

Town of Hawley, Massachusetts
Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – March 8, 2016

Present: John Sears, Bob MacLean– Board
Cass Nawrocki – Administrative Assistant
Virginia Gabert, Pam Shrimpton, Lark Thwing, Rick Kean, Hussain Hamdan,
Courtney Hoyt, Brendan and Bob Root, Lloyd Crawford.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

1. Review and **acceptance of prior meeting minutes.**
2. Review and **approve treasury warrants** - warrant 2016-20 and 2016-20 payroll were reviewed and signed.
3. **Review need for a town buildings committee to evaluate buildings.** Virginia discussed the possibility of creating plans for maintenance, upgrades or expansions to town buildings. The need for this action arose in response to the recent freezing of Town Hall drain pipes and confusion she and Cass had as to whom to call. Lloyd suggested that the energy audit (as part of the Green Communities initiative) might be helpful in suggesting a better insulation system. The select board decided that calls should be directed to Bob MacLean (primarily at night or on weekends) or Richie Gould during the day. It was also suggested that the job description for the new Highway Superintendent should include that function.
4. **Cleaning of Town Hall.** Virginia stated that the Town Hall cleaning person is finding that cleaning (especially in the spring and winter) takes longer than an hour which is the present arrangement. All agreed that she does a nice job and hustles. The select board approved that she could spend up to 2 hours per time.
5. **Report on Tri-town Landfill Monitoring.** John reported on a meeting in Heath regarding the monitoring, which he attended. DEP has issued new permitting requirements and requires that the old test wells must be closed which will be a one-time expense. Estimated cost is \$9000 for 3 towns for testing and \$2300 for well monitoring. Heath is managing the Landfill with some help from Charlemont. Hawley is looking at \$3183.00 but only \$2000 has been budgeted.
6. **Phil Keenan's vacated functions for Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program (FCCIP), & Community Public Health Oversight Committee (CPHOC); also Board of Health (BOH) Signatory for Permits.** After discussion the Select Board decided to temporarily appoint the functions as follows, to be reexamined after May with a full Board: FRCOG representative will be John; FCCIP will be Bob M.; CPH will be John, with Cass as alternate. Virginia and Cass will attend the next CPHOC meeting on 3/24 since John will be away. The BOH chairman will be John. John signed paperwork to that effect, which will be scanned and emailed to FRCOG.

7. **The Mohawk School Budget.** Lark reported on the budget. Hawley's assessment portion is up 14.3%. The average for all towns is up 6.3%. Lark stated that Hawley is considered a wealthy community. The Pre K assessment is a problem for Buckland and Shelburne. All Mohawk reserves have been spent down over the past many years and there is little wiggle room left this year. Lark is hopeful that the Strategic Planning Committee (BEST) results will find some cost cutting measures. Hussain reported that Hawlemont is in the same predicament and that the strategic planning process for the schools may end up being contentious between the communities. John commended Hussain and Lark on doing a difficult job.
8. **Town Budget.** Lark reported that the Finance Committee has met once. Their next meeting will be March 18 and there should be a final draft by then. Regarding the 5 year capital budget: the only anticipated capital expense thus far is a projection from the highway superintendent, Richie Gould, of a new truck needed in about 4 years.
9. **Finance Committee.** Lark reported that Joe Markarian met with the Finance Committee to find ways to improve financial planning and reporting. An Information Technology grant is coming up.
10. **Proposal from Bart Bales at Bales Energy Associates to do the ASHRE II level audit.** Lloyd reported on effort of the town to become a Green Community, which would enable the town to obtain a grant to make its buildings energy efficient. An audit will determine whether and how the town could meet the 20% reduction in energy required of a Green Community. Bob Root stated that he thinks the firehouse alone can be 20% better. Bob and John signed paperwork for Hawley's participation.
11. **Any other business** not reasonably anticipated prior to posting agenda.
 - Next Select Board meeting, scheduled for 3/22, must be rescheduled or cancelled, due to John being away. The 3/22 meeting will be cancelled, with John signing warrants by 3/18.
 - Lloyd gave the planning board report on the Berkshire East proposed subdivision next to the temple. They propose to do a cluster. Berkshire East says it would maintain all roads – Lark voiced concern about how long *that* would last into the future. Lloyd said that the planning board would ensure maintenance of the road(s) was in the paperwork. Possible name of this project is to be Hawk Brook Estate. Berkshire East is looking for feedback from the boards. Town Counsel is recommending that the Select Board appoint the Planning Board to act as the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for this project alone. That would be more efficient and there is no inherent conflict in this particular case. Bob M. moved that the Planning Board assume the role of ZBA in this particular matter only. John seconded. Vote approved. Bob R. voiced concern that Berkshire East could be planning more expansion. Lloyd states that any extension would need a new application to the planning board.

- Virginia presented a letter addressed to the bank (for Board signature) to correct the signer on the West Hawley Cemetery Association account. The existing signer was in error.
- Town Report Dedication. The Board confirmed that it will be dedicated to Phil Keenan. John will write something up and get it to Cass for the Town Report.
- Rick brought up the issue of confusion with the Hawley website regarding Board of Health matters – i.e. how to find information regarding perc tests, permits, etc. Rick and Cass will work to update the site info to make it more user friendly and accurate. The issue arose when a resident complained that he had been unable to find the BOH on the site.
- John called attention to a report from the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHA) regarding the 2014 Community Development Block Grant, Housing Rehabilitation Program. Available funds for new loans in Hawley as of 12/31/15 is \$35,017.66. The authority has completed work on 2 households and is currently working with 3 additional households in Hawley. Cass has forwarded the report to our FCRHA liaison, Susan Olson.
- John reported on a letter from the Franklin Land Trust (FLT) on the D2R2 annual bike ride through Hawley. On March 1, Gregory Cox wrote the FLT a letter of strong concern over last years' accident when a rider was seriously (and potentially fatally) injured in Hawley. This year's Ride is 8/20/16. About 1200 riders are anticipated to take part.
- John reported on a letter from Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) regarding a plot of land (90+ ac) on Middle Road which it is interested in purchasing. This land is surrounded by the Hawley State Forest. There are tax ramifications to the State's proposed action and the letter is unclear. John will write the State asking for clarification.
- Inspector of Animals appointment is expiring. Craig Shrimpton, the existing Inspector, needs to be asked if he wants to renew. Cass will follow up with Craig. The nomination process is supposed to be completed by April 1, 2016.
- John discussed and signed a letter of support from the Town of Hawley for Franklin Regional Council of Governments to apply for a Healthy Deerfield Watershed Grant.
- John attended a meeting of the Mohawk Building Subcommittee which discussed a possible solar array and pellet boilers at the school. Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Buckland Board of Health, and others are concerned about air pollution from the boilers. There is a high incidence of asthma in our area. Bob R. urged caution before jumping on any bandwagon (pellets, chips, solar, etc.) too quickly. He discussed the various factors about wood chips v. pellets. Hussain asked if Bob Root would be willing to attend a Hawlemont School Committee meeting and share his thoughts and

discuss the options, since Hawlemont is looking into a pellet boiler. Bob R. would be happy to.

- Rick updated on the Broadband efforts. MBI is on hold for now – all are taking a long look. A planning grant (a \$5,000 Broadband Planning Assistance Grant) has been completed and approved. The Communications Committee will convert findings into a proposal – updates are on the website. Lark has sent a letter to our Representatives, Governor, and Lieutenant Governor.
- Hussain wondered about an Energy Advisory Committee, similar to the Solarize project in Ashfield/Plainfield/Buckland, but with a broader focus than just solar.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Cass Nawrocki, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

John Sears

vacant

Robert MacLean

Appendix A - Relevant documents:

Nov 2015 Analytical Data Summary Report CHA File No. 25723 – Former Tri Town Landfill;
DEP Post Closure Monitoring and Maintenance Revision.

Franklin Land Trust letter regarding D2R2 bike ride through the Deerfield River Watershed, 8/20/16;
Letter from Greg Cox, Hawley Fire Department to Richard Hubbard Exec Director, Franklin Land Trust,
in concern re a serious accident which occurred in Hawley in the 2015 ride.

Letter signed by John Sears in support of the Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program, sponsored
by FRCOG.

Letter and Nomination Papers from MDAR re Inspector of Animals.

FCR Housing and Redevelopment Authority 2015 Annual Report .

Proposal from Bales Energy Associates – Green Community Audit Services.

Letter from DCR regarding Hawley parcel on Middle Road they are interested in purchasing.