentation and read each slide aloud. A copy is on file with these minutes of meeting.

David feels they can put this together fairly quickly. David wants tracking devises on all equipment to gather actual factual info. He wants to collect time, fuel usage, hours, people, how many times roads are graded, how much equipment is used.

Discussed bylaw changes.

Jeff responded that we have discussed this several times over the past several years and it is a waste of time. Alice reviewed a union contract case that was lost and tracking devices had to be removed.

Kathy asked about the new police cruiser. Alice suggested adding it as a separate article. The police currently have 3 vehicles one of which has a broken frame. John said there are alternatives to purchasing used equipment. Kathy feels that it is unprecedented to add two such large items on the same warrant.

Willie reviewed the Recreation Committee structure. He read aloud the opinion of Town Council. The Recreation Committee was appointed in 1995 in conjunction with the acquiring of Yanner Park. The Recreation Committee was never established into the bylaws. Dolores reviewed the history of the Recreation Committee. They have had a budget voted on every year since 1995. Willie does not feel we need to de structure the committee but re structure them with more members. Alice feels it is time to make it an official committee.

Selectmen's updates, John continues to work on the Master Plan Committee and the complete streets program. He is following up with Miller Petroleum.
Alice continues to work on Broadband.

Future agenda items; Vote on the Annual Town Warrant, Recreation Committee in two weeks.

Discussed Kinder Morgan. They refuse to sign a road repair agreement. There is a verbal agreement to video tape all the roadways they are going to use before and after.

David would like the selectmen to do a follow up letter regarding water testing of Spectacle Pond before, during and after Kinder Morgan works on the pipeline.
Ralph would like additional rules and regulations regarding blasting by Kinder Morgan.

Alice reviewed and signed the contract for logging at Yanner Park. There is a fee to Bob Tarasuk for \$16,280.18.
Motion by John, second by Alice, passed unanimously to process the payment to Bob Tarasuk for \$16,280.18.

Mail reviewed
Warrants reviewed and signed
Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Alice Boyd

Jeff Gray

John Skrip