

Town of Hawley
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Town of Hawley, Massachusetts
Minutes of Selectboard Meeting – December 13, 2016

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

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.** 11/29/16 minutes reviewed and signed.
3. **Town By-law review.** The members of the Board have briefly reviewed the list provided to them by Town Counsel Donna MacNicol. A few of the By-laws regard the same issue; the Board would like the Town Clerk, Pam, to consolidate the list (using ‘as amended’) for final review. The list includes the following topics: Dog control; Finance Committee size; House Numbering stipulations; Town Meeting quorum; Right to Farm; Unregistered vehicles; and Agricultural Commission. Once approved the Board, Pam will submit each one to the Attorney General’s office.
4. **Municipal Modernization Act review.** Discussion regarding several key areas: small yearend appropriation transfers, which could be useful; state owned land valuation, in which the valuation will be done every 2 years by formula. It is unclear if this change will be helpful to Hawley or harmful due to the complex nature of the process; and the COMMBUYS state online system for procurement – the state requires Hawley to be registered in the system, but does not mandate that the town use it.
5. **Proposed agreement with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to repair roads in Dubuque State Forest – updates on questions and concerns; special legislation.** Investigations into this proposal continue. Hawley is awaiting a response from Commissioner Roy to John’s list of questions and concerns. Hussain stated that the state budget situation may also come to play a significant role in DCR’s proposal.
6. **Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MASSDEP) Small Town Environmental Partnership.** Hawley received a letter from MASSDEP seeking the town’s voluntary participation in the Small Town Partnership (STEP) initiative which aims to strengthen the environmental partnership between small communities and MASSDEP. After some discussion, the Selectboard concluded that the program, aimed at improving environmental protection, public health and quality of life for residents, is

more relevant to larger 'small' towns with transfer stations, businesses, etc. and that Hawley would not benefit from taking part. Cass will relay this message to MASSDEP.

7. **Diesel equipment maintenance & repair – Franklin Region Council of Governments (FRCOG) inquiry regarding Heath.** The town has received an email query from Bob Dean at Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) regarding the possibility of Hawley sharing a maintenance and repair person for highway and fire department diesel vehicles with other towns. Heath has been working with FRCOG on this issue for their town and is also seeking suggestions as to what Hawley does for service. Gary, Greg, and the Selectboard agreed that Hawley feels comfortable with its present policies; doing what it can in house with existing staff and hiring local mechanics as needed. Cass will relay to FRCOG what Gary Mitchell, Highway Superintendent, and Greg Cox, Fire Chief, do for maintenance and repair on Hawley's equipment.
8. **Streetlight update.** Virginia and Cass stated that after examination it appears that Hawley has 1 town streetlight and at least 2 privately paid for streetlights in town. That one street light, presumably the one across from the Highway Garage, will be converted to LED. Virginia will follow up with the electric company. As for the night light situation at the Town Office, Virginia suggested that the town install a motion sensor/solar light on the building which could be purchased for around \$100 and would not need to be wired in. The Board thought this was a good idea and would provide more light than the present lights.
9. **Status of the Ambulance Bill and Charlemont Recreation Tax Bill.** John reported that the Bill S2294 regarding local ambulance service is presently with the Senate Rules Committee. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is lobbying against this compromise bill. This bill would enable volunteer ambulance services in towns under 3,000 people to staff an ambulance with one first responder and one EMT rather than two EMTs as currently required. This change would help volunteer ambulance services respond to calls despite a shortage of volunteer EMTs. Hussain suggested increasing pressure on the legislature through media coverage of the issue. Hussain moved to empower John as the Selectboard Chair to write a letter to each member of the Rules Committee regarding this bill; Bob seconds; all vote in favor.
10. **Any other business not reasonably anticipated prior to posting this agenda.**
 - a. **Communications Committee internet survey.** Rick stated that 82 surveys have been returned out of 200, which is not nearly enough for valid results. There will be an effort to contact those residents who have not yet returned a survey. Rick handed out a High Speed Internet Survey tally with results tabulated to 12/13/16.
 - b. **Town Garage computerization.** Hussain stated that the new computer is up and running at the Town Garage.
 - c. **District Health Nurse.** The town of Charlemont has been paying for space at the Charlemont Federated Church (\$600/year) to allow the District Health Nurse, Lisa White, to hold office hours once a month for residents of Charlemont and Hawley. Charlemont is no longer willing to pay the entire bill and other locations have been under discussion, although they have drawbacks (such as privacy concerns). Would the Hawley Board of Health be willing to chip in to help continue renting space at the church? John asked Virginia to ascertain how much

use Hawley residents get out of the monthly clinics and the matter will be revisited.

- d. **BEST Public Meeting January 5 at Hawlemont School.** John reminded all of the meeting to be held by the Hawley and Charlemont Selectboards and Finance Committees, inviting the citizens of both towns to hear the school proposals, ask questions, and express their views.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Cass Nawrocki, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

John Sears

Hussain Hamdan

Robert MacLean

Appendix A - Relevant documents:

- Letter from Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection regarding Small Town Environmental Partnership – dated November 3, 2016.
- Email from Bob Dean, FRCOG, regarding diesel vehicle maintenance.
- High Speed Internet Survey Tally, with results tabulated to 12/13/16.