

Town of Hawley
8 Pudding Hollow Road
Hawley, MA 01339
(413) 339-5518

Town of Hawley, Massachusetts
Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – June 14, 2016

Present: John Sears, Bob MacLean, Hussain Hamdan– Board
Cass Nawrocki – Administrative Assistant
Virginia Gabert, Pam Shrimpton, Chris Tirone, Lark Thwing, Bob Root, Brendan Dekoschak, Paul Lacinski, and Amy Klippenstein.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

- 1. Review and signing of treasury warrant.**
- 2. Review and acceptance of prior meeting minutes - May 17, 2016.**
- 3. Town Official Appointments.** Cass read a list of the Appointments coming to the board for their signature: George Rice, Constable; Brendan Dekoschak, Tree Warden; Robert Taylor, Conservation Commission; Robert MacLean, Representative (Rep) to Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program; John Sears, Rep to the Cooperative Public Health Oversight Committee; Cass Nawrocki, Alternate Rep to the Cooperative Public Health Oversight Committee; Pam Shrimpton, Burial Agent; Greg Cox, Fire Chief, Emergency Manager, Measurer of Wood, Rep to the Regional Emergency Planning Commission; Hussain Hamdan, Rep to Franklin Regional Council of Governments and Rep to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority.
- 1. Community Compact Grant contract.** John explained that the contract is for a grant to provide the Highway Department with internet access via a satellite dish and a computer. Lark will contact Charlemont TV for their prices. And John will suggest some other options for Cass to investigate, but nothing should be expended until the contract is fully executed. Brendan will begin to investigate computer options. Hussain asked if anyone had specific details on statistics for the satellite systems, such as the fire department, to be able to evaluate – suggested that perhaps the Communication Committee can oversee that. Lark will talk to Greg Cox about this. Brendan questioned whose budget the internet service cost will come out of. If the grant does not include any provision for expenditure toward a service fee, then it will need to be accounted for in the Highway budget.
- 2. Paul Lacinski and Amy Klippenstein / Side Hill Farm – a possible Zoning Board of Appeals setback variance.** Paul explained that they are aware of the procedure for

applying for a variance, but the situation is in flux. The issue concerns an addition for a robotic milking unit. Just today, they found out of they could actually bump out the building 10 feet without going over the previous variance they were granted except a very slight amount in one place, so the reason they thought they needed another variance now appears to be a non-issue. John suggested that they might want to run this situation by the building inspector and then asked about previous 'conditions' (snow removal, etc.) which had been set. Paul stated that the old school house doesn't cause any problems and that is even a little closer. He and Amy will apply for a building permit and come back to the ZBA if they need a new variance.

3. **Communications Committee Update.** Lark reported on the last Communications Committee – Bill Ennen was there as well as 16 others. A pilot program has been approved for Middlefield and is expected to move quickly. They will be testing 32 homes when the leaves are on the trees. Once the system is hooked up, Hawley people will be able to go look. Hussain said that MBI is now interested in wireless, design money is back on the table, and cooperation between the towns is being encouraged. He's watching Savoy – Hawley and Savoy may be able to collaborate since some areas of potential signal overlap exist. Lark said that the Communications Committee is taking a wait and see approach, but once we're ready to move forward, the new engineering can start and more money will be needed for that. He says that after the next Communications Committee meeting, they will submit the 21 day evaluation form to MBI, but the Selectboard might need to sign it before it goes out.

4. **Any other business not reasonably anticipated prior to posting this agenda.**

- a. **Energy Conservation Committee.** This committee was initiated by voters at the 1980 town meeting to focus on weatherization and saving energy in the home. Apparently it petered out in the 1990s, shortly after it joined with the Conservation Committee, when the need did not seem as dire. Hussain feels that there would be enough interest now to have a sizeable Sustainable Energy Advisory Committee (3-5 members). John suggesting looking into the possibility of forming a consortium similar to the one Ashfield, Plainfield, and Buckland created to encourage solar by inviting residents to sign up for solar at their homes and then put all the projects out to bid at once to get a better deal. Bill Root feels strongly that the committee should have just an informative function. Hussain moved that an ad hoc committee – the Sustainable Energy Advisory Committee be formed for research and information. Bob seconded. All in favor. Cass will prepare a notice for the website and the e-newsletter to have interested people come forward.
- b. **New Public Records Bill & Records Access Officer.** John stated that the revamped Public Records Bill passed. Hussain has reviewed the new law and the electronic language did go through, but he believes it will be less onerous than we think. There is ambivalence between the terms "agencies" and "municipalities". As for enforcement, there is no one who could really bring a cause of action on

the basis that they were harmed by this. We do need to appoint a Records Access Officer. Hussain moved that Pam, as the Town Clerk, do this. John seconded, with all voting in favor. Pam will need a certificate of appointment, which Cass will prepare.

- c. **Proposed 90 acre land sale in the middle of the State Forest.** John said that there still has been no answer from the State to the Selectboard's letter of protest. He was told by the DCR legal department, however, that the sale has been "put on hold because we objected to it." They recommended that Hawley communicate again directly to the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, which John will do. The Randalls, who own the property, are eager to sell.
- d. **General Liability Insurance coverage.** Virginia brought forward the General Liability Insurance renewal and asked if Hawley wants to include terrorism coverage, which Hawley has never taken. Discussion regarding the low risk of terrorism in Hawley, but the low cost to purchase the insurance. The Board agreed to get the insurance and signed the paperwork.
- e. **Highway work update.** Lark asked Brendan for an update on Highway work. Brendan stated that he has replaced 4 culverts instead of 1 on South Road – the old ones appear to be just washing out, with perhaps not enough compaction. The Beaver issue has been resolved with a permit and new construction to prevent a reoccurrence. He has worked on Howes Rd with another failed culvert. Next it will be grading roads, tree work, and shoulder work. The Chapter 90 work is done. He has also been spending time organizing and cleaning the shop. John asked about the size of the culverts – Brendan says he will not install anything smaller than 15" – the smaller sizes appear to wash out. He has been looking at a compaction device, which is a jumping jack, gas powered type. He would like to use Sugarledge gravel – it is fine but compactable. Hussain agrees with Brendan that the culverts need to be maintained and the 12" culverts replaced, but some have been installed fairly recently. John brought up Forge Hill Road where there are large dead trees in the ditch which should be cleared.
- f. **Update from State Representative Paul Mark regarding previous correspondence.** John received an email update from Paul Mark regarding 1) the reimbursement funds for Irene related repairs on East Road and Forge Hill Road from MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management) are no longer in the state budget because it took so long for the work to be approved by FEMA and completed. Paul assures us that he will find the money elsewhere; 2) the ambulance bill was reported favorably out of Rep. Kate Hogan's public health committee and is now being ushered through the Senate by Sen. Downing. Paul stated that it has been changed to apply only to communities of 3,000 people or less; 3) regarding the Dubuque State Forest road situation. Paul states that his office will follow up on this with Secretary Beaton for his prompt attention; and 4) regarding the Broadband situation. Paul states that he is also pleased with the

new direction MBI has taken. Paul has a good working relationship with Peter Larkin, now MBI board chair, and Peter is a good person to be working on this, with his understanding of the region.

- g. Health/Hawlemont education meeting.** Lark stated that there will be a meeting on July 7 at Health Elementary School (4-5:30) to explore the possibility of Heath joining the Hawlemont School District. This is at the invitation of the Heath Selectboard and is for SB members from Charlemont and Hawley, the Hawlemont School Committee, and members of the Heath Education Initiative Task Force.
- h. Mowing.** There has been a lag in the mowing of the grass at the Town Office. The Hoyts normally do it. Chris offered to do it if/when it needs to be done. Brendan mentioned that the cemeteries need attention as well and he has asked Ted Palmer to do it temporarily. Brendan accepted Chris's offer for him to do Town Office regularly and will ask the Hoyts if they want to continue to be responsible for the cemeteries.
- i. Scanner for canine chips.** Chris Tirone showed the equipment he had ordered and just received– scanner, chips, and injector. He plans to offer the service at the time that the rabies clinics are held.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cass Nawrocki, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

John Sears

Hussain Hamdan

Robert MacLean

Appendix A - Relevant documents:

- Copy of email correspondence between John Sears (6/10/16) and State Representative Paul Mark (6/14/16)
- Google earth printed copy of Sidehill Farm, 58 Forget Rd., Hawley
- Letter to Town Clerk, Pamela Shrimpton, from Maura Healey, Massachusetts Attorney General dated June 14, 2016 regarding Case #7973,

Warrant Article 18 of the Annual Town Meeting dated May 9, 2016 – indicates the AG Office’s approval.