

Town of Mason
Selectmen's Meeting of February 11, 2014 7:30 p.m.
Approved Meeting Minutes

Selectmen, Charles Moser, Bernie O'Grady, and Interim Administrative Assistant, Carlotta Pini were present. R. Pete McGinnity was absent. Chairman Moser called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The Board reviewed the payroll and accounts payable manifests. Chairman Moser moved to approve them. Selectman O'Grady seconded, and both voted in favor.

Chairman Moser opened the public hearing on the petition to change to an Official Ballot form of Government(SB2). He asked if anyone needed an explanation. No one responded. He asked for comment from the public. Several members of the audience shared their thoughts, both pro and con. Garth read aloud an article he had written six years ago. He also distributed copies. Chairman Moser mentioned that there would be a Candidates' Night and suggested further debate on the matter might be had there. There being no further comment from the public, Chairman Moser closed the public hearing.

Ken Spact had submitted a letter inquiring about purchasing two parcels on Map A from the Town. He addressed the Board to reiterate his interest. Chairman Moser said he reviewed the Selectmen's authority to sell town property and questioned whether a Town Meeting might be required. He said he would like input from the Conservation Commission and the Forestry Committee. Mr. Spact said his interest is in the trails. Selectman O'Grady asked if he would consider a convention prohibiting further subdivision and Mr. Spact agreed.

The Board discussed an Memo of Understanding about a Data Sharing Pool, which the assessing firm, Granite Hill, recommends. The Board voted to sign the MOU and did so.

Chairman Moser said there had been a request to post an obituary on the Town website. He said it had never been done before. Pat Letourneau said the Grapevine and Wolf are posting it. The Board agreed that it would not be a good policy for the Town to do so.

The Board discussed the recent requirement to post a notice about Involuntarily Merged lots at the Town Office and in the Town report. The Board agreed to do so, as required.

The Board discussed the cyclical assessing data verification that Joanne from DRA had inquired about. The Board agreed to talk to Todd Haywood to see if the proposed budget could accommodate that project or not.

The Board discussed revenue estimates for the backhoe trade and a \$500 wellness grant. The board reviewed the McIlkeney Veteran's Tax Credit application. The assessors had reviewed it and said it met the State criteria, so the Board signed it.

Mary McDonald had submitted a request for a hearing by the Historic District Commission. the Board agreed to do it at the March 25 meeting, provided adequate notice could be made.

The Board reviewed correspondence and informational items, including the financials for January, a contract from a labor lawyer the Treasurer's delegation to Carlotta, notice of an upcoming webinar and NRPC meeting on March 4.

Moderator Schwenk reminded the Board members of their obligation to be at the polls on election day.

Pat Letourneau, ZBA Clerk, said she had not received an application from Pickety Place. She wasn't sure if the Planning Board had.

A member of the audience posed a question about whether former employees of the Town received health benefits. Selectmen O'Grady responded that retired employees did receive health benefits. Chairman Moser read the policy aloud. The resident expressed concern about the cost. Pat Letourneau noted that the Townspeople had voted for it back when the Town had only six employees who worked for very little pay.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting.