

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

Town of Hawley, Massachusetts  
**Minutes of Selectboard Meeting – November 29, 2016**

Present: John Sears, Bob MacLean, Hussain Hamdan– Selectboard  
Cass Nawrocki – Administrative Assistant  
Virginia Gabert, Pam Shrimpton, Gary Mitchell, Rick Kean, Chris Tirone, Greg Cox.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. **Review and signing of treasury warrant.**
2. **Review and acceptance of prior meeting minutes.** Minutes of 11/1 and 11/15/2016 meetings reviewed and signed. 11/15 minutes were approved with one inked correction. The Board also signed the appointment for Cass Nawrocki to be the Alternate Records Access Officer.
3. **Town Office document clear out/storage.** Cass described ongoing efforts to organize and clear out public records. In order to maximize space to allow for this process, can the large number of old law volumes in the Town Office be disposed of and if so, how? Cass inquired of the Massachusetts Public Records office, which told her these do not need to be kept and can be disposed of as the town wishes. Pam stated that records prior to a certain date were historic and needed to be kept. She will find out when this date is, but thought it was sometime in the late 1800s. Later material, such as many of the Massachusetts Acts and Resolves on file at the Town Office are online and are also kept in paper form by most Towns and law libraries. Pam stated she had heard these had almost no value and could be thrown out. Hussain offered to retain the newer books as he thinks they still have some historical significance and would prefer to keep them in Hawley to seeing them thrown away. There was consensus in favor of this. It will also save the Town from the work and expense of recycling them. In combination with this plan, the possibility of the Sons and Daughters providing space for the older historic records, which Hussain is not taking, will be explored.
4. **Proposed agreement with Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to repair roads in Dubuque State Forest.** John has emailed a list of questions and concerns which Hawley has to Commissioner Roy in regard to DCR's recent proposal. Greg discussed the history of the road situation in the state forest back to the 1987 floods in which the town did all the repair work to the roads out of necessity. The state has made promises to repair and maintain the roads and never delivered. Regarding Chapter 90, Greg stated that Hawley is unable to maintain the roads to that level, relative to bridge standards, seasonal roads, etc. John requested that Virginia research the Chapter 90 factor. Greg suggested that Hawley should be able to lock the gates (up to this point, Hawley can only unlock gates for access) to keep vehicles out during wet weather. This

would minimize destruction of the roads. Increasing the use of “water bars” would also help to minimize wash outs. The logging events, which have happened every 5 years, should be coordinated with the Highway Superintendent.

5. **Public meeting to discuss Mohawk BEST (Building Education, Sustainability, and Trust) Committee recommendations.** John stated that an informational meeting will likely be held at Hawlemont School on Thursday January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 to discuss the BEST recommendations and to collect public feedback. Cass and Rick will publicize this once the date is finalized.
6. **Possible use of Internet Access Account.** Discussion of the possibility of using funds from the Internet Access Account (presently \$4138, of which \$600 is needed for the firewall) to pay Fred Goldstein to firm up reports to qualify with MBI. The Internet Access Account’s original article was for the computerization/internet access of the Town Office and parking lot. If funds are needed for Goldstein, Rick would come forward to the Board with a formal proposal. In other updates, Rick stated that Savoy is supportive of a collaborative relationship (tower on Borden Mountain) to possibly improve affordability for both towns. The internet survey has so far resulted in 61 completed surveys, with the hope for an eventual response rate of at least 100. The Communications Committee will likely make calls to gather more responses.
7. **Any other business not reasonably anticipated prior to posting this agenda.**
  - a. **USDA funding for Town Office and Fire Station expansions.** John has asked that lists of priorities be made for the Fire Station and the Town Office, by January. The town can then seek informal estimates to be able to further assess how the town should proceed with funding.
  - b. **Paul Levine’s (40 East Road) request regarding guardrail.** Resident Paul Levine has requested that the guardrail at the bottom of his driveway be moved back, since he feels that it is a potential hazard to vehicles. He is willing to pay for the work with the town’s permission. Discussion regarding whether this is a town issue or not and how to proceed. Mr. Levine suggested the use of his excavator (Hillman) to do the guardrail work since his equipment is already there. The Board agreed to allow Levine, at his own expense, to move the guardrail using Hillman, with Gary Mitchell Hawley Highway Superintendent, in attendance. Cass will notify Mr. Levine of the Board’s decision.
  - c. **Commbuys.** Hussain has not yet reviewed this program in detail. Greg stated that he has tried to use this site for Fire Department equipment and found it very frustrating and inefficient. The Modernization Act, of which Commbuys is a part, will be discussed in greater detail at the next Board meeting, after all members have reviewed it.
  - d. **LED streetlights.** Virginia has been investigating with National Grid the possibility of switching the one Hawley streetlight on East Hawley Road from sodium to LED, which would save the town \$25/year. Hawley could also ask for it to be removed altogether (cost to the town is \$12/month). Cass will send a letter to the abutters asking if they have an opinion regarding the removal or retention of the light. Discussion also on the need for outside lighting at the Town Offices – the parking situation can be hazardous when meetings adjourn in the

dark. Chris stated that he has a light to train on the flag at the rear of the parking lot, which would be helpful.

- e. **By-laws to the Attorney General (AG).** The Board has a listing of the by-laws as delineated by Town Counsel, Donna MacNicol, and will review them to see if any need revision prior to being sent to the AG. The list will be brought to the next Board meeting for final review.
- f. **Ambulance service.** John has met with Charlemont regarding the future of the ambulance service. Charlemont is due to lose this license in May, 2017. The plan is to send Request for Proposals (RFPs) for a 24/7 service from an outside firm or 12/7 outside coverage, with volunteer fill in. Once the draft is complete, it will be sent to Ambulance consultants in Deerfield and Colrain for review and suggestions before it is finalized.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cass Nawrocki, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Sears

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hussain Hamdan

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert MacLean

Appendix A - Relevant documents:

- Proposed Maintenance of Middle & Hunt Roads by the Town of Hawley from Greg Cox, Fire Chief/ Emergency Manager
- High Speed Internet Survey Tally as of 11/29/16 from Rick Kean, Communications Committee.