

Town of Hawley
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Town of Hawley, Massachusetts
Minutes of Special Selectmen's Meeting – May 11, 2016

Present: John Sears, Bob MacLean, Hussain Hamden– Board
Cass Nawrocki – Administrative Assistant
Virginia Gabert, Rick Keene, Mike Scofield, Richard Gould, Brendan Dekoschak.

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

- **Recommendation from the Personnel Committee on the hiring of a Highway Superintendent.** Rick of the Personnel Committee briefly described the hiring process for the Highway Superintendent. There were 3 candidates with relevant experience. The Personnel Committee is now recommending that Brendan Dekoschak be hired for the position. Hussain moved to accept the recommendation, Bob seconded it, all the Select board voted yes. Brendan Dekoschak will give 2-weeks-notice at his present position and start in the new position on 5/26. Bob questioned about the pre-employment physical, so that will need investigation. Richie offered to help and stay to do some training/orientation with Brendan. Hussain shared that he appreciates Brendan's emergency management type experience and heavy equipment repair experience. Brendan has also been on the Ashfield Fire Department. Rick asked Brendan to come into the town hall soon to complete paperwork.
- **Any other business not reasonably anticipated prior to posting this agenda.**
 - a. **Police Chief Position.** Rick brought up what is being done by the Personnel Committee regarding the hiring of a Police Chief. The investigation of contracting out at least some of the services continues. Rick has talked to Diane Wilder, Ashfield Police Chief, and suggested that she come to the next Select board meeting (5/17) to discuss the possibilities. She is amenable – the Select board asked that Rick go ahead and invite her, but to make sure it is clear that this is exploratory at this point.
 - b. **Article 18 on the Hawley Annual Town Meeting Warrant (the Stretch Energy Code Bylaw) – Proposed language of correction.** John stated that the Bylaw had passed, after all, due to the amount of votes needed to pass being clarified by the Town Clerk, the Attorney General, and town counsel Donna MacNicol. Article 18 had only required a majority vote, not a 2/3 vote to pass on the Warrant. John submitted proposed wording for clarifying the result of the vote, which will be posted and publicized in the newspapers. Hussain said that he thought the necessary number of votes should have been clear at the meeting. John stated that it was a mistake. Hussain said that a lot of people had contacted him and were adamant that they “didn't like this” – he expressed that it was inevitable that someone will work for repeal. John and Bob both expressed that it had passed under the correct vote – by a majority. Rick voiced that he thought an

apology would be good and that the voters are free to object and act on it and that no one wants undue conflict - both sides have valid points. Cass asked if there had been a lot of debate on the Article. Hussain said there had been, but that a lot of people would have shown up if the issue was better known. The Select board discussed that they need to put forth the apology about the mistake, but there were differences of opinion between John and Hussain as to whether reconsideration of the Article should be added as “the issue **will be** considered or **may be considered** in the future”. Hussain voiced that the Select board should put the item on the warrant for the next special town meeting themselves. People don’t want to feel like this is a “sneaky scheme” and that the Select board bringing it forth will create more confidence in the process. John and Bob said that they are okay with putting “will”, but John will check and see if a repeal of the Article would require more votes than a majority.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cass Nawrocki, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

John Sears

Hussain Hamden

Robert MacLean

Appendix A - Relevant documents:

- The amended Agenda (amended at 5/10, 4:00 pm) for the Special Selectboard Meeting, May 11, 2016 – 7:30 pm, which included proposed language of correction to Article 18 of Hawley Annual Town Meeting.