

Selectmen's minutes of meeting March 7, 2016

Members present: Alice Boyd, John Skrip, Bob O'Brien, Dolores Harasyko

Members absent: Jeff Gray

Called to order at 2:30 p.m.

Bob provided highway department updates. They finished up roadside mowing. The motor for the head on the mower is broken. Will cost approx. \$3,700 to fix. They started repairing the washed out roads. Bill's truck is still being assessed for damage. They cut and chipped brush, cleaned catch basins. The Dodge pickup is in for repairs. Teresa explained the formula for surplus revenue funds. Discussed the process for free cash. Alice would like to post the vacancy in the highway department. John Burrows observed that after all the rain and then with the onset of cold weather there was a problem on Route 57 by the dump hill where the water flowed over the road causing a bad ice situation. Bob explained that the swales need to be cut out and replace in order to divert the water. John Skrip asked if there is a way to have better communication between the highway dept. and the public when there are road issues. Alice suggested this would be included on the new website. The selectmen received calls regarding wash outs on Viets and Clark Rd. They will temporarily fix them until spring. Alice asked about cutting any of the highway expense budgets. Bob has looked it over and compared them to the past 2 years and is not comfortable with cutting maintenance budgets with aging equipment. Teresa said not to use this winter as a comparison to past winters as it was unusually mild.

Police Chief Mike Morrison faxed in information regarding software upgrades. Alice was unable to get a grant for this but will continue looking for one. She will contact Mike to put this off.

John asked if the Recreation Committee could cut. Teresa responded that their budget had already been approved. They only have \$700 for the remainder of this fiscal year and still have the Easter Egg hunt and the end of school year party to pay for.

Discussed cutting the gas/diesel account. We will cut by \$5,000.

Reviewed and approved FY2017 budgets.

John Skrip presented the contract for the drug and needle program.

John presented the Intent form for Mass DOT for Complete Streets Municipality program.

John wants to work with David Hubbard on contacting the DCR to use Spectacle Pond as a town beach and generate revenue.

Discussed the special town meeting for this Thursday. Jean Atwater Williams has offered to moderate it. Dolores explained that it is the Town Clerk's job and that she's confident that she can handle it.

Alice met with Monterey and New Marlborough regarding alternatives for broadband companies. The concern is that WiredWest may not be able to pull it off and we won't want to lose the State grant. Alice reviewed the information with Jean Atwater Williams.

John is attending a meeting for Age in Place. He continues to work on the drug and needle disposal program.

We will discuss the FY2016 budget status next week.

Alice reviewed the Kinder Morgan legal fees. Kinder Morgan will eventually reimburse the town for legal fees once all permits are signed.

Mail reviewed  
Warrant reviewed and signed

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

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Alice Boyd

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John Skrip