

Selectmen's minutes of meeting Dec. 15, 2014

Members present: Patrick Barrett, Jeffrey Gray, Lisa Blackmer, Stephan Harasyko, Dolores Harasyko

Members absent: Rosario Messina

Called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Steve provided highway department updates. The 2000 International truck has a blown motor. Approx cost to repair is \$7,800. The 1999 International truck needs a new transmission, approx cost to repair is \$11,000. The 1999 has over 200,000 miles on it. Steve was notified it will not pass inspection next year, it barely passed this year. He has \$40,000 left in the machinery maintenance account until June 1, 2015. These repairs will take half of that. Since this is an unforeseen expense he would like to replenish this account at the next special town meeting. Patrick asked about the safety issues to the town if they don't repair it and take it off the road. Steve responded that would remove a quarter of the fleet for the winter and they need all the trucks operating. He also stated that the repairs are probably worth more than the truck. He would like the town to consider a vehicle replacement rotation schedule. John Skrip asked about maintenance schedules. Steve responded that vehicles are regularly maintained and records kept. Teresa DellaGiustina asked if all the workers were trained in vehicle maintenance, Steve responded that they are. The Selectmen agreed to place an article on the upcoming special town meeting to replenish the machinery maintenance account by the amount of repairs needed for these two trucks.

At 7:30 pm motion by Patrick, second by Jeff to take a recess to attend the Finance Committee and to reconvene immediately after.

At 8:35 meeting reconvened with a motion by Patrick to enter into Executive Session for the express purpose of discussing a complaint brought against a staff member and to reconvene the regular Selectmen's meeting immediately after.

Roll call vote: Patrick, yes, Jeffrey, yes

At 9:25 p.m. regular meeting reconvened.

Jean Atwater Williams requested we go out of order on the agenda and address the Wired West/MBI issue. Discussed the non-binding resolution of support of Wired West to construct and operate fiber to home broadband network. Patrick asked Kathy Jacobs from the Finance committee whether they recommend this. Kathy responded that they need to understand the long term risk. Jean explained that the Selectmen's support is the first step. Then Wired West needs to obtain 40% sign up, then there would be an article on the annual town warrant which requires a 2/3 vote, then a ballot vote at the annual town election. In order to be included in the first wave of installations the Selectmen would need to sign the resolution before Jan. 1, 2015. Per Jean there is no risk in signing the non binding resolution. However, there could be a risk in the long term funding issues. The short term risk is less than the long term risk. If they don't get the 40% participation it is a dead issue. At this time only 17 of the 44 towns involved have signed

the resolution. Patrick does not like the working of the resolution and feels the towns people need to have an opportunity to comment on it. Patrick asked for one week to review the resolution. Patrick and Jeff thanked Jean and expressed their appreciation for all Jeans hard work. Jean feels strongly that if we don't support this it will have a detrimental effect on the town. She feels we will loose potential businesses and residents. The long term cost to the town could be 2.4 million dollars. If enough people sign up it should offset some of this cost. It could impact the average tax bill by \$500.00 a year. Jean explained that most people that have internet, phone and tv probably pay more than what the bundle with wired west will be. We will re address this at next weeks Selectmens meeting. Kathy Jacobs reviewed the timeline to have everything ready for the annual town warrant which needs to go to print by the end of March 2015.

Kathy commented that she had a very good meeting with Steve and the DPW reviewing the floor plans for a new dpw garage.

Lisa reviewed an energy aggregate program she would like the Selectmen to adopt. The way it would work is the Selectmen would adopt the program and then Lisa would like it to be placed on the upcoming special town meeting warrant. The passing of this article would then sign up the entire town to purchase their electricity from another company at a reduced rate. Dolores asked what happens if some people don't want to participate in this. Lisa responded they would have to opt out of the program. Dolores responded as the Town Clerk the history of special town meetings. We only need a quorum of 15 registered voters, the warrant is posted in three places, she also posts it to the website and in the Sandisfield Times if she can meet the deadline. Historically, special town meetings are for unforeseen unexpected expenses. She feels an article with this large an impact should be placed on the annual town warrant as that gets mailed to every registered voters household which is required by the towns bylaw. She would like to see an informational meeting with a better explanation to the public, this is a large bourdon to place on the two selectmen present. Patrick and Jeff agreed. This is probably a good thing to look into but they would like to inform the public and seek their input. We will discuss this more at next weeks meeting.

Reviewed and signed minutes of meetings
Reviewed and signed the warrant

Permission given to Robert O'Brien, Jr. to hunt on town property. Hunting permission slip signed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Patrick Barrett

Jeffrey Gray