

Town of Hawley, Massachusetts
Minutes of a
Selectboard / Board of Health / Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
In Person & via Conference Call

February 28, 2023

Present: Will Cosby, Bob MacLean, Hussain Hamdan - Selectboard
Tinky Weisblat, Gal Friday
Virginia Gabert, Treasurer and Financial Administrator
Donna Lemoine, Wayne Lemoine, Ashley Harrison, Drew Harrison, Melanie Glynn, John Sears

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Warrants and minutes from a previous meeting were signed. Then:

1. **The board spoke with Ashley and Drew Harrison of Harrison Diesel Solutions.** Hussain explained that the fire department had occasionally used the Harrisons' company for repairs, but that deputy fire chief Bob Root was reluctant to do so because he was related to the Harrisons and wanted to avoid any conflict of interest. Hussain added that it would be beneficial to the fire department to be able to use the Harrisons from time to time because they were so close to the fire station so he wanted a way to remove the responsibility of hiring them from Bob Root. He moved that the board pre-approve using Harrison Diesel Solutions to conduct occasional repairs and maintenance on town fire trucks until the end of the fiscal year. He said he would introduce another such motion for the following fiscal year. Bob MacLean seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Ashley gave Virginia the necessary paperwork, and the Harrisons said they were happy to be able to help the town.
2. **Will introduced a piece of new business early because Melanie Glynn of the FHMS Broadband group was in the room.** Melanie explained that she was asking all the participating towns to sign an indemnifying agreement so that all the towns were responsible for the Borden Mountain tower, not just Savoy (where the tower was located). She said the agreement had been approved by Donna MacNicol, the attorney for Hawley and Savoy, and the FHMS attorney. Hussain moved to approve the agreement, Bob seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Will signed the paperwork, and Melanie thanked the group.
3. **The group discussed setting aside ARPA funds for the website re-design.** The board agreed that \$11,000 would be a prudent amount to use, given the rough estimates for the work and the amount of ARPA money available (according to Virginia, \$49,000 plus). The group agreed that if the remaining funds had not been clawed back by the federal government, some of them could be used for tax relief as ARPA funds had been the previous year. Will moved that the board encumber \$11,000 for the website redesign, launch, and training. Hussain seconded, and all vote in favor.
4. **The board talked about its contribution to the Town Report.** Tinky noted that contributions to the report were technically due the following day and apologized for not bringing the issue up before. She said practically speaking the board could submit its entry as late as April 1 but noted that she would prefer to have it within the next couple of weeks.

The board discussed recognizing Pamela Shrimpton and Rick Kean and agreed that Tinky or Donna would take a photo of Pam and that Hussain would reach out to Rick and arrange to photograph him. Will suggested that a photo of the wheeled excavator would be useful in the report and said he would take one. He asked about getting the name "Town of Hawley" painted on the excavator. Hussain said he could get in touch with the person who had painted the town's name on the fire trucks. The group agreed that in the meantime Will could take a photo of the excavator from the front so that the name (or lack of name) was not visible. Will promised to start working immediately on the Town Report.

5. **The Executive Session was postponed until March 14 because it involved a discussion with the road crew, and the crew was out plowing snow.**

In other business, Donna reported that she and Pam Shrimpton were making progress on training Donna as town clerk. She noted that she was happy to be the official interim town clerk with Pam as her assistant until training was complete.

Tinky said she was working on obtaining the paperwork so that Hawley could receive its opioid-settlement money. She promised to re-send the survey about the settlement funds to Hussain.

Tinky also noted that public-health nurse Meg Ryan and Carol Foote from LifePath were hoping to talk to the Selectboard on March 28. She said that council-on-aging chair Jennifer Rich had agreed to attend that evening as well.

Virginia followed up on the strange bank charge she had mentioned at the previous meeting. She said the charge had turned out to be a mistake, not fraud, but added that she was still looking into changing the protocol for identifying weird charges or checks.

Hussain said that he felt it was important for the record to state that the people who had been accused of hitting Courtney Hoyt's car at the last meeting had been exonerated by footage taken by the camera at the Town Garage. The footage revealed that a different story from what was reported at the last meeting. Hussain said he felt it was necessary to mention this publicly so the individuals wrongfully accused could have their names cleared. Will mentioned that whether or not those individuals were at fault for the accident, it was important to enforce the rule forbidding non-town-employees to use their equipment on town property loading sand. Bob said he had spoken to the individuals in question and reminded them that only town employees could load sand. He said he had been reassured that this rule would be followed in future. All agreed that the policy made sense.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tinky Weisblat, Gal Friday

Williams Cosby

Hussain Hamdan

Robert MacLean