

Town of Hawley, Massachusetts  
Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – February 9, 2016

Present: John Sears, Bob Maclean, Phil Keenan – Board  
Virginia Gabert – Administrative Assistant  
Pam Shrimpton, Lark Thwing, Rick Kean, Hussain Hamdan, Richard Gould, Cass Nawrocki

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

1. Review and signing of treasury warrant – warrant 2016-18 and payroll were reviewed and signed.
2. Review and acceptance of prior meeting minutes –Dec 29, 2015, Jan 12 & 26, 2016 accepted.
3. Hear recommendations from Personnel Committee / Final interview for Administrative Assistant position. Rick described the search process and introduced Cass Nawrocki as the recommended by the Personnel Committee for Administrative Assistant. Phil moved to accept the candidate; Bob seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The Personnel Committee also presented an amendment to the Town's Personnel Policy, which adds the following paragraph to Section 8J. Retirement: **Employees who retire after a minimum of 30 years of service may take any accumulated sick leave (up to a maximum of fifty days) as vacation time between the last day they work and their retirement date.** Phil moved that the amendment be accepted; Bob seconded. Vote was unanimous. The amendment will take effect immediately and will be inserted into the Personnel Policy when it is updated.

4. Appoint a representative to the Mohawk Trail Regional School District Strategic Planning Committee. Lark explained the scope of the Committee. The School Committee would like to get 3-5 year plan in place by next year (to cover the next 3-5 year period). Hussain offered that the Hawlemont Committee agreed to send a representative to the new Committee as well. John nominated Kim Orzechowski. Phil seconded; Kim appointed. Lark explained that as an Ad Hoc committee, the term will be until the job is done.
5. Discuss impacts of the revised permit for monitoring at the Tri-Town Landfill. DEP issued a new permit with new requirements for monitoring. It should lower costs, but there should still be a meeting with other town select boards. Virginia will send possible dates.
6. New business:  
John reported that Peter Beck resigned from the Planning Board, and Lloyd had suggested Paul Norcross as a replacement. Phil moved to appoint Paul to fill the vacant seat; Bob seconded. The term will expire in 2021.

Lark reported that tomorrow will be the public hearing for the Mohawk Trail budget. Hawley's assessment is anticipated to increase. Hussain added that Hawlemont is looking at cutting the budget back. The initial budget has a 9% increase, but all are trying to reduce that. Hussain also reported on the wood pellet boiler project at

Hawlemont. Three bids had been received but the project will have to be rebid due to the original winner not working out. February 23 at 4:30 is the public hearing for the Hawlemont budget.

Lark reported for the Communication Committee. Rick is looking into a few grant opportunities and hopes to apply within the month. John suggested a public hearing on the entire proposal (including using the Devil's Elbow parcel for a tower). Rick stated that the initial Request For Proposals (RFP) had several mentions of hybrid/wireless technology. Lark suggested the possibility of applying for IT grant funding through the Community Compact. The Communication Committee may look into bringing broadband to the fire department. It might cost \$175,000 to bring cable from Plainfield or \$75,000 for wireless. This would create some redundancy and would cost \$700/month. The Town also needs new computers for the Administrative Assistant and Highway Department. Lark will get details so John can apply by end of the month.

Richard (Richie) reported on the Highway budget. Richie is okay with the budget if town is happy with the way the work has been progressing. Next capital purchase would be a new truck in possibly 4 years.

Rick mentioned that there will be a Special Communications Committee meeting tomorrow (February 10) at 6 pm. A group of several towns are interested in exploring the wireless hybrid option.

Hussain reminded all present of Amateur radio as an emergency option. He is willing to be a backup emergency link if communications fail in an emergency. He should have his system up and running by May, if not sooner.

Selectboard signed the Primary Election warrant.

Virginia brought forth Hawley's continuing membership in STAM (Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts). She suggested that we let it lapse since most of the meetings are too far away to be practical to attend, but STAM has requested we keep it as a show of support. The board opted to hold off on making decision.

John presented a letter from Phil announcing his resignation from the selectboard effective immediately. Phil has been offered a wonderful opportunity elsewhere. All present thanked him for long wonderful service to the town.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia Gabert, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

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John Sears

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vacant

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Robert MacLean