

Selectmen's minutes of meeting October 20, 2014

Members present: Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray, Lisa Blackmer

Members absent: Rosario Messina, Steve Harasyko, Dolores Harasyko

Called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Meeting is being recorded

Tom Ryan will be in next week to discuss logging Yanner Park.

Discussed funding for further legal research for a biometric time clock. Jeff thought this issue was settled. Patrick responded that Lisa has done a lot of research on this subject. The Selectmen agreed that if the finance committee wants further research the funding should come from their budget. The Selectboard is satisfied with the research Lisa has done. Rita asked why more legal research was needed. Lisa addressed that if the time clock is used for disciplinary action it could cause grievances to be filed and is part of collective bargaining. John Burrows does not agree. He would like to know how many other towns use them. He also feels it would benefit in keeping track of overtime and for FEMA paperwork. Rita announced that she is resigning from the finance committee immediately. She does not feel the selectmen respond to their requests. The selectmen responded that they have responded to all the requests. Kathy Jacobs responded that she feels there is a lack of leadership. Patrick responded that he does not agree at all. He asked Kathy if she read his detailed letter in the Sandisfield Times which addresses her concerns. She had not. Patrick reviewed several items this board of selectmen has accomplished. They created committees to look into hiring a town administrator. The seniors came to the selectmen seeking a better area to meet and the selectmen created what is now called the Strategic Planning Comm. We have a website, a senior tax workoff program. Our dirt roads have never been in such good condition. All due to good leadership. He reviewed the supervision that does happen everyday at the highway dept. Patrick and Jeff addressed the gps units the fincom requested. They are not opposed to it but if as a town we are going to implement this it should be during the contract negotiation and should apply to all departments that have vehicles. Jeff responded that this board of selectmen listen to all concerns and do research all requests. They are always seeking input.

Reviewed and signed the decision for the special permit for Happy Banga Akaal.

Kathy Jacobs asked about the food/meal tax. Lisa responded that we can adopt this at a special town meeting.

Lisa reviewed the process for bylaw changes with Gary Bottom. The Planning Board is going to wait until the annual town meeting for the right to farm bylaw and the driveway permit bylaw.

John Burrows asked about the status of the roof replacement at the town hall annex. Jeff responded that he has been working on putting together specs to advertise. He will have the specs available at the town hall. Jeff will continue to work on this.

Discussed the process of New Hartford Rd.

Discussed the highway dept. opening. Gary Bottom asked how many applicants. Lisa responded that there are 5 candidates that meet the license requirements. Steve will vet it to 2 and bring them before the selectboard during an open meeting.

Mark Newman commented on the amount of traffic on Cronk Rd. He is concerned that half of Cronk Rd. does not get graded. The selectmen will discuss with Steve.

Jean Atwater Williams in to discuss the bills for Cornerstone. The large bills recently submitted are an accounting issue on the part of Cornerstone. She reviewed the MBI network. There have been issues regarding liability but Cornerstone and Crocker provide the ISP. The "Last Mile" (From Municipal offices to the businesses and residents) is estimated to cost 2.7 Million (Wired West estimate) to 4.2 Million (MBI estimate) before the State Grant monies are applied. The Meetings that MBI/Wired West are hosting will explain how it will work. The Town will have to Bond the needed funds. Will need a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting to Bond. The first few years' payments will be interest only. After that, they are hoping that the generated fees for service will cover most of the bond payment.

On other topics: Discussion that the October 29<sup>th</sup> FERC Scoping meeting. It is our last best hope to change or stop the pipeline. We need to address questions raised and unanswered.

Mail reviewed  
Warrants reviewed and signed

Meeting Adjourned 9:35

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Patrick Barrett

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Jeffrey Gray

