

Selectmen's minutes of meeting Sept. 26, 2016

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

Called to order at 6:35

Motion to enter into Executive Session for the express purpose of discussing litigation and to return to the regular meeting after.

Roll call, Alice, yes, Jeff, yes, John, yes

Meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

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

The public hearing for the Tax Classification Hearing called to order with Alice reading aloud the public hearing announcement that was advertised in the Berkshire Eagle.

Assessor Chair Bethany Perry present to review the tax allocations. Motion by John, second by Jeff, passed unanimously to approve the Tax Allocation with no changes.

Bob presented highway department updates. He checked into retro fitting an army truck with a hydraulic pump. It can be done for approximately \$10,000. The plow can be used on other vehicles. Since it was not budgeted for we will hold off. They continue to work on potholes, drainage issues on Town Hill and West St., replacing culverts and headwalls.

John received calls regarding what the highway dept. has been doing. Bob will use the new town website to keep the public up to date. Bob asked John to direct the calls to him. Discussed the Small Bridge Program Bob is attending on Oct. 4. Mass DOT will help with filing out the forms.

Willie provided town administrator updates. Cornerstone will be in touch to discuss the installation of the new phone system. He continues to work on email upgrades. At this time Alice Boyd recused herself and left the room. Willie performed the Cori check on Dawn, there are no problems. Dawn contacted the Ethics Commission and received positive information that she can hold all the positions she does because she is not elected to any of them. She has agreed to not accept the planning board secretary if necessary. The selectmen agreed she can accept the planning board secretary job also.

Discussed Bill Perry's property. Bill and Bethany Perry present. Willie reviewed the personal property belonging to Bill. There is a question about a flashlight. Bill agreed that it does not belong to him. Willie presented pictures of a seat, wheel simulators, guard and maglight. Bill spent \$1,250 over a 15 year period on the truck he drove for the town. Willie presented paperwork for Bill to sign agreeing that these are his personal property. John asked Bill if he did indeed pay for these items out of his pocket, Bill stated yes that it was his own money. Bob asked about garage remotes, Bill responded that they are in the truck. Bob asked about a rechargeable

light, Bill does not have it. Bob asked about a backpack leaf blower, Bill does not know anything about it. Bob would like Bill to drop items off and Ralph Leavenworth with replace the items in the truck. Bethany stated that its assumed they are suing the town, she clarified that they are not, they live here and they do not like the feel of this meeting, it has an accusatory sound. Willie explained that it is his job to indemnify the town. Jeff has advocated for Bill from the beginning. They will swap tomorrow. Willie stated that this matter is now resolved.

Discussed the Yanner Park building demolition. The building is a liability and has been condemned by the building inspector. The highway department will take down the building. Dolores explained that the Boy Scouts have items in the building as well as a wood stove. Bob will remove those items for her.

Alice received a call from Tom Ryan regarding a trail grant. She would like to link it up with BRPC.

Alice provided an update on the new town website, it will be live soon. She has and continues to work on uploads to the website on local businesses and farms. It can be seen at Sandisfield.info. All departments and committees will be required to post their agenda meetings and minutes. The old website will disappear once the new one is live.

John continues to contact Miller Petroleum regarding the fuel readings. Continues to work on shared services. He would like a decision on the truck and plow.

Bob asked what the shared services are, John responded that some is equipment and some is services.

Alice spoke with Frontier regarding broadband. They are very interested in coming to town. They would like to see an RFP. They would absorb a lot of the install cost. They offer a triple play with TV. She continues to work on the website.

Future agenda items: Discuss the truck, Yanner Park light, selectmen's goals.

Rita Kasky asked about the pipeline. Alice responded that there is no agreement with the Attorney General. As far as the town compensation Judge D'Agostino said that the town could pursue a civil suit for compensation. Discussed performance bonds before the pipeline work starts.

John asked if the logging contract has been signed. Bill Riiska will be in tomorrow to sign.

Reviewed mail

Reviewed and signed warrants

Reviewed and signed minutes of meetings.

Jeff stated that he was at a party over the weekend in Monterey. There was questions asked about the article Alice wrote in the Sandisfield Times. The concern as that the article was written

by Alice and not by Jeff and John. Jeff did not see the article before it was published. He said the town of Monterey feels Sandisfield is in financial ruin. He tried to explain that it's not as bad as it seems, that we are fine. Ben Luxom asked Jeff if he feels Alice should not have written it. Jeff said he agrees things should be carefully written. Rita feels it was a good article. Alice feels we have a responsibility to state the facts which is what she did in her article. Willie proofed it and did not read anything inflammatory in it. Alice stands by what she wrote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Alice Boyd

Jeff Gray

John Skrip