

Selectmen's minutes of meeting Jan. 13, 2014

Members present: Jeffrey Gray, Rosario Messina, Lisa Blackmer, Steve Harasyko, Dolores Harasyko

Members absent: Patrick Barrett

Called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Steve provided highway dept. updates. They have been very busy with the snow, heavy rain, freezing rain and ice jams. They had to hire a contractor to unblock and ice jam on Route 57 to avoid the ice from flooding over the road. Route 57 is the major throughway in town. On Jan. 9, 2014 in anticipation of the heavy rains forecasted for the weekend Steve contacted Emergency Management, Fire Dept. and Conservation Commission to appraise them of the potential flooding problem. The Conservation Commission issued an emergency order allowing Steve to open the jams. Rosario observed some of the process and commended Steve for the job.

Discussed the plowing of Tannery Road. P & R Constr. is doing a good job, Steve will follow up with them regarding the upper section of Tannery Rd. Discussed the town sanding through the private property of Ralph and Michael Morrison. Ralph will take care of the plowing but the town will sand since this is the only access for emergency vehicles to get to properties on Tannery Road.

Discussed the gate at the salt shed at the highway garage. The hinge rusted off. Steve is having a heavier hinge welded on. Discussed the maintenance of the concrete walls of the salt shed. In the spring as the salt and sand piles go down the highway dept. will clean the walls and seal them.

The new truck should be in by the end of the week.

Dolores read a letter for the Treasurer who was not able to attend the meeting. Teresa is requesting support from the Selectmen to go forward with upgrading our internet access. She had 2 consecutive weeks with no internet access and had to drive around town to find a signal in order to complete the payroll. Jean Atwater Williams is currently working on getting estimates to convert to fiber optics. She will then review with the Selectmen and request a reserve fund transfer from the Finance Committee. Dolores suggested having a line item specifically for internet access. Currently it is funded from operation and maintenance budget for some departments, it should be uniform for all departments. The Selectmen agreed.

Dolores reviewed the General Government budgets. She reviewed final expense report from the Treasurer for the end of fiscal year 2013. Most budgets ran out of funding and the Treasurer had to obtain permission to move any leftover money to cover budgets that went over. Dolores explained that this is due to cutting and level funding for so many years. The cost of operating has increased due to rising heating fuel costs, increases in utility bills, postage. She would like to increase the budgets for operating expenses. The Selectmen agreed. She will work on the budgets and present them to the Selectmen for approval.

Discussed problems at the Library with the drainage at the bottom door. Steve explained that everything surrounding the building is pitched to the back door. The water has no where to go but in the building. We will get quotes for and place gutters to divert the roof runoff. Steve will create a smooth rise with cold patch to keep the water from the parking lot from reaching the back door. Kathy Jacobs stated that the Strategic Planning Comm. is aware of the problem and has this on their list of repairs.

Discussed funding for the Town Administrators office. Originally the Highway Dept office was going to be moved into the file room but Lisa has requested a more private area to work. The Selectmen's/Town Clerk office is a very busy office and has a lot of distracting traffic. She has had to deal with some confidential items and it was difficult to accomplish. Ralph suggested Lisa contact the Town of Tolland. They have picked up some surplus office equipment. Lisa will do that, she is also working on a list of necessities for her office such as a chair, desk, computer, etc. She will prepare an itemized list and submit it for a reserve fund transfer or a special town meeting.

Discussed the annual business license fees. The town has not increased them since 1980. Lisa is surveying surrounding towns for what they charge. If the Selectmen decide to change the fees it will be by a vote of the Selectmen, it does not have to be on the annual town warrant as it is not a bylaw change.

Warrants reviewed and signed

Terry Ignace asked about parts for a town truck that was parked for a week. Steve explained that the part was on back order but is up and running.

Terry asked about plowing regarding the school bus runs. Steve is adjusting the routes to assure the plowing gets done before the bus run starts.

Terry is requesting police presence on Sandy Brook Tpk on the weekends from 7a.m. to the afternoon. There is a lot of traffic and a lot of speeding as a lot of people use that road to get to the ski areas this time of year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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Jeffrey Gray

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Rosario Messina