

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – November 18, 2014

Present: Phil Keenan, John Sears, Bob Maclean – Board  
Virginia Gabert – Administrative Assistant  
Pam Shrimpton, Ann Falwell, Kevin Richardson, Henry Eggert, Tedd White, Lisa Turner, Hussain Hamdan, Charlie Stetson, Chris Tirone, Rick Kean, Dave Rich

The meeting was called to order at 7:29pm.

1. Review and signing of treasury warrants – warrant 19 was reviewed and approved.
2. Review of prior meeting minutes - October 7, 21, 28 minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.  
  
- Inserted new business item – Ann Falwell was appointed to fill Cyndie Stetson's term on the Council on Aging.
3. Discuss withdrawal from Central Franklin County Veterans District and joining Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service District – Kevin Richardson tried to explain the proposed changes to the Districts, but largely did not have enough information to make a recommendation to withdraw from the current District to join the new one. Virginia will call and find out what the repercussions are of not changing over, and get clarity, or invite the Veterans Agent to attend the next meeting.
4. Discuss signing solar support letter – “Environment Massachusetts” is requesting a letter of support to persuade the Governor to continue to encourage solar energy. Phil and John were both in favor and asked Virginia to respond in support.
5. Sign PPTA between Hawley and AllEarth Services – The Selectmen agreed and all signed the Personal Property Tax Agreement that the Board of Assessors negotiated with AllEarth Services.
6. Discuss “accountant” responsibilities and who will take them on – A joint working session will be held to preliminarily discuss this.
7. Address resignation of Auditor – John relayed that Lark had asked Carla Clark if she would be interested in serving as Auditor. Phil suggested that the Board request that the Position Description/Personnel Committee take on the task of coming up with a job description for Town Auditor. Rich suggested the Committee team up with the Finance Committee. John mentioned that the Position Description Committee should also revise the Treasurer Position Description.
8. Discuss Local Technical Assistance Grant options – The list of proposals was reviewed and rated. Virginia will return the results to FRCOG.
9. Any other business not reasonably anticipated prior to posting agenda
  - a) Ann Falwell appointment to COA – addressed earlier in the meeting.

- b) Charlie suggested that the Town purchase a PA system with Free Cash so that people in the back of the room can hear.
- c) Rick reported that the website is down, and has been for a week and a half, but they are working on it.
- d) Hussain asked if Phil had returned to town. He then read a statement formally requesting his resignation and if he chooses not to, stated that he would take action to remove him involuntarily. Lisa added that “it is common courtesy to resign before leaving town”.
- e) John reported that the Conservation Commission met yesterday with Berkshire Design. Middle Road repairs have, essentially, been permitted. If Representative Mark and Senator Downing can keep pressure on DCR, we should be able to see progress next summer.
- f) Kevin asked if the Town had been notified of potential cutting in the State Forest. John will ask Lloyd if the Conservation Commission has been notified.
- g) Dave Rich explained that we do not have what is considered a “strong” police chief in Hawley, thus the Chairman of the Selectboard is the chief. If there is an emergency, they need to know who to contact.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginia Gabert, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

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Philip Keenan

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John Sears

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Robert MacLean