

Selectmen's minutes of meeting Dec. 21, 2015

Members present: Alice Boyd, Jeff Gray, John Skrip, Dolores Harasyko

Called to order at 2:30 p.m.

Police Chief Michael Morrison in to review his FY2017 budgets. He is level funding expenses and increasing salaries by 2%. He is asking for a computer operating system via capitol expense for \$18,000. This is for the software, there is a \$1,300 annual service fee. Mike explained the need for the upgrade. John Skrip asked how they do the work now, Mike responded they fill everything out by hand. John would like to hold off. Mike explained that they could do half in FY17 and half in FY18. All selectmen agreed to do half in FY17 and half in FY18.

Mike explained that he would like to replace the Ford Explorer in FY2018.

Alice asked if there have been any tickets issued to oversized trucks going over the Route 57 bridge. Mike said it's hard to prove. He has had Adam Gonska patrolling the area often.

Mike discussed the detour for the Route 57 bridge. He explained that Town Hill Road is not a good option. The heavy trucks will severely damage the road. A better option would be Route 8 to Route 23. All agreed. Alice asked about an accident on New Hartford Rd., Mike responded that there was a vehicle on fire with no injuries.

John Burrows, David Hubbard and Kathy Jacobs in representing the Finance Comm.

Alice addressed the reserve fund transfer for the OSHA required legal posters. She explained that the posters were order by the Town Administrator in order to bring us up to OSHA compliance. Kathy Jacobs stated that this purchase is similar to a past request. Teresa explained that this is not a passed years bill, it is for this fiscal year. Kathy did not understand that to be the case. The finance committee agreed to make the transfer and will do so at their next meeting. They have been working on proposals but are not ready to present them at this time. Alice asked the finance committee to start working on a capitol replacement plan for equipment and vehicles. David Hubbard would like the departments to give a life expectancy on equipment and vehicles. David is working on proposals to generate revenue. Discussed the land donated by the Freidmans to the town next to firestation #2. Alice explained that the donation is specifically for town buildings. David does not feel it is as usable as other properties. He feels it's a huge mistake to accept it with the stipulation that it can only be used for a town hall. He wants a piece around 20 acres to build the town complex and then to be able to build a village around it. Jeff discussed creating a 5 to 10 replacement plan for equipment. He explained that we have discussed this on the prior selectboard and wants to get going on it. David wants to have a commitment from the selectmen and the town this year. He wants it on this years warrant. Discussed warrant deadlines. David wants the selectmen to project areas the selectmen have saved in order to then apply the saved monies towards the new town hall. David discussed solar panels to generate revenue. He would like to create an RFP regarding solar energy at Yanner Park. John Skrip will work with David on this. Per David our homes are valued less than neighboring towns, he is working on a Home Value Gap proposal. Items he feels that would benefit the town would be a store, pond, directional signs, screening of the transfer station, planting flowers along Route 57, a parking area at the top of Route 57, some of these items are being addressed in the master plan. He also suggested looking into the use of Spectacle Pond as a town beach. The finance committee would like to come back to the selectmen in a month. They would like

to have an article on this years warrant. Dolores reviewed the timelines. She explained that the selectmen need time to research articles. She asked if there was a dollar amount associated with their article. David said the article would be to authorize the borrowing of six million for the town complex. Alice asked them to come back sooner than a month.

Bobby in to discuss a culvert problem on Viets Road. He needs the selectmen to declare it as an emergency then he can take the letter to the Conservation Comm. He has already met with conservation and received instructions. Bobby has plated the hole. All selectmen are in agreement to declare it an emergency situation.

Discussed the schedule for town administrator interviews. Alice explained that we have a good group of candidates to pick from. She would like to have some one hired by May.

Discussed future agenda items. There will not be a meeting next week.

John wants to re address his list of things that need to be addressed. He feels his concerns have fallen between the cracks. Alice responded that we have been working on some of the issues and will continue to look into them.

David Hubbard would like the town to pass a food and beverage tax. Alice said this will be on a future agenda. Jeff asked David if he attended the selectmen's meetings in the past when this was discussed with the businesses that would be affected. Jeff said they voted it down so as not to add additional burden to our businesses.

David would like our police department to set up on Route 8 and issue at least 20 tickets per week to generate revenue.

Jean Atwater Williams in to address the MBI/Wired West issue. MBI and Wired West have a difference on ownership. Koppleman & Paige are working on the agreement between WiredWest and member towns. The MBI board asked MBI to work productively with Wired West. They are back at the table talking. Alice reviewed the letter of support issued to MBI from the Selectmen. Jean presented rebuttals and minutes from the meetings with Wired West.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Alice Boyd

Jeff Gray

John Skrip