

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

August 26, 2014

Present: Larry Straus, Doon Hinderyckx, Robert Meagher, Joanne McDonnell

Guests: Cynthia McPhetres, Terry Severy, Dan Gendron, Doug Johnstone, Martha Slater

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm. Robert asked to add a discussion of the Gifford Hospital letter regarding emergency service to the agenda under new business. Doon made motion to add this item to new business, seconded by Robert. So voted. Robert made motion to add the Mathers/McPhetres water issue to the agenda, seconded by Doon. So voted.

Doon made motion to accept the minutes from the August 11, 2014 meeting, seconded by Robert. So voted.

Guests: Doug Johnstone from the Dept of Agriculture spoke to the board about herbicide spraying in town. Dan Gendron would like to maintain some rights of way using herbicides and has been certified to do so. Doug is here to answer any questions the board may have. He gave fact sheets for the herbicides that may be used. Dan noted that he would like to treat around guard rails on town roads. He supplied a map with the areas he'd like to treat circled. The state takes care of primary and secondary roads. Notification has to be given by newspaper and television or radio ads 30-45 days before actual spraying begins. Discussion ensued. Terry asked how they will know where wells are since it has to be 100 feet from a well, and actually this is part of the permit. Homeowners do not have the option to refuse to have spraying done, but some homeowners will prefer to maintain the guardrails around their property themselves, which is fine. The town can deal with requests on a case by case basis. Costs are probably less than \$100. Permit is annual, so Dan will need to be recertified. Robert made motion to authorize the use of herbicides for vegetation management as detailed in the permit in the spring of 2015, seconded by Doon. So voted.

Water Commissioners: Short discussion ensued regarding the existing water line issues between the Mathers and McPhetres properties. There is nothing new to update on the actual line replacement. Different scenarios were brought up but not approved. If the situation is not resolved when the new meters are installed, Cynthia gave her agreement for installing the Mathers' meter in her basement.

Rate adjustment: Terry noted that the budget for soda ash will go from about 1500.00 per year to 5000.00 per year. He thinks both the usage charge and the base rate need to be increased. The water usage charge right now is .0025 and sewer usage is .0065. Discussion ensued. Terry noted that he reads about \$50,000 gallons used per day but billed gallons is about \$18-20,000. Base rate brings in \$6400 as is, and if the usage rate was increased to .0030, it will bring in the extra revenue needed. Robert made motion to increase the water base rate per year from \$120 to \$160 and to raise the usage rate from .0025 to .0030 per gallon. This will begin with the quarter commencing October 1 2014. Discussion ensued as to when the actual changes should be applied. The board agreed to apply the new charges with the 4th quarter 2014 billing. This will address a shortfall in current revenues and cover the anticipated cost increase of water additives.

Robert noted that he found a company called Ti-Sales that handle meters. They are based out of Massachusetts but have regional offices. Terry will keep trying to get prices from the representative he has been talking to-they were due by this meeting.

Friday afternoon, the board received a letter from Gifford Medical Center directly to WRVA that did not specifically address the issues that the three towns wrote to them about. This letter was actually a proposal for the WRVA board to consider the management services that they could provide through personnel. Robert has not had any reply from Linda Minsinger regarding our specific requests, and he will follow up on that. The trainees are done mid September, and a definite answer would be appreciated by that time. It was agreed that something has to be organized asap. Discussion continued. WRVA board meets tomorrow and will most likely discuss the letter. Terry will be notified as soon as a response happens.

Larry noted that he will not be available on Sept 8th for the special town meeting (to approve using excess emergency services monies for paving) or the selectboard meeting that will follow directly. Also, Dan McKinley, our moderator, is also not available. One of the two selectboard members will need to open nominations for a moderator tempor which should be the other board member.

Only one bid was received for paving. D&F Paving gave a price of \$75 per ton. Board will need to determine how much can be paved for that costs. We also need to repair State Garage Rd as well. Doon made motion to approve the bid from D&F Paving, seconded by Robert. So voted.

Janice McCann did not attend to elaborate on her complaint about noise.

Doon noted that Peter Parrish, owner of the Skip Mart contacted him regarding the way he removes snow from his business parking lot. It has caused some friction with the road crew. Peter would like a letter from the Selectboard stating that it is acceptable for him to do so. Larry spoke with Peter about it as it has been an ongoing problem. He agreed that this has been a common practice and if Peter would be responsible for keeping the snow pushed back on that end of the park and to clean up and re-seed in the spring, the board would agree to allow him to continue clearing snow the way he has been in the past. Short discussion continued.

Fiske Rd culvert work is happening, the Library construction is coming along and the Rt 73 culvert closing will begin on September 3rd. Board discussed the two **Welcome to Rochester** signs and will ask Jim Brown to look them over and submit a proposal.

Bills were reviewed and warrants signed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell