

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

January 12, 2015

Present: Larry Straus, Doon Hinderyckx, Marvin Harvey, Joanne McDonnell

Guests: Martha Slater, Peter Otten, Jeff Gephardt, Nancy Woolley, Harland Mckhirryr

Meeting called to order at 7:45pm.

Additions to the Agenda: Robert asked that Jeff Gephardt be allowed to present information on the PACE loan program under new business. All in favor.

Doon made motion to approve the minutes from the December 22, 2014 regular meeting, seconded by Robert. So voted.

Doon made motion to approve the minutes from the December 22, 2014 public hearing (Park House planning grant), seconded by Robert. So voted.

Guests: Harland Mckhirryr asked about the road policy. He asked how a town employee is not liable if they damage personal property such as mailboxes. Larry noted that case law supports that when a town employee is removing snow from the town right of way is not liable for damages to items in the right of way. Harland noted that snow and ice are being thrown farther than the town ROW, and in his job he has driven these roads for 20 years, and in the past, when mailboxes were replaced by the town, they did not get hit again. Discussion ensued. Harland noted that he feels the roads are the worst he's seen, and 5 or 6 mailboxes have been knocked down already. Larry will bring his concerns to the road crew for discussion, and thanked Harland for voicing his concerns. Peter Otten asked to speak later in the meeting.

New Business: Jeff Gephardt asked the board to consider adding an article about the PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program to the warning for Town Meeting. It's a different way for homeowners to finance improvements and energy efficiencies to their homes. The terms are up to 20 years, and they are paid as a part of the homeowner's property tax. He would like the article to ask voters if the PACE program would be acceptable to use for these improvements. Approximately 36 towns have implemented this program. More information can be gained in the FAQ that he submitted. Short discussion ensued about how the money comes into the town and how it is accounted for. Jeff noted that the program doesn't cost the town anything, but gives homeowners a viable option on upgrading their homes. Joanne noted her concerns about how this is booked through the town accounting, and will contact other clerks to see how the program is working for them. Discussion continued. Larry noted that the deadline for submitting petitions is January 16th, and that people have a hard time understanding how the program works. Jeff believes that there are people who can guide the Selectboard through the process. He will learn more about the program and be prepared to answer questions. Larry noted that he would like to be prepared to adopt the warning at the January 26th meeting. There will be 2 warnings drafted, one including this and one without. The issue will be reconsidered at the January 26th meeting.

Peter Otten told the board that he feels his road is being well taken care of. His reason for being at the meeting is to let the Selectboard know that the State Police are "dumping" issues back onto the Town Constables, who only work part time. One place on his road was broken into; another out of state family

had a strange car drive into their driveway, and left when the realized someone was at the house. His mother's house was burglarized two times and the police never came to investigate. When he reported that someone shot at his house last winter, the police never showed up until the next day even though he had a description of the vehicle. He believes that all these issues occurred when someone (possibly local) knows no one is at the home. He asked the board to address the issue and find out why the State Police will not respond and investigate these issues. Larry noted that the State Police are the primary law enforcement entity, and we have no control over what they will respond to. Peter noted that he has talked with Constable Mark Belisle in the past All agreed that it is disappointing that the police refer everyone to the local constables, even while realizing that the State Police are spread very thin these days. Short discussion continued.

Green Mountain Chines submitted their 2015 liquor licenses. Doon made motion to approve the license, seconded by Robert. No discussion, so voted.

The following New Business items were tabled: PACIF Grant/Scholarships, Mowing Bids, Highway Certificate and Weight Limits.

Short discussion about the upcoming Mowing Bids ensued.

FY 16 budget: Larry noted that after many hours of hard work by our Budget & Finance Committee, the proposed budget for FY 16 is as follows: Proposed total town and highway budget is \$913,592.00 with \$590,057.00 to be raised from taxes. In addition, there are Appropriation requests and Reserve Funding that are voted separately at Town Meeting. Doon made motion to accept the budget as proposed, seconded by Robert. No discussion, so voted.

Old Business: The board revisited the Winter Operations Policy. This policy is meant to be a guideline for townspeople to understand what the responsibilities are for the Highway department for winter road clearing. It was reiterated that property in the right of way is the responsibility of the homeowner. Town and School Parking Lots will have enforced No Parking. All board members are in favor of the policy, and it was signed.

No word from the lawyer who is reviewing the PHCC subordination agreement for the Town.

The meeting that was scheduled for tomorrow regarding Water Meter replacement has been cancelled. Larry is trying to reschedule it for the week of January 26th. He noted that the funding we were hoping for from the Clean Water fund is probably not going to be available, and John Kiernan of Phelps Engineering has been looking into alternative USDA funding.

The board approved a Park use application on June 13th for Graduation. Bills were reviewed and warrants signed. Doon made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm, seconded by Robert. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell