

Town of Hawley
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Town of Hawley, Massachusetts

Minutes of Selectboard Meeting – December 27, 2016

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

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.** 12/13/16 Board minutes reviewed and signed.
3. **Crocker Communications’ proposal in response to Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI)’s RFP.** Rick described Crocker Communications broadband proposal in response to MBI’s Request. Highlights of the estimated plan include no town borrowing, single tier unlimited fiber internet at speeds up to 1 Gigabit for \$85/month, with individual home improvement loans of \$2500-\$3000 for installation. Crocker is asking surrounding towns for letters of support to their proposal. The Communications Committee finds this proposal interesting but is somewhat skeptical of it and will continue to work on a wireless plan. The Selectboard signed a letter of support for the Crocker plan citing that it seemed workable for towns of larger population density but also expressing doubt that Crocker would find Hawley’s participation rate profitable enough to include. **Internet Survey** return rate at this point is approximately 50%. Calls will be made to elicit a higher return.
4. **Public Health Nurse funding revisited.** Discussion regarding Charlemont’s request that Hawley contribute toward the Regional Health Nurse’s monthly clinic rent at the Charlemont Federated Church (this space offers adequate privacy for this function). The service benefits a few in Hawley but certainly less than Charlemont, thus \$200 year toward the \$600 total rent for this space was approved by the Board.
5. **Charlemont Recreation Tax Bill.** John reported that he had not heard back yet about the outcome of Charlemont’s vote on this.
6. **Massachusetts Instant Record Check System (MIRCS) update.** Cass updated the Board on the status of getting the MIRCS system loaded onto Hawley’s police computer – the state is very behind and it is estimated that this will not occur until summer at the earliest. Jared Bellows has talked with the state and ascertained that the state could quickly, but temporarily, install an application on the Charlemont computer for Hawley’s firearms applications to be processed there. The MIRCS staff will be

forwarding a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding this to Jared, and a member of each Selectboard will need to sign it. All Board members supported this move. Hussain moved that [the chairman or] any available Board member will be able to sign this MOU when it comes through; Bob seconded; all in favor.

7. **Board of Health - Health and Homeland Alert Network (HHAN) system.** All Members of the Board of Health are getting these alerts and responding to them.
8. **Ambulance bill (S2294).** This bill, presently with the Massachusetts Senate Rules Committee and opposed by the Department of Public Health (DPH), would enable volunteer ambulance services in very small towns to staff an ambulance with one first responder and one EMT, rather than needing two EMTs as currently required. John recommends volume calling (not emailing) the Rules Committee to lobby for S2294. The DPH's stance on this endangers Hawley and Charlemont's ability to respond to emergency calls - recently, two emergencies in Charlemont needed to be handled by mutual aid due to the present law's staffing requirements. Cass and Rick will publicize the request for calls on the website and the e-newsletter.
9. **Savoy wind turbines.** Construction of a wind facility, with over 400 foot high turbines, is scheduled to begin in Savoy on Hawley's border on the hill above Stump Sprouts before the end of December. The project was first proposed 10 years ago, and despite its inevitable impact on Hawley in general, on a successful Hawley's business, and on a number of Hawley residents, it is proceeding. Hawley has its own wind facility bylaw but has no power to regulate the construction of wind turbines on the other side of the town border and receives no benefit from their construction.
10. **Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) proposal regarding Dubuque State Forest.** John described DCR Commission Roy's answers to Hawley's recent questions regarding the repair and maintenance of roads in the state forest. The areas of clarification include logging impact, plowing, major capital repair, funding through Chapter 90 or Chapter 81, and ownership status. Many details are still to be worked out, but the proposal continues to look promising. John will ask for a meeting with DCR with Gary (Highway Department), Greg Cox (Fire/Emergency Management), and John and Hussain present. Hussain reminded that no deliberation will take place; the meeting will be for the purpose of further fact finding.
11. **Snow removal at the Town Office.** Virginia noted that the Highway Department has traditionally cleared the front step and rear handicapped ramp of snow and ice, as well as shoveled a path to the propane tank. The Board agreed that the Highway staff should continue to do that.
12. **Any other business not reasonably anticipated prior to posting this agenda.**
 - a. **Kirby (Lark) Thwing's Resignation from the School Committee.** Lark submitted his letter of resignation from the Mohawk Trail School Committee to be effective January 18, 2017, citing personal and health reasons. All expressed much appreciation for Lark's long effective service in this capacity.

- b. Building Education, Sustainability and Trust (BEST) meeting reminder.** The January 5th meeting at Hawlemont School will present information and offer Hawley and Charlemont residents a chance to give input.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 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 the Selectboard to William Stathis, Director of Communications at Crocker Communications.
- Letter of resignation from Kirby (Lark) Thwing.
- Email to John Sears from Leo Roy, DCR Commissioner, dated 12/23/2016 with his responses to Hawley's questions regarding roads in the Dubuque Memorial State Forest.