

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

Town of Hawley, Massachusetts

Minutes of Special Selectboard Meeting – September 27, 2016

Present: John Sears, Bob MacLean, Hussain Hamdan– Selectboard
Cass Nawrocki – Administrative Assistant
Virginia Gabert, Pam Shrimpton, Lark Thwing, Gary Mitchell, Ted Palmer.

The meeting was called to order at 7:26 p.m.

1. **Review and signing of treasury warrant.** One item – registration for Hussain and John to attend a 9/29/16 meeting.
2. **Appointment of a temporary Highway Superintendent.** John stated that they need to appoint a temporary Highway Superintendent due to the recent resignation of Brendan Dekoschak. Gary Mitchell stated that he would accept this appointment and Ted Palmer is also available to fill in as the temporary second highway employee. Bob suggested that since winter is rapidly approaching, the hiring of a new Highway Superintendent should wait until next spring if Gary and Ted are willing and able to serve in their temporary positions until then. They both agreed and Hussain moved to appoint Gary and Ted to their respective temporary positions; Bob seconded the motion; all voted in favor. Ted does not have his Commercial Driver’s License (CDL), but could drive and plow with the small truck, until he gets one. Virginia discussed Ted’s use of benefits and the need for someone in the department to be OSHA certified for Chapter 90 funds. Gary has begun the OSHA online course already and will continue with it. Gary will check with the vendor in regards to the heat situation in the highway office – he states that it has not worked since the tropical storm Irene flood. Virginia will speak with the Personnel Committee regarding the salary issue for Gary and Ted, and Hussain will inform Rick Kean, of the Personnel Committee, to hold off on the advertising and posting of the job. Regarding outstanding Highway projects, Hussain stated that the security system is in place and Cass will ask Brendan before he leaves for an update on the computer purchase. Cass will soon be advertising the hydraulic hammer and the small truck (without the plow) for sale.
3. **Upcoming Special Town Meeting date.** The best date for the Special Town Meeting is October 17, 2016 at 7 pm. The Board discussed wording for Article 3 regarding the repeal of the Stretch Energy Code. John and Bob support the Article 3 footnote wording, with Hussain abstaining : “This article has been put forward due to a misunderstanding at the last Annual Town Meeting about the number of votes that were required for passage. The Selectboard has voted 2 in favor, with 1 abstention, to recommend against passing this appeal.” Cass finalized the meeting warrant and the Board signed it.

4. **Any other business not reasonably anticipated prior to posting this agenda.**

- a. **Police Chief schedule update.** Cass and Jared Bellows had discussed the inadvisability of his setting his work time in Hawley on Mondays, since holidays often fall on Mondays. Instead, Jared can do the second Wednesday of each month, 5-7 pm, if this is amenable with the Selectboard. The Board agreed and Cass will publicize these hours.
- b. **Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) update.** Lark reported that a company named Axia has been working with Charlemont regarding a possible fiber build out if they can get 30 thousand households. This would be a similar arrangement to what Comcast is doing with MBI. Axia will be at a meeting at Berkshire East on October 13th regarding this possibility.
- c. **Mohawk Schools Update.** Lark stated that the Building, Education, Sustainability, and Trust (BEST) committee has completed a review with Mohawk staff which has yielded one surprising and significant sentiment – a vast majority of staff supports NOT splitting older students off from their Pre k – 6th grade group, feeling that this practice would not be conducive to good educational, emotional, and social development.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cass Nawrocki, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

John Sears

Hussain Hamdan

Robert MacLean

Appendix A - Relevant documents:

- Special Town Meeting Warrant – October 17, 2016