

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – January 28, 2014

Present: Philip Keenan, John Sears, Bob MacLean – Board
Virginia Gabert – Administrative Assistant
Pamela Shrimpton, Hank Eggert, Trina Sternstein, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Lark Thwing, Jim Barry, Lloyd Crawford, Rick Kean, Greg Cox

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm.

1. Review and signing of treasury warrants – warrants were reviewed and approved unanimously.
2. Minutes from December 17, December 30 and January 14 were reviewed and accepted unanimously. Appointment forms were signed for Lloyd Crawford as the representative to the Regional Planning Board, and John Sears as the alternate representative.
3. Green Communities (1-hour presentation by Jim Barry) – Jim Barry is the Regional Coordinator of the Green Communities Division of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and gave a presentation on The Green Communities Program – Partnering with Massachusetts Cities and Towns. It is a program that is giving money to municipalities for doing energy efficient projects in town buildings. He explained the five criteria:
 - 1) As of Right Setting – designated locations where projects are permitted without a special permit.
 - 2) Expedited permitting process
 - 3) Energy Use Baseline – a five-year plan to reduce energy usage by 20%
 - 4) Purchase only fuel efficient vehicles whenever available and practical (Vehicles over 8500 pounds are exempt – Fire Trucks and most DPW vehicles)
 - 5) Require new buildings to be more energy efficient (can be done by adopting the “Stretch Code”)The adoption process involves building official training (most FCCIP officials are already trained); public hearing; and town meeting vote. The Town would have the ability to “un-adopt” the stretch code in the future, if desired. So far, 134 municipalities have adopted the stretch code, and half of the towns in Franklin County are Green Communities.

Grant amounts are a minimum of \$125,000, plus \$10,000 for solar projects. Meanwhile, MassSave energy audits are free, and they will pay for 75% of improvements (the Town's 25% can be from the Green Communities funding). Applications are due by October 30.
4. Discuss “Creating Resilient Communities in the Deerfield River Watershed” proposal and support letter – John explained that the Franklin Conservation District is applying for a grant, and requested a letter of support. The Board reviewed and approved a draft, and signed accordingly.
5. Update on municipal accounting software (none)

6. Update on status of FEMA approval for Forge Hill Road and East Road repairs – Virginia reported that FEMA needs DEP approval prior to amending scope, and permitting is estimated for February/March.
7. Update Detectoguard call list – The Board approved updating the call list to John Sears, Bob MacLean, Phil Keenan and Greg Cox.
8. CPHS – basic overview and proposed FY15 assessment information – Phil explained the benefits of the Community Public Health Service to Hawley, and that they are proposing a 10% increase in the assessment. Virginia explained that that will be largely offset by the increase in permit fees. Online permitting is rolling out as well.
9. Discuss possible executive session – unable to schedule or discuss without the subject present.
10. New business
 - a. Phil signed Community Development Block Grant application papers.
 - b. Hawlemont Emergency Dispensing Site team meeting will be on Thursday 2/20 – Phil will try to attend, but may be a little late.
 - c. Reviewed a draft letter to legislators re: proposed budget and the impact of last year’s SOL valuation change on proposed PILOT payment. Virginia will reprint on letterhead for signatures later in the week.
 - d. Discuss push for a meeting on Chickley monitoring plan – Connecticut River Watershed Association is pushing DEP to hold a meeting to present information about the Chickley River monitoring plan. A meeting has not been scheduled yet.
 - e. Virginia requesting authorization to exceed posted hours by 10 hours per week due to Asst Treasurer position. John made a motion to authorize Virginia to work up to 10 more hours per week as needed to do Treasurer’s work. Bob seconded; vote was unanimous.
 - f. Rick Kean reported that the testing equipment on the fiber optic line is that last step before we can go live. The Communications Committee has a meeting in February and hope to have installation in March.
 - g. Lark reported that there will be a public hearing on February 12 on the Mohawk budget, with a separate maintenance budget.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Gabert, Administrative Assistant
Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

Philip Keenan

John Sears

Robert MacLean