

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

Town of Hawley, Massachusetts
Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – July 27, 2016

Present: John Sears, Bob MacLean, Hussain Hamdan– Board
Cass Nawrocki – Administrative Assistant
Virginia Gabert, Pam Shrimpton, Chris Tirone, Rick Kean, Brendan Dekoschak,
Lloyd Crawford, Cameron Graves (from the Shelburne Falls & West County
Independent), Bob Root, Lark Thwing.

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

- 1. Review and signing of treasury warrant.**
- 2. Review and acceptance of prior meeting minutes.** 6/28/16 ; 7/12/16
- 3. Highway Supplies Bid.** John led off with the **Diesel Fuel** bid clarification and read his proposal for an email to Mirabito who had questioned the Bid Results report. In sum, the Board had correctly awarded the contract to Sandri as lowest bidder for 'winterized diesel fuel' which had been specified in the Invitation to Bid. The confusion arose when Mirabito's standard fuel quoted price was used on the report by Cass, instead of the quote for their winterized product (higher than Sandri). All on the board agreed with this clarification and Cass will send out the email response to Mirabito. As for the **Gravel** award, Earl Bowen had questioned why only one product had been awarded. John stated that the Invitation to Bid had asked for two prices to be submitted – one for picked up and one for delivered. There has been significant discussion during the board's deliberations, prior and now, regarding the fact that not all vendors had bid the same product. For example, Brendan stated that Mitchell only has plain gravel and Sugarledge is the only vendor with true SRG. And recently Brendan has realized that there is a low need for SRG this year. Discussion regarding whether a rebid would be necessary. Virginia stated that the board can reject any and all bids if quantities are no longer needed or if circumstances have changed. All agreed that Mitchell is the lowest bidder for picked up gravel and even though it is plain gravel, this product is what is needed by Hawley this year in the most quantity. Hussain and Brendan suggested that even though a

delivered product may not be needed, it was prudent to award it to the lowest bidder – Zoar. Hussain so moved, Bob MacLean seconded, all in favor. Bob stated that the bid results should be corrected with both products awarded, and in the future, to avoid this type of confusion, the terminology and process must be clearer at the time of the Invitation to Bid. Cass will send out a Corrected Report with both of these items - Gravel and Diesel - corrected.

- 4. Vocational Education Advisory Committee (for the towns of Hawley, Plainfield, Charlemont, and Ashfield)– Gas Savings for FY2016 and choosing a preferred tech school.** John stated that due to the efforts of David Newell and the committee, \$26,611.96 was saved in gas costs by Kuzmeskus agreeing to buy gas for the vocational buses from Ashfield. The Charlemont tech bus does not go through Ashfield and thus has not been able to benefit, but might be able to also save by buying from the town of Charlemont’s gas supply.

In regard to Hawley choosing a preferred tech school: As it stands now if a Hawley student chooses Smith instead of Franklin County Tech, it can result in higher transportation costs to the town. John said that Hawley should choose a preferred tech school, which would allow the School Superintendent to limit a student’s choice of school when both school options have the desired program of study. Virginia stated that the tuition costs this past year for both Franklin County Tech and Smith have been essentially the same, but it can greatly affect the transportation costs if students taking the same program are split between two schools. Superintendent Buoniconti has been informed by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that if the community votes a preferred school, the superintendent can deny a student’s choice on the basis of financial considerations. More specifics are needed before choosing a preferred school and the decision is tabled until the next Board meeting.

- 5. Withdrawal from Wired West (WW).** Lark explained about Wired West’s vision changing, affecting the quorum at their meetings, and that WW has asked towns to resign. Towns will definitely not get their \$1000 back. It is unclear if Wired West will in the future be offering towns ISP or networking for those towns that go the wireless option. Lark suggested that the town ‘suspend’ its voting membership to solve the quorum issue, but still retain the option to opt back in later. Hussain agrees that Hawley will want to be open to all future options. Rick stated that if Wired West ends up wanting to offer ISP, they will be hunting for customers. Rick thanked Lark for the massive amount of work he has done on this issue, including

emailing all 84 subscribers about this meeting. Chris is concerned that if we rejoined at a later date, we might have to pay more money. John suggested that Lark propose to WW that we suspend our membership and will remain as a non-voting participant. Lark will do this and come back to the board with the result.

6. **Police Chief position.** Hussain reported that he has spoken with Charlemont's Administrative Assistant and it seems as though the Charlemont Select board has already approved for Jared to issue FIDs and LTCs for Hawley out of their office. A Memorandum of Understanding regarding use of their space and equipment would be needed and Hussain has still not spoken directly with Jared. Virginia stated that the Police Chief salary in the budget is \$1000 and other police expenses are budgeted at \$250. 'Details' are paid for by the utility but Brendan stated that if the Highway Department is doing a significant repair, sometimes it would be prudent for him to use a detail. Hussain thinks the Highway Department should have something in its budget for that. Hussain will look into the cost factor of working with Charlemont and is due to go the Charlemont Select board meeting on August 1st. Several people voiced concerns that Jared is hard to get a hold of and has not been very responsive to people seeking gun permits. John and Hussain stated that this was not a good sign for Hawley to work with Jared. Discussion ensued about whether someone else could do the issuing of cards out of the Charlemont office, such as Charles Ricco II, a current reserve officer in Charlemont with extensive academy training. Hussain has spoken with Ricco and he is willing to do at least routine tasks for Hawley such as serving papers and details. Hussain and Brendan wondered if there would be political issues with others than Jared using the Charlemont equipment. Hawley could always continue to issue cards by hand and not through Charlemont's equipment if necessary. Bob Root brought up the possibility of Eddie Moran from Plainfield. John questioned whether Buckland could be interested. Brendan said that Jimmy Hicks from Buckland is "a good guy" and so is Steve Walker in Shelburne. Cass mentioned that she had taken a call from the Interim Administrative Assistant in Ashfield, Kayce Warren, who explored whether the Selectboard chairs of both towns would like to meet to discuss possible areas of collaboration. John stated that since other options are still being explored, that Cass should put Ashfield's offer on hold for now.
7. **Tick Testing.** Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has asked if Hawley wants to continue subsidizing tick testing for residents. Cass stated that 2 had been done last year and Hawley paid \$25 toward each test. The Board agreed to continue this benefit for Fiscal Year 2017. Cass will notify FRCOG.

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

- a. **Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI) update.** Rick stated that the Communications Committee (CC) had attended a meeting recently where MBI took them through the readiness assessment, the next step in the process. The first concern is the design money, since Hawley is now heading for wireless. MBI stated that as long as they (MBI) officially do the design (with the town's efforts) then the design money was 'on the table'. Total budget at was \$275,000 for design costs and \$250,000 for construction costs. Hawley is about 2/3 of the way through the assessment process, more than most towns are. The next task is to complete detailing operating costs. The material document will be submitted at the next CC meeting on August 8th. Rick stated that MBI wants to partner with towns and knows there must be rewards to help. Middlefield is not using MBI for design work, but wants design money regardless. Royalston, whose design is basically completed, will probably have MBI rubber stamp their design. Hussain and Rick stated that MBI wants to build in a municipal network datalink with emergency generators between the town office, fire station, and the highway garage for use in emergencies. Hussain explained that Hawley could work with the provider for a failover capability to be built in and switched over to the microwave databank if needed. Rick said that there has been talk regarding telephone service as well but the CC has more homework to do on that. John suggested that if telephone were part of it, it might make the cost more palatable to subscribers. Lark said that if the 84 people who signed up were willing to pay \$100/month, this would be breakeven. Hussain said that working cooperatively with Savoy and/or other towns might lower costs because the subscriber rate would be higher. Rick says that if the plan goes through as proposed, there will be no finance costs. Lark suspects that MBI's \$270,000 budget for design may not include cost for towers, for example, thus there may be additional costs to the town after all. Hussain cautioned that \$140/month is too high, but no one should expect to get this service for \$49/month either; this cannot be compared to a fiber system with very many more subscribers, a big player coming in to operate it, etc. All technology is changing so quickly that there is the risk of a system being outdated by the time it has barely been built.

Highway Department updates. Brendan will make sure Gary Mitchell knows the Board has consented to carry over 2 weeks of vacation.

Brendan is proposing that both fuel tanks be for Diesel Fuel, instead of one for gas and one for diesel. Almost all the equipment uses Diesel and they go through too little regular gas – they can just gas up with regular locally. The GMC 1 ton 2005 is in rough shape. Bob MacLean stated that the new truck was purchased to replace that 2005 truck. The Board stressed that not not a lot of money or work be put into it.

John updated that the Highway Garage bank repair permit finally seems to be moving more quickly and Lloyd, as Conservation Commission, should be hearing from the engineers soon. The project is behind schedule and can hopefully go out to bid before winter.

Brendan and Hussain obtained two free items from Military Surplus – both in excellent condition – a Back Hoe and a Dump Truck. These are intended for joint use by emergency services and the highway department. Hawley must keep these for 2 years and thereafter could sell, if no longer needed. Virginia suggested liability insurance.

- b. **Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Roy** is visiting Hawley on Friday, August 5, to discuss road repairs on Middle Road and a proposed property purchase by the state.
- c. **Franklin Regional Council of Governments Council meeting** – Hussain reported that FRCOG is beginning to look at replacing or upgrading the Franklin County radio systems. Hilly regions such as Hawley have specific challenges with frequencies.
- d. **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Preapproved site for debris.** John stated that Hawley could get a “preapproved site for debris collected from emergencies” from the Department of Environmental Protection. Bob Root stated that debris was just burned last year. The difficult part might be finding an appropriate place. This is something to think about in the future.
- e. **Town Clerk summer hours.** Pam stated that she will not be holding regular office hours through the rest of the summer and will meet with people by appointment. Cass will post this on the board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cass Nawrocki, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

Appendix A - Relevant documents:

- A photocopy of two Military Surplus acquisitions – a Case 580L Back Hoe and a M929 A2 5 Ton Dump Truck.