

Selectmen's minutes of meeting March 13, 2017

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

Members absent: Jeff Gray

Called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Note for the record that Jean Atwater Williams is video taping the meeting.

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

Bob presented highway department updates. They have been working on dirt roads and plowing snow. One big truck is down with a broken crank shaft. They have contractors lined up for the snow storm.

Willie gave an update on the blizzard which is to arrive March 14, 2017, it is at a code blue emergency status.

Bob provided an update on the library basement flooding. He will follow up on the drainage pipe.

Bob Tarasuk and Adam Brown in to discuss the Yanner Park Logging project. David Hubbard would like to review the plans to make sure it is compatible for future plans of the use of Yanner Park. Bob reviewed the State Laws regarding Slashing. The trails will have connectivity to the BNR trails. They have taken into consideration all laws and conservation issues. Discussed the log landing on Hammertown Rd. Once Kinder Morgan starts work on the pipeline there will be adjustments made as to the traffic on Hammertown Rd. The Route 57 bridge will also be an issue as the logging trucks are too heavy to use that route. Bob said there are already established trails and landings. Adam addressed the recreational use of the Yanner Park land. It is ripe for developing recreational use. Mark Newman discussed concerns about slash cuttings left over 2 feet. Bob explained the slash laws address fire reasons and aesthetics. Bob responded that he oversees the contract and will adhere to the specs of the contract. Per the contract the trails will be clear. Barbara Cormier asked about logging bonds for damage to the road. Bob responded that agricultural project of logging is exempt from the bonding process.

Motion by John, second by Alice to sign the contract. Alice thanked Bob and Adam for all their work.

Discussed Yanner Park logging proceeds. It was previously discussed during a selectboard meeting to put the money from the logging into a Yanner Park enterprise account. David Hubbard suggested matching the original \$13,000 for Yanner Park and put the remainder into a capitol account which takes one time money to eliminate raising taxes for other expenses. Dolores suggested using some of the money to create a parking area at Yanner Park. Alice explained that we could use this for matching grants to complete the front and parking area. Kathy Jacobs feels the money would get lost in the stabilization account. She feels strongly that it should go into a specific fund. Fincom has been working diligently on a capitol plan for the town. John Skrip would like the proceeds to be deposited in the stabilization fund. Motion by John, second by Alice to match the \$13,815.93 for the Yanner Park maintenance account and the balance to go into the Stabilization Fund.

Tabled the discussion on the FY2018 warrant. Finance is still working on articles.

Discussed the 4 town announcement of the Broadband Award. The town went through a more stringent process of 30B, section 6D, procurement which explains the process of opening proposals. Willie explained

the process, an award was made, willie read aloud the award letter. The next step is to negotiate the cost. Willie provided handouts to go along with a slide show presentation. A copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes. There will be another informational meeting on broadband on April 15.

Jeff Bye reviewed the information on the three companies that submitted rfp's. Discussion followed. Jim from WiredWest does not agree with the bond payback numbers. Jeff explained that they used real numbers and data from the Town of Leverett. Discussed Frontier. Linda Riiska asked whether everyone has to pay even if they don't want to use it, Alice responded that they do. Discussion continued regarding Frontier. Start up time is estimated to be 2018. Jean Atwater Williams pointed out an error in the RFP, she pointed out that the poles are actually owned by Verizon & Eversource not National Grid. Discussion followed on MLP meetings. Jean Atwater Williams questioned about unposted meetings. Alice responded that there was never a quorum of any board at these meetings. She also stated that she provides updates at all Selectmen meetings. Discussed resigning from WiredWest. The reason to resign is to not risk the integrity of the process. Motion by Alice, second by John to withdraw from WiredWest, passed.

Willie provided town administrator updates. He reviewed the special town meeting vote regarding free cash, we will need to re vote at the annual town meeting.

Discussed the bridge.

Finance Committee continues to work on budgets.

Alice thanked all who worked on the MLP process.

She gave an update on the Route 57 bridge, they are hoping to start in June and it will be a 6 to 8 month process. Discussed painting the bridge which was not included in the bid.

John continues to work on Mass Dot Complete Streets. He is working with the DCR on Spectacle Pond.

Discussed creating a stabilization account for the school. There will not be a budget for it this year but the account would be established.

At 10:00 p.m. motion by John, second by Alice to enter into executive session for the express purpose of discussing contract negotiations and to adjourn immediately after.

Roll call: Alice, yes, John, yes.

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Alice Boyd

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John Skrip