

## Selectmen's minutes of meeting July 18, 2016

Members present: Alice Boyd, Jeff Gray, John Skrip (by remote participation via conference call on speaker phone), Bob O'Brien, Dolores Harasyko

Called to order at 6:38

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.

Discussed setting up interviews for the Town Administrator position. We will interview four candidates next Monday, July 25 starting at 2:30p.m.

Bob presented highway department updates. Alice received a call from a person who damaged 4 tires on Route 183. This person complained that she had been trying to get in touch with the highway dept. for days. Alice will forward her response to Bob.

Blacktopping began today, major potholes are done, next onto West St. and then Route 183.

There is surplus equipment available from Berkshire Regional Planning, Bob will pick it up.

Alice will draft a letter to the Annecharico Trust regarding issues at the post office. The town does not own the property and we are therefore not responsible for repairs needed to the walkway.

Bob asked if anyone had permits to move 2 houses over the Route 57 bridge. He feels the permits were issued without knowledge of the weight limitations of the bridge. John asked about the equipment. Bob responded everything is running well except the backhoe.

Alice provided an update on the Route 57 bridge. Steve Mack, consulting engineer explained that there will be a 6 month working time with a detour. There will be a temporary steel bridge placed over the Silverbrook Road bridge. There will be a stop light placed on River Road. Total cost is \$905,717. Bob suggested saving money by not installing the temporary bridge. Jeff responded it is needed for larger trucks such as fire dept. vehicles, school buses and highway dept. vehicles.

Motion by Jeff, second by John to move forward with the bridge plans submitted to the state and to approve the plan from Foresight Engineering. Roll call vote, Alice, yes, Jeff, yes, John, yes.

Motion by John, second by Jeff to appoint Anina Carr to the Council on Aging, passed unanimously.

Discuss a schedule for police patrolling at the transfer station. Police Chief Michael Morrison did as Constable John Burrows if he was interested, he is not. Alice will follow up with Mike.

Alice and Jean Atwater Williams provided an update on broadband. They have been looking into alternative options and funding. Jeff Bye has been actively doing site visits. Jean addressed the Wired West issue. The state is not allowing Wired West to move forward in their

current state. This may change in the future. The states plan is that towns build individually and the cost will be more to build and operate. There are 4 companies we could work with, however 2 are not interested in this area. The cost not including TV would be approx. \$100 per month for phone and internet.

Reviewed and signed the Wired West letter thanking them for their leadership but at this point we are pulling out of Wired West.

Motion by Jeff, second by John, passed unanimously to appoint Jeff Bye, Jean Atwater Williams and Alice Boyd to the Broadband Committee.

Residents can get their refunds back from Wired West by contacting them at 99 Main St., Northampton, MA.

Reviewed the 2016 selectmen's goals. Copy on file. The selectmen worked with the finance committee on a 6 year capital plan. They continue to improve the gas/diesel readings. Discussed shared services. Discussed alternative energy sources, John will continue to work on this. We have improved communications with the finance committee. We continue to work on improvements and plans on roads. Continue to work with finance committee, planning board and subcommittees until we are able to be bonded. We need 3 consecutive audits. We will continue to work on polices and job descriptions. Reviewed sample goals for 2017.

Reviewed and discussed letters from Gordon Chapman and Ron Pachulski regarding the roadside brush cutting that damages trees on their property. Alice feels a former employee damaged the trees. Jeff 's opinion is that is was equipment failure. Gordon stated that he contacted Bob and Bob stated that he would be by to trim all the ragged edges. The selectmen apologized to both property owners for the damage.

Discussed the town accountant position. Only one applicant which was weeks beyond the deadline. We will continue to seek a candidate.

Bob Tarasuk is moving forward with the logging job on the Sandisfield Center Cemetery.

Selectmens updates:

Alice has been very busy with broadband and Kinder Morgan.

John thanked everyone for all their well wishes, cards and flowers while he was out.

John would like a letter sent to each department requiring permission for any expenditures over \$1,000. Alice will check on the legality of this first. She explained that we are not sure how FY2016 will close out.

Cemetery deed signed.

Discussed a Tax Payers Association. The first meeting will be on Saturday, August 27, 2016.

Warrants reviewed and signed  
Mail reviewed  
Meeting adjourned at 8:40

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Alice Boyd

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Jeff Gray

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John Skrip