

Selectmen's minutes of meeting May 23, 2016

Members present: Alice Boyd, Jeff Gray, Bob O'Brien, Dolores Harasyko

Members absent: John Skrip

Called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Meeting called to order by Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko.

First order of business is to vote to re-organize the board. Jeff feels we should wait until John Skrip is present. Alice knows how John feels and he would like Alice to stay on as chair. Many people in attendance held up signs to keep Alice as chairperson. Motion by Alice to elect herself as the chair, there is not a second on the motion. Discussion followed. Jeff wants John to have a chance to vote. After much discussion Jeff seconded the motion to elect Alice as the chairperson.

Motion by Alice, second by Jeff to elect Jeff as the Clerk.

Transfer Station bid opened. The ad was placed in the Berkshire Record and the Central Register for 2 consecutive weeks.

One bid is from the Master Garbologist and one from Valley Roll off. We will review the bids and vote on it next week.

Bob provided highway dept. updates. They picked up truck 13 from Nutmeg International. Cleaned out beaver solution on Route 57 so it could be fixed. Cleaned off the bridge and abutments on Cold Spring Road. Patched potholes on Cold Spring Rd and S. Sandisfield Rd. Graded parts of N. & S. Beech Plain Rd. and Fox Rd. Finished cutting trees on Sears Rd.

Alice asked about the potholes by the post office, transfer station and town hall annex. They will get to them by Wednesday.

Alice asked Bob for a letter which states the rate of pay and date of hire for Ralph Leavenworth. Jeff reminded Bob to get the grading going. Terry Ignace complained about the potholes on Route 183.

Treasurer in to discuss the need for a special town meeting to cover unemployment bills. Teresa explained that former employees are collecting unemployment. The town opted out of unemployment insurance and the cost of the unemployment has to be budgeted for. There is only \$2,500 in the unemployment fund. Discussed the amount needed. Teresa checked with the DOR and was told she cannot deficit spend or apply the amount needed to the re-cap sheet. We will continue this discussion at next week's meeting. The Town Clerk will not be available for the special town meeting so the Asst. Town Clerk will fill in.

Ralph Morrison reviewed the history of the Wilber Park plaque. He and Ron Bernard suggested engraving the stone in place. Dolores will look into this.

Kathy Jacobs reminded the town about moving the monument in front of the Old town Hall to Wilber Park.

Discussed the electronics collection. Dolores explained that the box is very full. We will order a new box.

Alice provided a DCR update on Spectacle Pond. John Skrip and David Hubbard met with the DCR. They reviewed rehabbing the cabins and leasing them out to create revenue for the town. The DCR would work with us. BRPC is also looking into this. We could possibly have a beach on the site. Ron Bernard discussed engineering the Knox Trail. Rita Kasky asked about where the pipeline fits into this. Alice provided an update regarding Kinder Morgan. The town is out of the appeal process. Attorney Jeff Bernstein is working pro bono. Kinder Morgan has not paid our legal fees. Alice is working with Smitty Pignatelli. There is a non profit that may help but we would have to use their attorneys. The town has the option of getting back involved. We will place this on next weeks agenda for a vote. The House and Senate have not resolved the Article 97 issue. The town has an agreement with Kinder Morgan that they would pay the legal fees, they have taken this off the table. Discussed the \$1,080,000 that was to be paid to the town. It was a verbal agreement that has not been put into writing. To get to the next level we would need \$15,000 just to get started.

Selectmen's updates

Alice has been working on Kinder Morgan issues, MBI Broadband issues. Broadband is getting closer. She is working with Jean Atwater Williams. She is also working on the website.

Dolores reviewed her discussions with the Master Garbologist regarding the dump sticker program and the use of the bulky waste container.

Kathy Jacobs asked about the engineered plan for the transfer station site. Alice explained that they reviewed it but there was not enough money in the account to make the improvements. With the increase in the dump sticker fee they will look into it.

Mail reviewed  
Warrants reviewed and signed  
Meting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Alice Boyd

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Jeff Gray