

Selectmen's minutes of meeting March 24, 2014

Members present: Jeffrey Gray, Patrick Barrett, Rosario Messina, Steve Harasyko
Dolores Harasyko

Members absent: Lisa Blackmer

Called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Steve presented highway department updates. They have been busy filling potholes and bringing in gravel to the dirt roads. Patrick sympathized with the road superintendents from all towns in having to deal with this past winters. The roads have taken a massive beating this winter.

Dolores reviewed the snow and ice overage and the procedure to move forward. The Treasurer notified her on March 21, 2014 that the snow and ice operating budget was now over. Dolores then notified the DOR and the Finance Committee. The DOR explained that the Selectboard and Finance Committee need to vote in accordance with M.G.L. 44-31d. to authorize the highway department to expend over their approved budget. Reviewed the length of the winter, reviewed the expenses, ice jams, lack of FEMA reimbursements. Patrick responded that the weather is the direct factor in the overrun. All expenditures are valid and snow and ice related. He stated that whether we went over budget 3 weeks ago or next week we still had to take care of the roads. Dolores attended the Finance Committee meeting on Saturday March 22, 2014 to explain the process to them, they voted to authorize the highway dept. to expend over their approved budget. Dolores explained that if this doesn't pass and we have another snow or ice event the highway dept. will not be able to attend to it putting the town at risk for liability. Passing this is also a safety net for the town as the only expenditures will be per event. In a normal winter if there are funds left over it is used to stockpile salt and sand and snow plow blades. Discussed how to pay for the overage. Dolores explained that it could be applied to next years recap sheet or money could be moved at a special town meeting. Kathy Jacobs did not agree and understood that it would impact the budget we are currently working on. We will ask the Treasurer to get clarification from the DOR on options to fund this. Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff, passed unanimously to authorize the Highway Dept. to expend the Snow and Ice Removal over their approved budget.

Reviewed appointment requests for the Planning Board from Thomas Jacobs and Andrew Snyder. Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff, passed unanimously to appoint them both. Patrick thanked them immensely.

Reviewed letter of resignation from George Green from the Conservation Commission effective May 1, 2014. Motion by Patrick to regretfully accept the letter of resignation, second by Rosario, passed unanimously. The Selectmen thank him for all his years of service.

Reviewed appointment request from Clare English to be appointed to the Conservation Commission. Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff, passed unanimously to appoint Clare English with thanks from the Board of Selectmen.

Discussed the Household Hazardous Waste Program for FY2015. All agreed to pass on this program this year. It was decided at a previous meeting to put the revenues from the dump sticker account to the survey of the dump area for future improvements. We also will skip the tire collection this year. Ralph Morrison will get the name and contact for a company he feels is more affordable for tire collections.

Dolores read aloud the Decision on the Application for Special Permits and Off Street Parking for Kim Paspuletti DBA Joyce's Trading Post. Document is on file in the Town Clerks office.

Motion by Jeff, second by Rosario, passed unanimously to accept the Decision on the application for special Permits and Off Street Parking for Kim Paspuletti DBA Joyce's Trading Post. Recorded with the Town Clerk at 8:05 p.m. This will start the 20 day appeal process.

Mail reviewed

Warrants reviewed and signed

Minutes of meetings reviewed and signed

Under other topics Rosario requested items be placed on the April 14, 2014 Selectmen's agenda. He would like to follow up on legal advice and the use of other legal sources than Town Council. He would like town council come to the meeting. Patrick explained that if Rosario has questions he should call the attorney now for clarification. Rosario asked who gave permission to allow outside legal council. Patrick responded that this was discussed in a Selectmen's meeting and permission was given by them. Patrick does not think it is prudent to pay town council to come to a selectmen's meeting when a phone call could provide the answers.

Rosario questioned Dolores about Selectmen's minutes of meetings. He received a complaint from Kathy Jacobs that some minutes were missing. Dolores explained that they are all complete and up to date. Jeff explained that this time of year we do get behind a week or two because of all the other work going on but get caught up as soon as possible. Rosario would still like this item placed on the agenda for April 14, 2014. Dolores suggested Rosario come in to review all boards minutes of meeting. She has them all in dated order by dept. in one binder.

Rosario would like to review the process of executive session, the process of minutes of meetings and clarification of the vote taken on March 17, 2014 adopting G.L. c. 41A sec. 9 & 12 and G. L. cc. 44 sec. 53G. Patrick suggested Rosario contact Town Admin. Lisa and Attorney Silverstein for clarification. We paid for a service and if he needs more explanation he is entitled to it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Jeffrey Gray

Patrick Barrett

Rosario Messina