

SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 29, 2016

Meeting opened at 6:02pm

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; David DiNicola; Robert Costa  
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA)

Warrants reviewed and signed; Payroll: \$8,417.75; Expenses: \$15,510.18

Minutes of 2/16/16 approved on motion by Alan, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0.

Minutes of 2/22/16 approved on motion by Alan, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote 3-0.

Mail reviewed, nothing to discuss.

Terry Donovan, Animal Control Officer, spoke to Board regarding dog complaint filed by Suzanne Lemieux. Her dog was attacked and bitten by 2 dogs owned by Cynthia Lapa. The dogs were not leashed. Terry placed the dogs under house quarantine and they were seen outside in their fenced yard. After discussion, Board agreed to hold a Dangerous Dog Hearing; it is scheduled for 3/8/16 at 6:00pm. Notice will be hand delivered to Ms. Lapa.

Communication Committee (CC) member Steve Harris, updated the Board on the high speed internet. The MBI funds are still frozen and he has not been able to obtain any indication from MBI if the funds would be released to cover a wireless network. Also, he inquired if the wireless tower by-law would apply to the Town's MLP. This will have to be researched. There was further discussion regarding use of the Chester Fire Tower, TA will follow with contact at DCR. CC has been working with Town of Hawley and the Peru Selectmen came to the last CC meeting.

Also, Go Daddy has increased its prices so the Town web site is switching to InDesign as the new host. CC has installed a wireless on the outside of the Town Hall.

Discussion followed with members of the audience regarding financing of the system, lack of knowledge and understanding by the governor what the smaller communities are facing when it comes to financing any type of system. Alan and Bob both stated this is a process and no final decision had been made by the Board regarding the system to be used by the Town. Research has been done and any decision will be based on the best judgment.

Highway Superintendent Skip Savery met with the Board. He advised the part-time person he was authorized to hire will not be able to work at this time for health reasons. Their was discussion regarding the 3 other applicants and all agreed to offer the position to Chase Carrington with conditions, the conditions being he would have to obtain his hoister and CDL licenses within certain time frames. His starting rate would be lower and pay would increase as he obtained licenses.

Board reviewed questions with Skip regarding what he anticipates his projects would be for the summer and fall. Skip would like to pave portions of 2 areas of Chester Road and a section of River Road. During the winter when snow removal is not a priority they do maintenance on the equipment to avoid possible breakdowns during a storm. The loader has approximately 2,000 hours on it and the grader about 3,000 hours. The older Ford 550 is in need of a cab and if a used one could be purchase reasonably it would be worth repairing. Skip agreed to prove logs of his weekly work to the Board. When asked what the board could do to help him, he stated he would like emergency power at the garage and possibly another more covered storage area to keep the equipment out of the weather. Also discussed were the “driveway washed”, that is where individual’s gravel driveways wash into the road during heavy rains. If this continues to be a problem, a letter will be sent to offenders requesting they make repairs so this does not occur.

Joe Kearns, Finance Chair, requested the board sign a letter and send it to the Gateway Regional Scholl requesting the school assessments be lowered. TA will contact Huntington S/B and copy the letter they composed and forward to school. Also, there is approximately 1.5 million dollars in post employment benefits that are owed by Worthington due to their withdrawal from the district and Worthington is fighting that assessment.

Alan motioned to adjourn the S/B meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss negotiations regarding the Dussault lawsuit and not reconvene the open portion of the S/B meeting. Bob 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote: Alan, Aye; Dave, Aye; Bob, Aye. Vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease  
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

David DiNicola

Robert Costa