

Selectmen's minutes of meeting March 30, 2015

Members present: Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray, Lisa Blackmer, Steve Harasyko
Dolores Harasyko

Called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Steve provided highway department updates. They are going over all the winter equipment and doing maintenance work on them. They are going to start raking the dirt roads to enhance the drying process. Patrick thanked the highway dept. and Gary Bottum for moving the records from Fire Station #1 to the Town Hall Annex storage unit. Dolores read aloud a letter of acknowledgement and appreciation for the highway department from House of Rep. Richard Neal, Washington, DC. Terry Ignace asked about the snow last Saturday night, he was concerned that the road was not treated. Steve said he did not send trucks out as it was such a small amount of snow he didn't think it was needed and apologized for any inconvenience this may have caused. Mr. Ignace complained that the plow trucks should be out in front of the school buses. Sandy Snyder who fills in as a bus driver responded that there are always plow trucks in front of the school buses. Patrick said he drove Route 183 around 6 pm on last Saturday night and the roads were fine. Mr. Ignace asked about the town truck at Millard Welding. Steve responded that they are waiting for parts to weld the body together. He also explained that we had to wait until after the special town meeting for funding. Mass Dot paperwork for Chapter 90 Pothole repair funding reviewed and signed.

Dolores requested permission to attend the Chapter 90 101 class on April 9, 2015. Mass DOT is requesting two members of the community attend and since Town Admin. Lisa will be at a STAM meeting Dolores would like to attend. Permission given.

Margaret O'Clair in representing the Board of Health to discuss Air B&B's. Margaret attended a meeting regarding this business. It is an expanding internet business. She explained that we have at least a dozen in Sandisfield. These are bed and breakfast businesses operating without Board of Health inspections or proper licensing. They are operating a business which cuts into the licensed businesses in town. Such as the New Boston Inn and the Hoekstras Bed and Breakfast. These two pay for annual licenses and have regular inspections. The Board of Health is concerned that if food is being served there should be inspections. The Board of Health unanimously agrees that it is unfair to the licensed businesses. Dolores expressed her concerns that these unlicensed businesses circumvent our bylaws. If they are using their house as a business then they should have to go through the special permit process. The Board of Health agrees that it is a business activity and leaves the licensed businesses at a disadvantage. Patrick assured the Board of Health that they will look into this. The Selectmen thanked the Board of Health for bringing this to their attention.

Discussed WiredWest letter from the town of Hawley. Lisa spoke on behalf of Jean Atwater William that our cost for WiredWest for Sandisfield is higher because we are the 2nd largest area with many roads and spread out houses. They have been told there will not be any additional funding this year or next. Jean doesn't feel we should wait or count on the additional funding. Alice Boyd is willing to work on contacting the appropriate representatives to discuss additional funding. Patrick said we will go forward with

placing WiredWest on the Annual Town Warrant for a vote. Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff to follow through with lobbying for more funding for WiredWest and to include the article on the annual town warrant and the question on the ballot. Patrick will contact Rick Kean to sign us up with the movement to pursue additional funding. Lisa and Alice will work together on a letter similar to the Town of Tolland's.

Discussed a Home Rule Petition regarding Route 57 that the town of New Marlborough came up with to ask the State to take back the maintenance of Route 57. Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff to place this on the Annual Town Warrant.

Dolores reviewed the snow and ice overage. Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff to approve a letter of request from the Board of Assessors to cover half the cost of the overage from the surplus overlay account. Letter reviewed and signed.

Dolores reviewed the FY2016 warrant and budgets. The school is lowering their budget. Dolores has been working with the Treasurer and the Dept. of Revenue and can say with some certainty that we are below our levy limit and will not need a prop 2 ½ override. Discussed the school budget situation.

Lisa provided her weekly town admin. updates. Last week she attended the Budget Joint Comm. on Ways and Means, she addressed Pilot money and requested that they reinstate it. She pointed out the large amount of state owned land and chapter 61 programs. She followed up on Veridian and other companies through a website that will compute the best rate by zip code. She will put a link on the website or in the Times or we can continue to look into the energy aggregate. Pat directed Lisa to follow up with Berkshire Regional Planning regarding the road status report. She attended the pipeline working group meeting and discussed article 97, the state is not going to push article 97 and that Kinder Morgan will override and go to the Ferc process. There is going to be training for EMS, there is going to be a workshop for home owners. Patrick asked if we could ask the Federal Government for full taxes on the pipeline. Lisa will follow up. There is a Clearing House Review Comm meeting on April 1, 2015 for the Connecticut River Expansion project. She presented the STAM agenda and the main topic will be the Strap Grant. She is not attending the meeting on March 31. She will be out on April 14 for the MMA meeting and is using vacation time for it.

Warrants reviewed and signed
Mail reviewed
Minutes reviewed and signed

Discussed the gates at the dump, they are severely damaged from the winter. Lisa will follow up.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Patrick Barrett

Jeffrey Gray