

Town of Hawley, Massachusetts
Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – October 6, 2015

Present: John Sears, Phil Keenan, Bob Maclean – Board
Virginia Gabert – Administrative Assistant
Pam Shrimpton, Rick Kean, Lark Thwing, Hussain Hamdan, Hank Eggert, Ann Falwell, Greg Cox

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

1. Review and signing of treasury warrant – warrant 2016-08 was reviewed and approved.
2. Review of prior meeting minutes – Minutes from September 22 were not ready.
3. Tax rate classification hearing – Virginia reported that Free Cash was certified at \$272,684. She also provided draft recap sheets with several options for a tax rate, which the Assessors will be voting on at their meeting on October 7. The Finance Committee recommended a single tax rate of \$15.50. Phil made a motion to accept a single tax rate at the proposed rate of \$15.50; Bob seconded; single tax rate was unanimous.
4. Discuss Finance Committee recommendations re: audit – On behalf of the Finance Committee, Lark recommended not scheduling a full audit at this time, but instead having Carla Clark review the books. Board agreed.
5. Discuss storm damage loan – Virginia will be the bid recipient for the final year of short-term borrowing in the amount of \$450,000. Before this final note matures, the Town should have received reimbursement from FEMA as well as any portion that would be provided from MEMA. The remaining debt will then be borrowed for up to five years, unless other financing source is approved.
6. Discuss status of HMPG 4110-17 Bank Stabilization Project next steps – John Sears reported that the Town received a grant for 75% of the bank stabilization, and we should hear about the MassWorks grant by the end of October to cover all or part of the remaining \$87,000. Virginia will start writing up the Notice of Intent, and will look into what other permitting is required.
7. Storm preparation planning – general actions to be taken in anticipation of severe storms – Virginia will call other towns and FRCOG to see what they do about pre-storm bidding (specs, etc). Hussain mentioned that WRHSAC has resources stockpiled. John suggested setting up a meeting with Greg to review, but limiting the agenda to that purpose.
8. Any other business not reasonably anticipated prior to posting agenda
 - a) Virginia reported that the Sheriff's Department can come next week to paint the Town Office if we are still interested. Lark commented that Bob and Serra Root may have paint, scrapers, trays, ladders and staging. Phil may be able to come by on Friday to measure for clapboards that need replacement, although he also had some concerns about structural damage. John asked Phil to get in touch with Lloyd to coordinate efforts.

b) Greg spoke briefly with the Board about advanced storm preparations. The Town can reduce the amount of time it takes to respond to storms by getting quotes from contractors for both the 72 hour emergency period as well as after that period ends. Virginia will try to get an idea from Richie about what we might need. She will also get information from FRCOG. Greg suggested also finding places to permit for collecting debris (DEP site assignment) – possibly King Corner DCR parking lot. Suggested meeting with Richie and Greg early in November. (The regular Selectboard meeting will be held on November 10, although a brief meeting will be held on November 3 to sign warrants – due to a scheduling conflict.)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Gabert, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

John Sears

Philip Keenan

Robert MacLean