

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – July 15, 2014

Present: Philip Keenan, Bob MacLean – Board (John Sears on vacation)
Virginia Gabert – Administrative Assistant
Charlie Stetson, Pam Shrimpton, Rick Kean, Lark Thwing, Hussain Hamdan,
Lloyd Crawford, Henry Eggert, Chris Tirone

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm.

1. Review and signing of treasury warrant – warrants 54, 54a, 2 and 3 were reviewed and approved unanimously. Chapter 90 paperwork was also reviewed and signed.
2. Review of prior meeting minutes – minutes for the June 17 were accepting following correction of a minor typo in item 4 (changed “the” to “them”). Minutes for June 25, July 1 and 2 were not ready yet.

(Agenda items were rearranged. Numbering remains consistent with the posted agenda.)

5. Status update on Treasurer/Accountant interviews – Lark (on behalf of the Position Description Review Committee) reported that they interviewed two very strong candidates, and that the Committee highly recommends them, but they want \$9,000 more than is currently budgeted. The Finance Committee reviewed the overall budget, and estimated that there is only \$8,500 left within the levy limit. The Finance Committee recommended no more than \$5,000 additional for the new position. The PDRC needs to interview additional candidates. If all else fails, the Board will consider having Virginia take on the Accountant duties. Rick stated that we will most likely need the \$5,000 regardless, but the Committee will continue interviewing and consider trying to find one candidate for both Collector and Treasurer roles. Lark asked who is responsible for the final interview and hiring. Phil replied that the Committee should recommend a candidate, and the Board would make the final decision. Rick asked whether a Treasurer and Collector could be appointed as long as the pay is within budgetary guidelines? Phil confirmed.

6. Status update on municipal accounting software – Muniware is tied to one of the applicants but is otherwise not available to Hawley. Virginia will get more information about the future CSC Accounting program.

Discussion ensued about changing Virginia's office hours to Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 1-5pm to enable her to come in the morning and get additional work done uninterrupted. The Board unanimously supported this, to be effective immediately.

7. Consider scheduling Special Town Meeting – The Board decided that we were not yet ready to schedule a Special Town Meeting. This should be considered again at a future meeting, after more detailed are narrowed down.

Virginia explained the potential for a Veterans Benefits claim. Chris Tirone did not have any specifics to add, but did explain that Kevin Richardson had more information about state benefits, that he would get to Virginia, to have available.

4. Review and sign off on Reserve Fund transfers – Reserve Fund transfer letter was reviewed and signed. It had been signed earlier by the Finance Committee.

3. Consider additional appointments
 - a. Alice Parker appointed as Rep. to Nilman Scholarship Fund
 - b. Greg Cox appointed as Rep. to Advisory Committee for the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Project
 - c. Paul Norcross has offered to be either Planning Board or ZBA. Lloyd will talk with him about possibly being on the Conservation Commission instead.

8. New business not anticipated at time of posting
 - a. Update from Assessors on development of Tax Agreement – Henry Eggert, on behalf of the Board of Assessors, explained about the Berkshire East solar array. The bottom line is that Berkshire East does not own the array. If they did, it would not be taxable. But, AllEarth Renewables owns the array and sells power to Berkshire East – thus they are liable to taxes on the solar components. The next step is to send AllEarth figures of what the Assessors determined as reasonable tax values. He provided copies of the proposed Personal Property Tax Agreement (“PILOT”) agreement. He then requested permission to access Donna MacNicol for legal review. Lloyd asked whether the Town needed to vote to authorize the Selectboard and/or Assessors to negotiate a PILOT agreement. This will also be asked to Donna MacNicol.
 - b. Green Communities – Lloyd suggested that there are several items that may be coming up that should be considered when scheduling a Special Town Meeting. One is adopting the Stretch Code, but we are not ready yet to do this.
 - c. Bob confirmed that the bid specs for the Truck are final and that it is ok to advertise.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Gabert, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

Philip Keenan

John Sears

Robert MacLean