

Selectmen's minutes of meeting Feb. 17, 2015

Members present: Patrick Barrett, Jeffrey Gray, Lisa Blackmer, Steve Harasyko
Dolores Harasyko, Legal Council Jonathan Silverman

Called to order at 7:08

Patrick opened the continuation of the public hearing for Athena Health Care stating that the meeting is being taped. He asked all persons with questions to wait until after the presentation is complete and to direct all questions to the chair. He also asked all to state their name and address. The meeting is being tape recorded.

Bryan Balicki, engineer, answered questions from the independent study from Tighe and Bond. They recommended to relocate the runoff from the roof and add stock grates. Discussed water runoff, they recommended a meadow in lieu of grass. They suggested a fence be placed around the basin but as it is a dry basin they don't feel it's needed. Storm water checklist done. Storm water will be treated. Do not have to modify manholes. Discussed the vernal pool, area referenced is not on their property. Existing gravel driveway will remain. Parking spaces discussed, their plan has the peak spaces available. They have more parking than required.

Lisa provided information on the pier review. All issues have been addressed. All state and local permits will be obtained and they will provide a completed stamped set of plans. The signage is outside of the bylaws but can be adjusted.

Donald Peet of S. Beech Plain road asked about acreage, there is 19.6 acres.

Jonathan explained that the selectboard is a three member board and all 3 members must vote. Due to a resignation of one selectmen and the fact that he has moved out of town puts the selectmen in a position not being able to vote. They can vote but the vote doesn't count. The applicant can withdraw and resubmit or once 90 days has passed the special permit is given based on no action.

Brian O'Rourke from West St. asked about what happens after 90 days, response is no action means they would get the permit by default.

Patrick asked Bryan if they were in favor of waiting the 90 days. They are in favor of waiting the 90 days and filing with the Town Clerk.

Doug Segrin from Sandisfield Rd. is not in favor.

Brian O'Rourke is concerned there will be additional costs to the town.

Lisa responded that through her discussions with Ralph Morrison the town will actually benefit from this relationship. Athena will install a fire hydrant with 20,000 gallon water tank. They will have an EMT available 24 hours a day.

Doug Segrin asked about Rosario Messina being related to Bob Ziegler. Jonathan explained that it is a mute point since Rosario resigned but that he did invoke the rule of necessity. Doug asked about the Zoning Board. Due to the lack of one he feels there is no one to appeal to. Jonathan explained that the appeal is not filed with the local zoning board but is filed with the state appeal.

Patrick recommended that we wait the 90 days. Lisa and Jonathan will work on the list of conditions before the 90 days to present to the selectmen and the applicant.

Doug Segrin is concerned about the conservation issues. Jonathan explained the ConCom has their own set of circumstances the applicant will have to meet.

Motion by Patrick to close the public hearing, second by Jeff. Roll call, Patrick, yes, Jeff, yes. Hearing closed at 7:40. The 90 days begins now.

At 7:45 the joint budget review between the selectmen and finance began.

Finance Committee members Kathy Jacobs, Donna Newman and John Burrows present. Dolores reviewed all the budgets received to date. Discussion on the highway dept budgets. All salaries will come out of highways and bridges account. Only snow removal related costs and winter overtime will come out of snow and ice. Patrick thanked Steve and the highway department for their extended hours of service to the town recognizing the difficult winter we have had so far.

The Assessors budget will be adjusted to reflect employee benefits.

Questions on the fire dept budgets, Lisa will contact Ralph for a better descriptions. His salary budget is up 28%.

Discussed energy aggregate options.

Discussed the cemetery committee.

The Selectmen are good with the budgets reviewed and presented.

The Town Administrator presented updates. She has been following up on the pipeline, dealing with personnel issues, salt shortages. Working on the New Hartford Road project. Reviewing the budget process with Dolores. Working on the cemetery committee. One Jan. 10 she attended a meeting at which the Governor was present. She had a discussion regarding Wired West. Discussed Chapter issues and the effect of open space.

Lisa presented a vacation policy for part time employees. Dolores suggested it be an employee benefits policy for part time employees. Discussed extending the context of the policy. Lisa will revise and present it next week.

Patrick moved the agenda to "topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair". Lisa does not agree, she wants to address the items regarding protocol for attending meetings and MMA meetings. Patrick responded that meetings are scheduled and need prior approval by the board of selectmen. Lisa provided a list of meetings, we will put the list on next weeks agenda for approval. Lisa wants clarification on protocol. Patrick clarified that as Chair of the Board of Selectmen he is her boss and he feels she doesn't seem to understand this. He represents the town of Sandisfield and is responsible to the town and she answers to the board of selectmen. Patrick responded that he is appalled at her reaction and the way she is responding during this open meeting. He will discuss items that came from a meeting that is not for public discussion. Pat clearly stated that he wants the schedule of meetings be placed on the agenda for approval. This process has been explained on several occasions.

Pat clarified that he has chosen not to discuss the results of a previous meeting as it would be unprofessional.

Kathy Burrows suggested an annual review for Lisa.

Lisa wants clarification again. Patrick will follow up with Town Council first.

Dolores will provide the selectmen with a copy of the executive session minutes which Lisa have alluded to.

Discussed the need to hire outside legal council specializing in pipeline issues to represent the town in negotiating a “Host Community Agreement” with Kinder Morgan as has been advised by BRPC and others before the Ferc process. Lisa gave an explanation of issues to date. Ron Bernard does not want the town to get benefits from Kinder Morgan. Jean Atwater Williams feels the town and Selectmen have been strong in supporting property owners. Patrick feels like they have done a lot of follow up. Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff to move forward with hiring legal council to represent the town in negotiating a “Host Community Ageement”

Topics not anticipated by the Chair.

Jean Atwater Williams asked the Selectmen to consider sending a letter to residents to support Wired West. The Selectmen will follow up with town council for advice so they are not accused of swaying a vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25p.m.

Patrick Barrett

Jeffrey Gray