

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – March 25, 2014

Present: Philip Keenan, John Sears, Bob MacLean – Board  
Virginia Gabert – Administrative Assistant  
Pamela Shrimpton, Rick Kean, Lark Thwing, Bob and Brandon Root, Trina Sternstein, Andrea Bernard, Dave Cunningham, Evie Locke, Greg Cox

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

1. Review and signing of treasury warrants – warrants were reviewed and approved unanimously.
2. Review of prior meeting minutes - minutes from February 25 and March 11 were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
3. Tyler Memorial Library (Andrea Bernard, Dave Cunningham, Evelyn Locke) to address the Board – Andrea Bernard introduced herself to the Board as she has now been the Librarian at the Tyler Memorial Library since July 1, 2013. She reviewed some improvements that are being made, such as increasing the hours from 10 per week to 12 per week; increasing programs; and automation. Due to the increase in services and automation, the Library requested an increased contribution from Hawley of \$2000. The Selectboard explained that the budget is extremely tight this year, but they will look into any possibility of a smaller increase.
4. Equal Pay Day proclamation – Phil read, and signed, the Equal Pay Day proclamation, with the support of the other Selectmen.
5. Junk/Unregistered Vehicle Licenses – Phil has not been able to contact Jeff Carantit yet. He requested that Virginia send him another letter.
6. Discuss budget draft/ballot questions/vocational tuition – Virginia explained that the budget was calculated on two additional students, but then we got two more applications. Greg had evaluated a 10 year history of appropriations vs actual expenditures, and suggested that since over 10 years, the over-budgeting of vocational tuition has added a significant amount to Free Cash, that it would be reasonable to take any required additional funds from Free Cash. Lark stated that it was his personal opinion that we should ask to transfer \$40,000 from Free Cash. Discussion ensued regarding budgeting for an average number of students every year, and setting up an account to carry the balance forward in order to offset the years when enrollment increases.

The two proposed ballot questions were reviewed as follows:

Question 1: Shall the Town of Hawley be allowed to exempt from the provision of Proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase a new Highway Department Truck? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Question 2: Shall the Town vote to have its elected Tree Warden become an appointed Tree Warden of the town? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

The Board unanimously approved of the questions as worded. Virginia will forward them to Pam.

7. Discuss Annual Town Report – Phil drafted a report on behalf of the Selectboard. He read the draft aloud, and both John and Bob agreed with the wording. The Board unanimously decided to dedicate this year’s report to Virginia (and Jake). Phil will draft a dedication and email it to John and Bob for acceptance.

8. Comment on CPHS proposed Burial Guidelines draft (BOH) – The Board reviewed the draft, and had a few questions to be brought back to the Community Public Health Service. These included whether it would apply to the burial of ashes, and if ashes are even regulated; as well as whether a burial permit would still be required, and if so, it should be included in the regulation.

9. Report on status of Forge Hill and East Road NOIs – The Notice of Intent hearing for Forge Hill Road was continued to Wednesday, April 9 at 9:00am. The engineers will be redesigning the project to upsize the culvert. The East Road hearing was closed, and the Conservation Commission will be preparing an Order of Conditions for the project.

10. New business

a) Greg notified the Board that they had located a pumper that they were interested in, but it will need to go out to bid since it is from a dealer, and not from another municipality. He requested permission to utilize some of Virginia’s time in order to bid the project properly. The Board unanimously granted permission. (Added note: the bid opening will be held at a special meeting on Wednesday, April 16 at 7:30pm)

b) A letter was received from Charlemont about an EMT shortage. The State requirements are getting prohibitive, and Charlemont wants to incentivize in order to draw in more qualified EMTs. Greg suggested speaking with the recreational ventures in Charlemont to see if they would be willing to help contribute to training. Or have someone trained on staff that they are willing to allow to assist in transporting patients.

c) Rick notified the Board that the Communications Committee is waiting for the Axia configuration. Cornerstone has requested it, but only received a portion of what they needed.

d) The Board asked Virginia to get more information on executive session, notification requirements, and whether there is any way for the Board to deliberate prior to having to call an executive session.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.

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

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Philip Keenan

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John Sears

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Robert MacLean