

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – October 21, 2014

Present: Phil Keenan, John Sears, Bob Maclean – Board
Virginia Gabert – Administrative Assistant
Pam Shrimpton, Bob Root & Brandon, Lisa Turner, Juanita Clark, Cathy Buntin,
Charlie Stetson, Hussain Hamdan, Henry Eggert, Dave Rich, Trina Sternstein,
Tedd White, Rick Kean, Pete & Joan LaFogg

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

1. Review and signing of treasury warrants – Warrants 16, and 17 were reviewed and signed.
2. Review of prior meeting minutes – minutes from September 23 and 30 were reviewed and approved, as was the Zoning Board of Appeals minutes for September 30. The October 7 minutes were not ready yet.
3. Discuss joining regional COA (Cathy Buntin) – Cathy Buntin explained the possibility of Hawley joining with the Ashfield-Buckland-Shelburne COA Consortium. What Hawley's assessment would be is unknown at this time, but it would be based on five-year average of usage, and at the moment, no Hawley residents have participated. There is also the possibility of partial membership, which is the option recommended by the current COA members, as they want to maintain control of some of the funds. Cathy Buntin explained that partial membership does not actually exist yet, but the Committee is working on that concept. They are hoping to have more details by budget tie. Hawley residents can still participate at the non-member rate. Phil requested that, when Cathy can provide an idea of the assessment, the COA evaluate the assessment and services, and put together a proposal.

Juanita asked if it was true that the COA had already given the Ashfield-Buckland-Shelburne COA \$1000? Lisa confirmed that they had, as a donation to help defray the cost of any services that are taken advantage of.
4. Progress of Town Flag – This has been discussed before, but seems to lose traction. Phil suggested bringing it up at Town Meeting. The State House is interested in getting a flag, so that they have flags from each municipality in the Commonwealth.
5. Sign FEMA reimbursement request – Pete LaFogg reported that East Road is done and was opened to travel yesterday. He will pull the silt fence in the spring. The Board will sign a letter of substantial completion, which will start the 1-year warrantee. The letter also needs to be signed by the Engineer. Virginia will contact Stantec for their approval.
6. Discuss Storm Damage Loan roll-over – The Board opted to roll over the \$500,000 for one more year, to ensure that we have funds to do the Forge Hill Road project when it is approved by FEMA.

7. Discuss withdrawal from Central Franklin County Veterans District and joining Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service District – The Board requested input from Chris Tirone and Kevin Richardson before taking any action.
8. Discuss scheduling Special Town Meeting – Special Town Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 13 at 7:00pm. The Assessors articles were moved to the beginning of the meeting, and several monetary articles were removed as the expenses were no longer necessary. Hussain presented a petition signed by 23 residents to place an article on the warrant to see if the town will vote to repeal article 1 from the prior Special Town Meeting, and re-establish the position of Town Auditor.
9. Sign election warrant – Board unanimously signed the State Election Warrant.
10. Any other business not reasonably anticipated prior to posting agenda
 - a) Hussain: Inquired if Phil had moved back to town yet. Phil replied that it is a personal issue, and he will let him know when anything changes.
 - b) Susan Olsen: Reported that there is a join meeting at Berkshire East with MBI, WiredWest, and other interested parties. She will email details to the Board, Communications Committee, and Finance Committee.
 - c) Charlie: Stated that he would like to resign from the Vocational Education Advisory Committee. Phil thanked him for all his hard work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Gabert, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

Philip Keenan

John Sears

Robert MacLean