

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – May 20, 2014

Present: Philip Keenan, John Sears, Bob MacLean – Board
Virginia Gabert – Administrative Assistant
Charlie Stetson, Pamela Shrimpton, Chris Tirone, Lark Thwing, Scott and Ellen Purinton, Rick Kean, Greg Cox, Ritchie Gould, Jeff Carantit

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm.

1. Review and signing of treasury warrants – warrants were reviewed and approved unanimously.
2. Review of prior meeting minutes – minutes from May 6 were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
3. Discuss the shortage of EMTs to staff the ambulance – Discussion ensued about the lack of EMT coverage, and the State requirement to have two EMTs to run an ambulance. Scott added that next year, EMTs will be required to be nationally certified, and the educational requirements will be increasing. Recommendations moving forward were: publicity (making public aware of the issue); consider regionalization; trying to bring businesses with vested interests into the mix; more accessible training and incentives; and finding out why Colrain is so successful.

John Sears and Bob MacLean were chosen (until and unless others come forward) as Hawley Representatives to the committee to oversee the filing of reports as required by Phil Bonaiuto.

4. Follow up on status of unregistered vehicle inquiry – Virginia reported that she had checked with area towns, and once again got inconsistent results. It depends on individual town bylaws. Following discussion, Phil reiterated that Jeff should get the fencing up, and the Selectboard would look into the possibility of building what he needs to do into a business license. However, Business Licenses are issued by the Town Clerk, and nothing can be tied to them. The possibility of having a license running concurrently with the Business License was also considered. No definitive conclusion was reached.
5. Discuss possibility of hiring Sheriff's Department to paint Town Office – Phil will pick up the application when he is at work sometime.
6. Discuss complaint sent from Kim Orzechowski – Complaint was about fences by the barn area of Side Hill Farm being so close to the road that horses and bikes can not get off of the pavement if a vehicle is coming. Greg suggested allowing the fence to come up to the road on one side, but moving the other side back enough to allow for a horse. Phil will talk with Paul.
7. Discuss appointments for FY15 – Virginia had prepared a list of positions that are up for appointment/re-appointment. Several people indicated that they were willing to be considered for re-appointment. Discussion moved to how to go about searching for a new Treasurer and

Collector. The Job Description Review Committee has to get the three job descriptions done, then the Board will make an announcement.

8. Follow up on status of Forge Hill Road – John reported that he is exchanging messages with Dave Cameron. Stantech did come up with a sketch of a new plan, which the Shrimpton's accepted. John asked Dave to run the new sketch by David Foulis (DEP) and check with Jeff Collingwood about the stability of the ground. John has not heard back yet.

9. Discuss possible impact of SJC ruling on Hawley – Virginia relayed the results of the court decision. The SJC ruled against the town and the ATB by overturning the decision. Rick added that we need to go to legislators and find a way to limit how much property in towns is tax-free. John asked Rick if the Assessors would be willing to explore meeting with other Boards of Assessors and legislators. Virginia will send an inquiry/invitation to the Franklin County Assessors Association.

10. New business

a) Northampton Cycling Club submitted their packet requesting permission to have their annual bike race go through Hawley. Greg is not willing to sign, as he is still concerned about them blocking roads. Phil signed.

b) Pam Shrimpton requested permission to access Town Counsel about the petitioned recount and potential contested voters. The Board unanimously granted permission. Pam added that the recount is scheduled for May 29 at 1pm.

c) Greg reported that the Fire Pumper should be ready soon.

d) Rick noticed that the Cornerstone bill covered two periods. The monthly cost should be \$118.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Gabert, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

Philip Keenan

John Sears

Robert MacLean