

Selectmen's minutes of meeting April 5, 2018

Members present: John Skrip, Mark Newman, Fred Ventresco, Bob O'Brien, Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 7:15 p.m.

John announced that we will be taking agenda items out of order.

Discussed placing an article on the Annual Town Warrant to adopt MGL 41, section 97A for the police department. The police chief will be reappointed every 3 years. Section 97A defines a "strong chief", section 97 defines a "weak chief". By adopting 97A the police chief more authority to run the police department.

Motion by John, second by Mark to place an article on the FY2019 Annual Town Warrant to adopt MGL 41, section 97A.

Discussed Broadband. John and Mark commended the Broadband Committee for all their work. They have spent well over 100 hours researching companies. The Broadband Committee is recommending Crocker Communications. Jeff Bye reviewed the process to date. Reviewed the MBI Flexible Grant program proposal comparison. With Crocker we will not own or maintain the infrastructure. Crocker will apply for \$1,000,000 grant. They will wire, maintain, and do the billing and collecting. We will need to build a 10' x 10' structure to house the wiring. The Woodlands are still unknown. The \$500 installation fee can be defrayed over a 3 year period. Jean Atwater Williams did research on her own showing different requirements. She feels that there is no assurance that Crocker will get the grants. John responded that there is a no cost backout plan. Jeff Bye said the landscape has changed and that Crocker is going to be applying to get the extra funding from USDA. Jean would like a plan that covers the whole town. John explained that Tolland has already started the process with Crocker. Kathy Jacobs stated that we need to move forward with internet service, we have many students, home businesses, smart tv's. Lisa Leavenworth asked if we need more money will every taxpayer have to pay more. John explained that this plan is different in that there is an opt out option. If you don't want it you don't pay for it. Only residents that want the service will pay for it. It is not going to be a tax.

Motion by John, second by Mark to approve the use of Crocker Communications as our Broadband Provider.

Discussed the donation of easels. The easels came from the Master Planning Committee. Nina Carr would like to give one to the Community Health Program. Motion by John, second by Mark to give one easel to CHP.

Discussed the rebuilding of the highway garage. The selectmen proudly signed the documents on this date with the insurance company. The insurance is paying to replace 3 trucks at the cost of \$711,000 and the building for \$460,000. The building will be a little bigger and will meet all codes. If we took the cash instead of replacing it would have been a substantially lower

amount. The insurance company will be in charge of the building replacement saving the town from the cost of the bidding process and from having to pay prevailing wages.

David Hubbard does not want to go forward with the building. John reiterated that the contract has been signed and they are going forward.

Highway department updates:

Snow continues to fall and they cannot work on the dirt roads until they dry out. The wind from last night caused downed trees and power outages. They are dealing with pot holes and sinkholes.

Nina thanked the highway department for cleaning up the area around the willow tree by the Silverbrook.

We will review and vote on the FY2019 warrant next week.

Selectmen's updates:

John continues to work with the Kinder Morgan contribution and the usage of York Lake.

Town administrator updates:

Fred is working on the Green Community designation. He is corking on the compactor grant, energy audit and a grant for a van.

Reviewed and signed minutes of meetings.

Simon Winchester would like further discussion on the highway garage location. The selectmen agreed to talk but the contract is signed and the work will begin on replacing the garage at the same location.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

John Skrip

Mark Newman