

Town of Hawley, Massachusetts  
Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – June 30, 2015

Present: Phil Keenan, John Sears, Bob Maclean – Board  
Virginia Gabert – Administrative Assistant  
Pam Shrimpton, Rick Kean, Hussain Hamdan, Chris Tirone, Lloyd Crawford,  
Courtney Hoyt (arriving toward the end)

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

1. Review and signing of treasury warrant – warrant 40 was approved; warrant 2016-01 was also approved.
2. Review of prior meeting minutes – minutes from June 16 were not ready yet.
3. Ch 90 paperwork (minor edits were made since last meeting) – Board approved and signed as needed.
4. Review memo of FY16 salaries/hourly rates – Rick reported that the Personnel Committee had met, and had two recommendations for the Board. (1) Betty Nichols had been paid a slightly reduced rate for the Treasurer's position, as negotiated when she originally accepted the position. The salary voted on at Town Meeting would represent a 2.9% increase for the combined salaries for both of her positions. Thus, the Committee recommends increasing her monthly salary to reflect the full budgeted amount. And (2) based on evaluation of rates of pay for positions similar to that held by Virginia Gabert, and allowing consideration for additional accounting officer-type responsibilities, the Committee recommends increasing her hourly rate by \$1 in addition to the 3% increase already budgeted, and further planning for similar \$1 and 3% increase next year. They did also evaluate whether the FY16 budget could handle this, and are confident that it is within the budget. Phil made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Committee, and put the increases into effect as of July 1, 2015. John added the intention of the Committee to do performance reviews in October, and salary/pay rate reviews in the spring. John also mentioned that the Committee would be working on Position Description for the Highway Superintendent position.
5. Report on meeting of Charlemont Selectboard re Hawlemont pellet wood heating system – Bob and John attended a meeting about the proposed pellet wood heating system. Charlemont still had not set a date for their Special Town Meeting as they were upset with the lack of foresight, but the Board reluctantly voted to schedule one as all in attendance agreed that it would be a good investment.
6. Charlemont Ambulance service report – John reported that the license had been renewed for a minimum of one year and possibly 2 years. But, there is still a big problem. The Service legally met all of the minimum requirements, but that does not mean that it is sustainable. Hussain is willing to take EMT training, but both his and Courtney's schedules may not allow for it this summer. They will keep looking for programs that fit into their schedules.

7. Any other business not reasonably anticipated prior to posting agenda

a) Dick Ohmann spoke with John about a problem he is having with beavers. Lloyd provided DEP guidance documents and explained that the Conservation Commission can issue a permit to breach the dam, and the Board of Health can issue a permit to take care of the beaver – but both permits require that it is in response to an imminent threat to health and safety. John will contact the Department of Fish and Wildlife to see if they would do a site visit.

b) Virginia reported on the Savoy Road Bridge. She will be contacting the abutting landowners (Bill Dwight & Lida Lewis and Charles Cutler) to explain their rights and request donations of easements. If they are not willing to donate, the town will need to take the easements by eminent domain and compensate them. Hussain asked if the town had voted to adopt the road. Virginia explained that the town only needed to adopt the layout of the road.

c) Lloyd reported that the Recall Committee is getting close to having a draft and will bring it to the Board for input, then seek wider input from the public. Hussain added that he just received a letter from Paul Mark explaining that the process could take 6 months to a year to get through legislature.

d) Lloyd reported that the Planning Board met for 1 ½ hours about the possible development along East Road. Options that were discussed included (1) ANR lots for 3000' along East Road; (2) well done cluster development; (3) subdivision, and (4) common driveway serving four lots. Lloyd reviewed a lot map, and Berkshire East is considering access as a “way in existence”. They regraded the road with poor drainage, and have responded to improving the drainage as it was causing some wetlands contamination. Lloyd requested access to Donna MacNicol (Town Counsel) to ask about the legal status of the “road” and options available. Board authorized him to contact her if needed.

e) Rick reported on the Communications Committee. They had received two letters of support and are anticipating a third. They were visited by the chair of the Middlefield Communications Committee – the tax impact letter really struck a nerve with them. Bill Stafus from Crocker Communication discussed maintaining the system after it is built and shows a stark contrast with an estimate of high \$80s for internet only. Crocker feels that WiredWest is estimating too low for the actual maintenance costs. John thanked the Committee for all of the work they have been doing.

f) Bob asked Courtney if she was interested in taking the EMT course. She responded affirmatively, but still needs to work out the timing. She asked about the expense of the program, as she will not be able to afford to pay up front and wait for reimbursement. The Board confirmed that the Town will pay for the training directly.

g) Bob reported on the big town truck as they had been talking about rebuilding the engine. The work is scheduled for around July 27, and should take three or four days.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia Gabert, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

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John Sears

Philip Keenan

Robert MacLean