

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – March 11, 2014

Present: Philip Keenan, John Sears, Bob MacLean – Board
Virginia Gabert – Administrative Assistant
Pamela Shrimpton, Stephen Deane, Rick Kean, Lark Thwing, Chris Tirone, Susan Olson

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

1. Review and signing of treasury warrants – warrants were reviewed and approved unanimously, including a Stantec bill for engineering work for Irene storm damage repair.
2. Minutes from February 25 were not ready yet.
3. Junk/Unregistered Vehicle Licenses – Phil has not been able to talk with Jeff Carantit yet about the unregistered vehicle license.
4. Discuss budget draft – Using a 3% raise for town employees and officers, the proposed budget would be just below the levy limit. However, since the budget was reviewed by the Finance Committee, two additional vocational school applications have been accepted. Also, the Highway Department will need a new truck, for approximately \$150,000. Lark also reported that the Finance Committee is in the process of drafting a Financial Policy to be in writing, and anticipate that it will be complete this summer.
5. Discuss collection letter from MA State Police – Virginia reported that the collection action has been put on hold, as the MSP needs to look into why it was billed the way it was, and the legality of trying to collect on services rendered over 12 years ago.
6. Discuss fluorescent bulb collection – The fluorescent bulb collection here at the Town Office will be scheduled to be picked up once a year. As long as there is at least \$50 worth of recyclables, there will not be a charge. Otherwise, the town will be charged the difference. As Ashfield takes hazardous materials, the Board opted to discontinue the service.
7. Discuss snowmobile crossing sign request status – Ritchie priced out the signs, and for 5 crossings (2 signs each) it will cost \$700-\$800. Chris will ask the snowmobile club if they can contribute.
8. Reminder: WiredWest Network Financing Meeting scheduled for 3/19, 7pm. Susan Olson provided some background information, and strongly encouraged the Board to attend the meeting.
9. New business
 - a. The Bone Frog Challenge will be held at Berkshire East on May 17, 2014. They will close part of East Road for the event, as they did last year. They will also send notification to property owners along the affected part of the road.

b. The Conservation Commission scheduled the hearing on Notices of Intent (NOIs) for Forge Hill and East Roads on March 20 at 9am. Virginia will attend as the applicant, and representatives from Stantec will also be present.

c. Rick reported that the equipment for the fiber-optic connection has been purchased. The anticipated installation date is March 18.

d. John reported that the Mohawk Long Range Planning Committee tries to vary the locations of the meetings, and will be holding its next meeting in Hawley on Thursday, March 27 at 7pm.

e. John spoke with Bob Mellace (DCR) about the Middle Road repair status. In response to the letter that the Board sent to Berkshire Design, they finally got back to DCR with a new timeline. The Water Quality application should be in by the end of March; DEP permitting in April; engineered specs in May.

f. FRCOG has set up meetings to present information about a possible Federal Forest Designation in western Massachusetts. They will be presenting in Hawley on Tuesday, April 1 at 6:00pm. Also, there is a meeting organized by Massachusetts Forest Alliance on Thursday, March 13 at Mohawk Regional School to discuss this concept as well.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

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

Philip Keenan

John Sears

Robert MacLean