



**Office of Board of Selectmen  
Town of Mason**

16 Darling Hill Road – Mann House  
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Selectmen Meeting 7/23/2019  
Approved Minutes

**Present:** Selectmen Louise Lavoie, Pete McGinnity; Kathy Wile, Brenda Wiley; members of the public.

**Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chair Louise Lavoie.

**Approvals:**

- Noted that the payroll manifests and accounts payable manifest had been signed.
- Minutes of the July 9, 2019 staff meeting with Chief Maxwell were not available for approval; they will be for approval at the August 13, 2019 meeting. Minutes of the July 9, 2019 general meeting were reviewed. Some discussion on items within the minutes, no changes suggested. Pete motioned to accept the minutes as written, second from Louise. 2 votes to accept the minutes of 5/28/2019 general meeting as written. Minutes of the July 15, 2019 staff meeting with Road Agent Dave Morrison were available, but not voted on. Pete had not attended the meeting, and Charlie was not in attendance this evening. They will be for approval at the August 13, 2019 meeting.
- Pole License Application from Eversource to replace poles on Depot Rd were approved and signed by both selectmen.
- DRA letter asking if the Town would use the PA-28, Property Inventory form, for 2020. Both selectmen agreed to opt out, signed by both selectmen and AA Kathy Wile listed as contact person.
- A Current Use Application and PA-48, both for J-76, had been recommended for approval by the assessor. Approved and signed by both selectmen.
- A renewed lease for 135 Old Ashby Rd had been submitted by the Conservation Commission for approval by BOS. Short discussion about the long term tenant and care of the property, and selectmen agreed to have Chair Lavoie sign on behalf of BOS.
- A letter of request to authorize Trustees of the Trust funds to pay an invoice directly; invoice attached to the authorization. Noted it was for a previously approved expense, signed by selectmen.

### **New Business:**

- Fire Chief Fred Greenwood was attending. Before other business, selectmen and chief established a time for a monthly staff meeting time with him to be the fourth Tuesday of month at 6:00, prior to the regular BOS meeting.  
Business for the evening was to discuss the outcome of the conversation he had had with Conservation Commission at their meeting the evening before, regarding challenges the FD and EMS had accessing the quarry for a medical call. His department needs the new bridge to be wider to accommodate the larger vehicles, and gate openings to be wider as well. Widths had not been updated as vehicles had been, and there was a problem with locks on the gates as well. He also said that when the parking lot at Scripp's Lane is full, as it was on Sunday, they cannot get a truck through there, so need to use a more remote access from Depot Rd. Pete offered to call Bob Larochelle, CC chair, and let him know what they need CC to do – plan for maintenance of 15' wide clearance along rail trail, supply the engineering specs on the bridge for weight limit and upgrade the width, with proper permitting as needed. CC will be invited to attend the next BOS meeting on August 13 to present their plan, which they should be able to implement within 30 days of the meeting.
- Next item was a letter requesting a partial abatement of a timber tax bill. Based on conversation with both the assessor and the timber agent at DRA, the request for abatement was denied based on the exceeding the construction exemption limit, no contract with logger presented, and the rate used by assessor is his standard rate in the absence of a completed rating sheet supplied by the logger or owner.
- A letter from the owner of 9 Old Ashby Rd stating the apartment at 9A is no longer being used as an apartment, and is being reincorporated into the rest of the residence. Selectmen accepted the letter, and want to remind the owner that, should they plan to use it as a rental in the future, they would be required to get an exception from ZBA for and ADU.

### **Old Business:**

- Welfare guidelines are in process of revision – both selectmen agreed to establish a work session dedicated to going through the entire policy.
- Lighting audit report was briefly revisited. Selectmen said they cannot consider approval before they get more information on payback period, exactly what materials are being replaced and with what, hours of usage for buildings are corrected to present an accurate picture of use, and more information concerning street light replacements. They will be happy to revisit the report once they have that information.
- Valley Rd resident complaint – Louise reported she had found and was reviewing both the ZBA and PB files from 2000 regarding the special exception for the business under question. She would be ready to report on that with a recommendation at the next BOS meeting.
- Townsend Rd complaint – Charlie has been working on letters for that. Short review discussion about to whom those letters would be going.

- Regarding the Town Hall project – Pete asked that they formally approve Wally Brown asking for a quote from architects for the cost of providing a scope of work which could then be used to get quotes and complete grants. Authorization formally given.

**Informational Items/Communication:**

- Selectmen had been copied on a letter from NHDES to owner of Hilltop Farm regarding deficiencies in management of drainage resulting from the timber cut.
- The Town had been copied, as an abutter, on a notice of a hearing on July 31, 2019 for a voluntary lot line adjustment of parcels H-39 and H-40.
- Printed budget updates for highway department along with further information from Road Agent were distributed to selectmen.

**Public Forum:**

- Kathy Chapman mentioned that the Mason Energy Commission was sponsoring a “Button Up” workshop for residents following the Community Supper on September 12<sup>th</sup>.  
Energy Commission was also working on an energy plan to be included as part of the Master Plan update.

**Non-Public Session:**

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Louise motioned to adjourn, second from Pete.  
Two votes to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday August 13, 2019 at the Mann House at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Wile  
Administrative Assistant