

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – February 25, 2014

Present: Philip Keenan, John Sears – Board (Bob MacLean absent)
Virginia Gabert – Administrative Assistant
Pamela Shrimpton, Rick Kean, Lark Thwing, Jason Velazquez,

The meeting was called to order at 7:36pm.

1. Review and signing of treasury warrants – warrants were reviewed and approved unanimously, including a warrant for engineering services for Forge Hill and East Road projects.
2. Minutes from February 11 were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
3. Junk/Unregistered Vehicle Licenses – Phil reported that he spoke with Mike Schofield, who agreed to clean up the corner area as requested. No response yet from Jeff Carantit.
4. Report on Vocational Ed. Advisory Committee meeting (John) – John reported that he met with David Newell and Paula King in Plainfield. The new plan includes a reduction in price if we provide gas. Ashfield has pumps and is willing to provide fuel. This new plan would require final approval from Mohawk Administration. John made a motion that the Board accepts the proposal presented by David Newell on February 18. Phil seconded; proposal accepted unanimously.
5. Report on conference call with DEP, CRWC, et al. (John) – John reported on a conference call with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP), Trout Unlimited (TU), Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) and Deerfield River Watershed Council. The call was a status update on the monitoring plan and future plantings. DEP will generally be testing in September, as they have in the past. Mike Cole has done some testing, and so far the restoration looks good. When planting starts, they will most likely be looking for volunteers to help plant, or to “adopt a tree” or somehow involve any interested parties.
6. Report on East Rd and Forge Hill Rd repair status (Virginia) – Virginia reported that NOIs (Notice of Intent) have been filed with the Conservation Commission for both sites. The Conservation Commission will schedule a hearing, and hopefully issue an Order of Conditions (OOC). Then Virginia will contact FEMA for approval of an amended scope of work.
7. Personnel policy – consider changing policy for unused sick pay upon retirement. The current policy sacrifices unused sick time upon end of employment. This policy does not seem appropriate for a long-service employee considering retirement. The Board opted to refer the project to the Position Description Review Committee, as there may be other employment considerations that may have come to their attention in drafting the Position Descriptions.
8. Confirm permission to deficit spend for Snow Roads – Virginia will discuss this with the Finance Committee at their meeting on Tuesday March 4 as well. John made a motion to allow

deficit spending for Snow Roads through April, and get recommendations from the Finance Committee. Phil seconded; approved unanimously.

9. WiredWest Network Financing Meeting scheduled for 3/19, 7pm. Rick explained that WiredWest's role keeps changing. They are looking for federal funding, and continue to advise MBI. This meeting is to explain their request for \$1,000 from municipalities, and to further explain where they are at financially. Rick, Jason and Virginia will all plan to attend.

10. Finance Committee meeting Tuesday, March 4, 4pm to discuss budget draft.

11. New business

a) Rick reported that the Communications Committee met yesterday with CornerStone representative. They are headquartered in Troy, but have offices in western Massachusetts and are less expensive than their competitors. The Communications Committee recommends CornerStone for the Town's fiberoptic service provider. The service will cost \$118.60 per month with unlimited bandwidth. John made a motion to accept the proposed contract with CornerStone. Phil seconded. Contract was accepted unanimously and signed.

b) Lark suggested the concept of rotating the chairmanship of the Selectboard, and suggested that it be a warrant article at the Annual Town Meeting. The Board opted not to draft a warrant article. John stated that he is the Selectman with the most flexible schedule, and would be dis-inclined to serve as Chair in addition to attending numerous outside meetings. He would prefer to leave that choice open. Phil didn't see a reason to make a change, just to make a change.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

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

Philip Keenan

John Sears

Robert MacLean