

Selectmen's minutes of meeting February 6, 2018

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

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting is being recorded

Highway Department updates:

They have been dealing with snow, ice and ice jams. There are problems with one of the Quincy trucks, hydraulic hose. Ordered salt and sand for the upcoming storm. Nina Carr complained about River Road, it is in rough shape. She also commented on the icy condition of the dump hill. She would like the roads to be safer. Bob responded they need some sunshine. Kathy Burrows suggested cutting back trees to let the sun hit the roads. Brian O'Rourke asked if there was prep work done on River Road before the detour was set up. Bob responded that he did what he could with the funding available. Once the bridge is done the road will be chip sealed.

Discussed negative posts on facebook regarding the conditions of the town roads. Brian O'Rourke explained that he had a difficult time getting home Sunday due to the slush that wasn't removed which then froze. Route 57 on top of the hill is solid ice. Charles Pease discussed the condition of Route 57, he suggested fixing the worst sections. Dolores suggested a separate line item for a specific repair and let the voters vote on it. Discussed Chapter 90, it is used up every year. Discussed the need for better roads to entice future growth. John wants more transparency about what is being done, where and when. Discussed grading, needs improvements. Joe Gelinas from the finance committee discussed having a committee to research a road survey.

Senior housing discussion postponed to a later date.

Bob Tarasuk in to provide an update on the logging of Yanner Park. Mark stated that he sees many trucks at the site filling up their pickup trucks with fire wood. Keith Larson the logger said that what is being taken is the tips of the trees. He explained that the bid is the actual purchase of the trees, he owns the trees. Mark asked about the timeline. Bob responded that they are almost complete with the first 100 acres, there are 197 acres left to go. They concentrated on the area with the most Ash trees. The remainder to be cut is in the stewardship plan to manage the property for future planning. There is written into the agreement for 1,000 cord of firewood. Bob will put together a report for the newsletter. Tom Ryan explained the process from the beginning. He encouraged the town to use state resources to start the process. Tom suggested sending questions and concerns to him. Fred has received calls about the condition of Town Hill Road at the logging site.

Discussed the new DPW/Highway Dept. committee. It will consist of 1 person from the finance committee, 1 person from the conservation commission, 1 selectmen, the highway super and members of the public. John would like to change the status of the highway department to a department of public works. The committee would be charged with looking into this. Brian O'Rourke would like to be appointed to this committee as would Charles Pease. Joe Gelinas feels we have a unique opportunity to research the best way to utilize the highway/dpw. Fred will be the liaison.

Motion by Mark, second by John to create the Highway Dept./DPW Committee with no more than 7 members.

Discussed the secretary for the finance committee. She is getting \$21.95 per hour. Dolores asked how the board values one employee over another. Most secretaries for boards and committees are getting \$12.00 to 13.00 per hour. John responded that this was a unique situation, it is not an hourly pay put a stipend of \$1,500 for the year. Discussed amending the job description. We would have to repost.

Motion by John, second by Mark to hire Dawn Lemon. Dawn also filed a disclosure from the Ethics Commission stating all her paid positions with the town.

Motion by John, second by Mark to accept the disclosure, it will be filed with the town clerk.

Nina Carr reviewed the Green Community Grant. This could provide grants for energy efficiency, possibly a new heating system. Fred will look into this.

Discussed the assessors clerks position. Kathy Burrows explained the desperate need to fill this position.

Motion by Mark, second by John to re-appoint Kim Spring as the Animal Control Officer.

The letter for the Route 8 signs read aloud explaining all the upgrades in the signage.

Selectmen's updates:

Mark met with the DEP regarding the transfer station and landfill issues. We have to have a plan in place by May and to have started the cleanup. Trees need to come and drainage work needs to be done.

We have an upcoming meeting with the insurance company.

John is meeting with shared services and continues to work on broadband.

Dolores reviewed legal posting requirements.

Discussed energy audits, Mark has directed Fred to look into this.

Fred is working on budgets, the energy audit and personnel policy.

Minutes reviewed and signed

Warrants reviewed and signed

Mail reviewed

Meeting adjourned at 8:15p.m.

John Skrip

Mark Newman