

Selectmen's minutes of meeting Sept. 28, 2015

Members present: Alice Boyd, Jeff Gray, John Skrip, Steve Harasyko, Dolores Harasyko

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Alice asked for a moment of silence for Cora Barrett and her family.

Clerk Jeff Gray opened the bids for Gravel, Mowing and Equipment Rental
For gravel we received two bids, one from Tryon Constr. and one from Mountain Top Trucking.
For mowing we received two bids, one from Bogart Muller and one from O'Brien Property Services.
For equipment rental we only received one bid and will need to re bid.

Steve provided highway department updates. They have been maintaining equipment, grading Beech Plain Rd., Sears and Clark Rd. Also excavation ditch work on Beech Plain and Cold Spring Rd. Two employees were on vacation for the week. John asked about daily reports, Steve responded that he has them and will get them to him. John asked about the electronic lights for the Route 57 bridge, Steve responded that he was waiting for the metal signs to replace them and that he has already contacted the company to come and pick them up. David Hubbard asked if we plowed Otis Woodlands, Steve responded that we do not as it is a private community. Ed Riiska commended Steve and the highway crew for all their great work on New Hartford Rd.

Elizabeth Copeland and Christine Hatch in to do a presentation for MBI. They will supply \$4,000 for each town to cover legal fees. We are a WiredWest community. Twelve towns have applied for grants. Ed Riiska pointed out that 90% of the utility poles belong to Verizon. Elizabeth explained the poll survey process. Ed asked if MBI and WiredWest post a bond before they start work. The license will be in the towns name for the poll work. There will be an agreement in place before the work starts. The town would have an agreement with WiredWest who would then have an agreement with MBI. There may be a hold up with Verizon being on strike. There is a re structure within WiredWest. The funds need to flow smoothly from the town to WiredWest then to MBI. The first payment will be interest only in FY2017 and then the total in FY2021. Barbara Cormier asked what happens if they need to come back to the town for more money, they responded they will work with the government to get all funds allocated even for the towns that have opted out. Steve Grossman from Otis Woodlands explained that half of the Woodlands is in a town that is not participating. MBI may be able to draft an agreement with properties on the Sandisfield/Otis line. Project completion is between 2018 and 2020.

Discussed plans for the upcoming winter, truck purchase versus contracted services. Alice explained that the Truck Committee was assigned at the Annual Town Meeting to choose between a 6 or 10 wheel truck, they did not do this. She contacted Town Council

regarding union rules. They confirmed that we can not give union work to a private contractor. Alice and Steve discussed the upcoming winter today. Steve responded that he will do his best to get by with the equipment they have. There will be a slower response time as routes will be a little longer. We will continue to use the part time help we have used in the past. We can use a contractor as a backup if equipment fails. David Hubbard suggested using the Osh Gosh as a backup. John Skrip said we are going to depend on Steve to juggle people and equipment around to make it work. Jeff said this could have been avoided by getting a new truck. Alice said we will have a special town meeting to allocate funds for a back up plan. Treasurer Teresa DellaGiustina explained that no boards have sought out her expertise for this situation. She explained that the Stabilization account will be locked up for use as available funds as this money will be needed to pay the bills for New Hartford Rd. Once the reimbursement comes back from Chapter 90 then the stabilization fund will be available. Teresa also stated that free cash has dropped a lot. Barbara Cormier asked Steve is the Osh Gosh is a viable vehicle. Steve feels the money should be spent elsewhere. The Osh Gosh to many repairs and upgrades, it is an expensive brand and would be a waste of town money. Ed Riiska responded that he used it once, it does not have heat, power steering, breaks and would not recommend using it at all. Kathy Jacobs asked that if we have a bad storm can we bring in additional help. Alice responded that we can. Ed said that there is a process for emergency procurement. Jeff responded that the highway department will do the best they can but there will be a slower response time and folks will have to be patient. Steve suggested people plan to leave a little earlier and plan to get home a little later.

Susie Crofut and David Hubbard in for SARC. They are seeking permission to use the town owned property at the top of Route 57 and New Hartford Rd for a two day tag sale with the sale of hotdogs. Alice and John invoked the Rule of Necessity since they are both involved with SARC. Jeff agrees to allow them to use it. Dolores directed them to the Board of Health for the sale of hotdogs.

Discussed the transfer station budget and fees for FY2016. Alice reviewed fees from surrounding towns, we are the lowest. John reviewed his meeting with the treasurer regarding the transfer station budget. He feels that we are losing \$60,000 a year. David Hubbard suggested waiting until we can look at all budgets. Kathy Jacobs doesn't agree with the statement of "losing". Discussed a pay as you throw plan, it is a very expensive process. Reviewed the electronics collection fees. Motion by Jeff, second by John, passed unanimously to increase the sticker cost to \$50.00 per household.

Discussed the FY2017 budget process. During the selectmen's work session they have discussed having all department heads come in and justify their budget requests. They want to keep taxes where they are. Also discussed a joint all boards meeting with the finance committee. Discussed not mailing the annual town report and have people pick them up instead. Dolores explained that would require a by law change.

Discussed the Senior Tax Work Off program. Linda Riiska will accept the application. They are looking for one volunteer that will be able to get an abatement to oversee the projects. We are going to be up and running by Nov. 1, 2015.

Discussed a special town meeting date of October 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. the selectmen are going to have regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex unless otherwise posted and work sessions the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 2:30p.m. at the Town Hall Annex. Next week is an exception as we have the Tax Classification Hearing.

Alice provided a Yanner Park update. We would like to get some usage from the property. There are some grants available such as “Cottontail” which would create walking trails. We need to figure out what is the best use of this property, possibly logging it. The Strategic Planning Committee does not like the idea of using Yanner Park for the new town complex.

Discussed a meeting in Sheffield on October 20, 2015 regarding shared services for highway departments.

Motion by John, second by Jeff, passed unanimously to appoint to the Energy Commission David Hubbard until June 30, 2018, Peter Levine until June 30, 2017 and Michael Lutynski until June 30, 2016.

Motion by John, second by Jeff, passed unanimously to appoint Robert Kimberley as assistant Wiring Inspector.

Upcoming agenda items include the tax classification hearing, municipal aggregation, George Munson requesting to use town property for the snow mobile club, Steve and Jeff will inspect the bridge which goes to this property. John wants snow routes and daily paperwork. Barbara Cormier would like the Selectmen to send a letter of thanks to John Field for all the volunteer work he has done in town. Kathy Jacobs would like to be on the agenda regarding a survey for the highway garage and old town hall.

Reviewed and signed minutes of meetings
Warrants reviewed and signed
Mail reviewed

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Alice Boyd

Jeff Gray

John Skrip