

Town of Hawley
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Hawley, MA 01339
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Town of Hawley, Massachusetts
Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – May 3, 2016

Present: John Sears, Bob MacLean, Hussain Hamdan– Board
Cass Nawrocki – Administrative Assistant
Virginia Gabert, Pam Shrimpton, Chris Tirone, Lark Thwing, Rick Keene, Bob
and Brendan Root, Sally Rich, Ann Falwell, Courtney Hoyt.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

John began the meeting by welcoming Hussain to the Board. He stated that the Board now represents the whole town. He commended Hussain's involvement and passion for the town. Hussain expressed that he is confident of a good working relationship.

- **Review and signing of treasury warrant.**
- **Review and acceptance of prior meeting minutes.** None presented.

- **Letter of support to the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership.** John described the intent. Hussain looked the letter over and said it looks like a good idea. Hawley is not committing to anything at this point, but the letter is to send support of the project to the legislators. All Selectboard (SB) signed.

- **Letter from Selectboard to the Governor regarding Broadband.** The SB reviewed the letter. Hussain stated that he thinks the letter is well written and the issues clear. All signed.

- **CHA contract for Landfill services.** John reviewed for all that the Tri-town Landfill has a new permit requirement which requires the shutdown of testing wells. Thus, there is one-time increase cost to Hawley to complete the work - \$3667. All SB signed.

- **Any other business not reasonably anticipated prior to posting agenda.**
 - a. **Reorganization of Selectboard – Chairman and Assignments.** After brief discussion, the SB members all agreed that keeping John as Chair now would be good for continuity. Bob so moved to retain John as Chair. Hussain seconded. All SB voted for John as Chair. A Board of Health (BOH) Chair should also be confirmed – John chosen as Chair of the BOH. After brief discussion, the following assignments to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) were settled upon: Representative to FRCOG Council - Hussain; Representative to Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program – Bob; **Representative to the Community Public Health Oversight Committee – John**

with Cass as alternate; Primary contact person for the Drug and Alcohol Testing Program will be Bob.

- b. Public Records Law.** John discussed a letter to the “Members of the Joint Committee on Senate Bill S.2120/House Bill H.3858” which he drafted that urges the removal or revision of certain language on the bill. John explained that the law as written places an undue burden on small rural towns such as Hawley by, for example, requiring the placement of documents (with delineated timeframes) on the website. Hussain discussed his previous involvement and concerns about this issue. Members of the SB all signed the letter.
- c. Appointments.** Appointment forms were signed for the following positions, in effect for a year: Election Officer (1 year) – Suzy Groden; and Historical Commission (3 years) – Bob Root and John Sears.
- d. Bone Frog Challenge.** Cass explained how the Bone Frog staff had approached her looking for a list of people living on East Road who would be affected by the closing of East Road to thru traffic for their event on May 21 (so that they could be forewarned). Cass had then requested a letter from Bone Frog to the SB with a description of the event and a request to close the road again this year. Cass presented the resultant letter from Brian Carney, CEO of Bone Frog Challenge, mailed to the SB. There was brief a discussion that previous events had gone smoothly and no complaints had been received from residents. SB instructed Cass to draft a brief letter of permission from the SB to close the road for the event.
- e. Police Position.** John talked with Charlemont Police Chief, Jared Bellows, about possibilities for collaboration. They would be willing for Hawley residents to go to Charlemont’s police for the Firearms Permits portion of the job, but would not be willing to do any policing in Hawley. Lark reminded the SB that the job description would need to be revised if that split in tasks occurred. Hussain said that according to the law Hawley has to have Hawley a policeman to do the permits. Rick will follow up on the inquiry that the Ashfield Police Chief made regarding possible collaboration. Rick and Hussain discussed that an administrative Chief could authorize a deputy to do the services, but it would need to go through the Selectboard. The position, once settled upon, will need to be posted, said Hussain. Virginia shared that she had spread the word that Hawley needed a new police chief through the Franklin County Police Chief’s Association.
- f. Follow up regarding document storage space.** Since Hussain is very familiar with Hawlemont, he volunteered to investigate and look into possible storage space there. Cass explained that she had been in email conversations with Wayne Kermenski, the Principal, about this and he was amenable to investigations and further discussions. Lark offered that the Sons and Daughters also might have space.
- g. Biking Trails in Dubuque State Forest.** John reminded all that Jon Schaefer from Berkshire East will be coming to the 5/17 SB Meeting regarding a proposed local group to manage mountain biking trails in Dubuque State Forest.

- h. Communications Committee letter to Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI).** Rick presented a draft of an email to Dave Charbonneau, the Technical Director of MBI. After review of the email, discussion ensued as to whether the letter should come from the SB. It was agreed that it should come from Rick.
- i. Parking at Town Hall.** Lark described a plan with 18 spots in 2 rows of 5. Everyone agreed that it seemed like a better plan than the original.
- j. Annual Town Meeting.** Lark commended Virginia on her extraordinary efforts to prepare an excellent and comprehensive information packet. Greg brought up some issues regarding the Warrant which will require amendments at Town Meeting. Virginia is aware and has prepared two samples. Lark suspects there will be other changes.
- k. Finance Forum.** Virginia shared information on the New Officials Financial Forum on June 1, in Worcester. Hussain is interested in going. Virginia reminded all that she will be away at a Treasurer's Conference tomorrow, Wednesday.
- l. Town Hall dangerous crack in the floor.** Pam is concerned about the major crack in the floor which presents a hazard. All agreed. Ed Brady will look into how to approach the repair.
- m. Alleged errors in the 2015 Town Report, specifically the 2015 Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting Minutes (6/29/15 & 12/3/15). Hussain brought up that he felt that errors were made, which were outlined in detail in a submitted letter.** Hussain described 3 issues: ATM, Article 53: Craig Shrimpton, not Lloyd Crawford, introduced the amendment. The text of the Amendment was also inaccurate. STM (6/29), Article 6: a motion made at the end of the meeting to cease paying Phil Keenan's salary was omitted. STM (12/3) Article 2: the article incorrectly identifies the Home Rule Request to the State legislature for the passage of a recall act as a "bylaw". There were miscellaneous other issues. Pam stated that her minutes have been looked over by Virginia. Pam wondered if the SB should review the minutes from now on before she finalized them. Virginia suggested that Hussain could make an amendment at the Town Meeting to make corrections.
- n. Annual Town Meeting Moderator.** Lark stated that the voters will need to vote for the temporary Moderator (Lark will withdraw as moderator for this meeting due to his need to focus on school issues). Scott Purinton is ready to take the helm.
- o. Recall of Elected Officials in Hawley by special recall election.** Pam brought up the procedure that needs to be followed to address some of the errors in Special Town Meeting (6/29/15) Article 2. Hussain will clarify for Pam what needs to happen.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cass Nawrocki, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

John Sears

Hussain Hamdan

Robert MacLean

Appendix A - Relevant documents:

- Bone Frog letter to Selectboard
- Email communication from Rick Kean to Dave Charbonneau, MBI
- Letter dated 5/3/2016 authored by Hussain A. Hamdan regarding errors in the 2016 Town Report.