

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – February 11, 2014

Present: Philip Keenan, John Sears, Bob MacLean – Board
Virginia Gabert – Administrative Assistant
Pamela Shrimpton, Stephen Deane, Rick Kean, Hussain Hamdan, Michael Buoniconti, Joanne Blier

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm.

1. Review and signing of treasury warrants – warrants were reviewed and approved unanimously. Pam explained that Sandri will give a quote for a new heating system.
2. Minutes from January 28 were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
3. M. Buoniconti to discuss Hawlemont budget (7:45) – Michael explained the agricultural component as an effort to make Hawlemont more competitive and more attractive. He also explained that they are looking into a grant for a wood pellet heating system. There is also an effort to make the salaries more in line with Mohawk, as that has become an issue – causing increased employee turnover. There will effectively be a 7% increase in Hawley's assessment.

He went on to explain the status of the Mohawk budget. At this point, it looks like Hawley's increase will be 5.14%. The proposed FY15 budget is less than the FY10 budget.

4. Discuss status of budget development – The Board reviewed very preliminary budget information. With the proposed school assessments, the budget appears to be \$2000 over the levy limit. The Finance Committee has not reviewed this draft yet. Virginia explained that there is a Vocational transportation committee meeting that will either be on the 18th or 20th. After discussion, it was decided that if the meeting is on the 18th, Virginia will attend. If it is on the 20th, John will attend.
5. Discuss annual report and dedication of Town Report – Phil will draft a Selectboard report for the Annual Town Report, and have the other Selectmen review it. A dedication was not chosen yet.
6. Discuss plowing of South Road – Virginia explained that apparently Plainfield had an issue with the plowing. However, since the issue was so obscure, the Board opted not to take any action at this point. Any further complaint should be made in writing. The Board approved Ritchie carrying on the way he has been, and if he hears any further complaints, he should direct them to complain in writing to the Board.
7. Issue Class III – Junkyard license – A Class III license was issued to Michael Schofield, with the stipulation that the parcel at the corner of East Hawley and Buckland Road be cleaned up and any "junk" properly screened from the road. A letter will be sent to Jeff Carantit regarding the overdue status of his Unregistered Motor Vehicle permit.

8. New business

a. Support letter for David D White – John will draft a letter.

b. Letter to Berkshire Design – John reported that he spoke with Bob Mellace at DCR.

They are still waiting for the alternatives analysis for the site where the giant culvert was washed out. John read a draft of a letter, which the Board approved of and signed.

c. Chris Tirone asked about a system to make photo id badges. It was suggested to ask Hank Eggert where the Assessors got theirs. The Assessors have laminated, photo id's that they had done inexpensively.

d. Chris Tirone asked if Forge Hill Road will be opened up again. Virginia explained that the Notice of Intent is ready to be filed, and we are hoping that the project keeps moving forward and is able to be completed by September.

e. Chris then asked about snowmobile crossing signs. There are 5 crossings, so there is a need for 10 signs. Phil commented that we will need to find out how much the signs will cost – he will ask Ritchie.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 pm.

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

Philip Keenan

John Sears

Robert MacLean