

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2017

Meeting opened at 6:01pm

Present: David DiNicola, Chair; Denis Basak; Judith Hoag
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA)

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$9,412.48; Expenses: \$8,656.41

Minutes of 3/27/17 approved on motion by Denis, Judy 2nd; vote 2-0, Dave abstaining as he was not present for this meeting.

Minutes of 4/3 approved on motion by Judy, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0, Denis abstaining as he was not present for this meeting.

No mail for review.

Brief discussion on Personnel Policy, this will be discussed further at future meeting as it is important to finish the policy.

Annual Town Meeting (ATM) warrant discussed next. Board met with Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery, and went over his budget for FY'18. skip was advised his pay rate was much lower than similar towns and that his rate should increase. Skip said he would rather promote Matt to a foreman's position than take the increase all for himself. Board agreed to have Matt as foreman and give both a 4% raise. Chris would receive a 2% increase for the coming year. Skip would also like to be able to hire summer help again this year as it worked out very well last summer. The two hires trimmed the road sides and guardrails and did many other jobs that freed the regular crew up to do more road maintenance. Board agreed it is worthwhile to hire the summer help. Skip will be in charge of the hiring.

Skip also discussed purchasing another small truck using his Chapter 90 money. He would do a three year lease to purchase and pay \$50,000 a year from Chapter 90. He would also like to transfer the \$15,000 for the transfer case for the Autocar and \$6,000 for the warranty on the International to another account so he could purchase a plow and wing for the truck. The truck would be larger than the current Ford 550's and would replace the older 550 that has serious rust problems in the cab as well as the frame. The new truck would enable him to plow the roads and improve fuel mileage as

the International get about 1.5 MPG when plowing. The new truck would get 8-10 MPG. The current fleet he has seems to work well; he uses the Army trucks for hauling rocks, etc saving the International from unnecessary debris hauling. There was continued discussion regarding the number of trucks, if any could be disposed of and what is needed for back up during a storm if one goes down.

Also discussed was if there were any Purple Heart grants available for Skyline Trail as Bell Cemetery is the resting place of the first Purple Heart recipient from the Revolutionary War. Skyline was denoted as a Temporary State Highway when it was reconstructed in 2003. Joe Kearns suggested having Representative Steve Kulik view Skyline and see if he could obtain any grants for its repaving. Skip also suggested a successful STRAP grant application could be used for repaving.

Warrant reviewed continued, Board agreed with Finance recommendations on articles.

TA questioned if the Town Clerk position could be changed to a three year term and will check with Town Counsel for proper wording to replace current By-Law.

Discussion on increase in the Vocational Education budget and what could be done to reduce these costs. Town is charged on a per pupil basis and increase of \$80,000 in FY'18 budget. Joe Kearns said he had spoke with Gateway Superintendent regarding increase in Vocational opportunities at Gateway and was told 'Can't find anyone to hire'. Joe did not feel this was a satisfactory answer. Gateway does not retain monies from students that opt for vocational schooling.

Article 25 on previous draft warrant has been removed.

Pre-Town Meeting to be held on May 2nd; TA will have published in Country Journal and notify Gateway so a representative can attend to discuss school budget.

Town Hall custodian, Kathy O'Brien, met with Board and questioned why her increase to \$15/hour has not been acted on. Dave motioned to increase to \$15/hr, Judy and Denis 2nd; vote 3-0 to increase to \$15/hr.

Judy said the Fire Department did not want this year's Town Report dedicated to them. Judy suggested the Highway Department be honored with dedication and all agreed.

There have been complaints about the dog droppings that are around the Town Hall and at the play ground. TA will look into obtaining signs to post.

Howard Knickerbocker suggest the museum be named in honor of Jack Cobb as he was the individual that basically created the museum. Dave motioned to agree, Denis 2nd vote 3-0..

Dave motioned to adjourn, Denis 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

David DiNicola, Chair

Denis Basak

Judith Hoag