

Town of Hawley, Massachusetts
Minutes of a
Selectboard / Board of Health / Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
in Person & via Zoom
December 30, 2024

Present: Will Cosby, Hussain Hamdan, Robert MacLean – Selectboard
Tinky Weisblat, Gal Friday
Virginia Gabert, Treasurer and Financial Administrator
Gary Mitchell and Chris Tirone

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Warrants and minutes from a previous meeting were signed. Then:

1. **The group discussed the funding-priorities list to send to FRCOG.** They decided on the following items:

The creation of a regional ambulance service. Although the cost of such a service would be substantial, it was unclear. An initial funding idea would be to create a study of the need and costs for such a service; this would give the towns ammunition when they eventually applied for larger funding amounts.

Road projects, including the long-term situation with the Dugway, which would require substantial state and/or federal help; the bridge/culvert work at King Corner, which had currently hit a new snag (Will reported that the State had found holes in the engineering study) but was estimated to cost \$2.2 million; and repairs on Labelle Road, on which driving was a mess and which might cost as much as \$2 million (Will later amended this to \$500,000.)

Public-safety facilities, primarily the Fire Station. Hussain estimated the cost of adding to the fire station at \$500,000; the cost of replacing it would of course be even more.

Ongoing technical assistance grants, such as the one that paid for FRCOG to complete the annual Green Communities report.

In other business, Will expanded on the road-work situation. He expressed frustration with the King Corner situation, reiterating that the State had found a number of problems with the engineering study for that area.

Under good news, he said that preliminary drawings were ready for the culvert needed on Ashfield Road. He was due to meet soon with officials from FRCOG to work on a bid document and would coordinate that situation with Lloyd Crawford and the Conservation Commission.

He expanded on the situation at Labelle Road, saying that Hawley might be able to apply for MVP funding there but adding that MVP money required matching funds that would be hard to come up with. He and the road crew discussed the significant water issues on that road.

Gary reported that in general the roads in town seemed to be holding their own at present.

Tinky asked about the letter she had drafted to the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs about PILOT funding. The board said the letter looked good and went ahead and signed it.

Virginia asked whether the problem with the mini-splits had been resolved. Will affirmed that the machines had been fixed, although the bill for the work had not yet arrived. Virginia asked whether the outside unit (where the problem had apparently originated) needed any form of protection; Will noted that it was protected by the building.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tinky Weisblat, Gal Friday

Williams Cosby

Hussain Hamdan

Robert MacLean