



Selectmen Meeting 10/24/2017

Approved Minutes

**Present:** Selectmen Louise Lavoie, Bernie O'Grady, Charles Moser; Kathy Wile, Brenda Wiley; members of the public Pete McGinnity, Bob Bergeron, Barbara Devore, Harry Spear.

**Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Louise at 7:32 PM.

**Approvals:**

- Noted that Accounts Payable Manifest was signed.
- Minutes of the October 2, 2017 BOS meeting were reviewed. Charlie motioned, Bernie seconds, to approve the minutes of 10/2/17 as written. Unanimously approved.
- Minutes of the October 10, 2017 BOS meeting were also reviewed. Bernie motioned, Charlie seconds to approve the minutes of 10/10/17 as written. Unanimously approved.
- Tax Rate was discussed; last meeting selectmen voted to approve using \$50,000 from the fund balance, which resulted in a negative overlay amount once DRA calculated the rate, which had to be corrected. A new vote was needed to approve different amounts. Following a short discussion of the process, Charlie motioned to approve using \$55,000 from the fund balance and establishing approximately \$5000 overlay. Second from Bernie, unanimous vote to approve the new amounts.
- An Intent to Cut was submitted on behalf of the Forestry Committee; reviewed and signed by all selectmen.
- A Report of Cut had been received from another cut in town; forester indicated very low value. Selectmen agreed to have the Town Forester corroborate the rating.
- A letter to Hollis Communications Center, confirming Mason's insurance through Primex, need to be signed to be added to the dispatch services agreement. Signed by all Selectmen.
- The Town's Investment policy has been reviewed, referenced RSA's were re-printed and added to the formal policy. Charlie motioned, second from Bernie, to adopt the revised Investment Policy. Unanimous vote to adopt the revised policy.

**New Business:**

- Granite Hill Municipal Services contract renewal was ready for signature. Assessor's email regarding the question of cyclical had been reviewed by all selectmen. Louise asked if it should be signed; there being no new concerns and some acknowledgement of good work done, consensus was to sign the contract, which was done.
- Deb Morrison, Tax Collector, came to recommend deeding of a property which Selectmen had asked her to hold off deeding and make a final attempt to reach the heirs. Of seven registered mail letter mailed out, one came back as undeliverable, no response from the others. Selectmen agreed to proceed with the deeding.
- Pete McGinnity came to update Selectmen on his project of reviewing the town's inventory of deeded properties. Size, location, date the parcel had been deeded, current assessed value, road frontage vs. landlocked, and any other information he found of significance. A total of 16 properties were discussed. There was discussion about a warrant article which was approved during the 1994 Town meeting "to establish a municipal forest...and place all unencumbered Town lands under the jurisdiction of a Town Forestry Committee..."

Selectmen will be investigating further to see if this was ever revoked, implications for selling any such properties acquired after March of 1994, etc.

Conservation Commission had prepared a letter of interest in some of the parcels should the Town want to consider them as Conservation Lands

No decision was made regarding disposition of any properties, but Selectmen thanked Pete for his work.

- HealthTrust had submitted an agreement for the 2018 year; health insurance rate is going down slightly, dental and short term disability going up very slightly. Louise recommended that Administrative Assistant Kathy Wile sign as authorized benefits coordinator on behalf of the Town, agreed by Charlie and Bernie.

### **Old Business:**

- HD building update: Cost overruns due to delay in construction will be close to \$9000. Charlie and Bob had met with George StJohn of STJ Construction and discussed amounts, new payment schedule, etc. Fairness of increases was discussed, as was the possibility of further increases – was there a guarantee of those prices through 2018? Could vendor price increase, such as insulation, be verified from the vendors? These questions will be brought back to George before approval of new prices is granted.

### **Informational Items/Communication:**

- Letter received from auditor's regarding findings was identified as a repeat mailing, no new findings were listed.
- Attorney Drescher sent updates on the Fairpoint case – these will be filed with the other Fairpoint material.
- Kristen Kivela of Mason Elementary School sent a letter informing the Selectmen that the state Dept of Education would be at the school conducting their annual inspection on Mon Oct 30, 2017. As the library is used by the school, it will be part of the inspection. Preliminary inspection by the fire chief revealed no concerns, so she anticipated no issues.
- BOS will hold a working meeting regarding the Highway Department on Monday Oct 30, 7 PM at the Mann House; this will be posted by Thursday.

### **Public Forum:**

- Brenda asked when Selectmen want budget worksheets returned from department heads – date chosen was Nov 10. Department heads do not need to present budgets at that time.
- Bob Bergeron requested and was given permission to use the Town Credit card to purchase the tarps needed to cover the building pieces at the HD.
- Dave Morrison had some questions on behalf of the HD. Reclaiming scheduled to start W 10/25, and there was not enough money to do all they had hoped, so Darling Hill and Briggs would be off the list if selectmen agree. Discussion was that Briggs was not to be done further, and Darling Hill would have to be postponed with hot top in place over the trench. There were no further responses to the ad for plow drivers – Dave was looking for permission to hire an applicant. Louise said that will be discussed on Monday night. Dave had other vehicle repair updates, after which he was asked to have all the numbers per vehicle ready for Monday evening.

When asked about sanders he said they were not up and running yet, would be tested and worked on as needed over the next couple of weeks.

**Non-Public:**

none

**Adjourned:**

There being no other business, Louise motioned, second from Charlie, to adjourn the meeting. Three votes to adjourn at 9:49 PM.

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be November 14, 2017 at 7:30 PM at the Mann House. There will be a work meeting for Highway Department Monday, Oct 30 at 7:00 PM also at the Mann House.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Wile  
Administrative Assistant