

Pre-Town Meeting

February 24, 2020

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Tom Schnabel, Pat Harvey

Guests: Martha Slater, Tony Goupee, Terry Severy, Walt Wells, Nancy Woolley, Mason Wade, Harland McKirryher, Robert Meagher, Dan Mckinley, Larry Pleasant, Nancy Wooley, Tenner Kinsley, Barb Dehart, Kathryn Schenkman, Evelyn Pruiksma, Dave Harvey, Lizzy Shackelford and Nancy Sanz

Doon called the Pre-Town meeting at 6:15 pm

Walt brought up discussion about the budget and concerns with the Judicial fines in the amount of \$22,000.00 to be perceived as quota. He noted that budgeting an expectation of a fine jump that high might pressure them to write many more tickets. Pat noted that with the data from the last 8 months there was an average of 30 tickets written each month. She noted the information has based an established pattern to anticipate what the income would be for the budget. Walt was concerned that it would be perceived as a perception of a quota. Robert noted that in the past when we had the constables, the availability of their time was hard to target when they would be doing their shifts. Currently with the Sheriff's contract the preference for their work is traffic control. Nancy noted that the Sheriff's Department are not exclusively doing traffic control, they also serve the needs of the Police Dept. when they are patrolling our area. Barb noted that returning to the issue of quota, she noted that when they were interviewing the Sheriff's Dept. with the budget and finance, it was not determined in that conversation that they fill any sort of quota. She noted there wasn't any pressure for them to fulfill any amount of tickets issued. Doon noted what it all reflects is the less than robust service we were getting from the previous coverage and that it also reflects currently our increase in ticketed fines. Tom noted that he could see the contrast from what Walt is concerned about. Tom noted that like Doon mentioned, your seeing a lot of contrast then what you had seen before.

Evelyn spoke about the Tennis reserve being removed from the budget. She noted that the Tennis court is a \$100,000.00 asset to the town. She noted it is our responsibility to take care of it. She noted it was built in 2012, eight years ago. She noted the surface is showing wear and we need to take care of it. She noted she was disappointed to see that it wouldn't be funded in this year's budget. She noted that it is well used by many players. Kathryn asked why the Tennis courts don't fall under the Recreation department. Doon noted it would be a great question to ask next year with Budget and Finance. Doon noted that the Tennis Reserve Fund wasn't the only Reserve that wasn't funded in this year's budget. He noted that none of the reserves were funded. Tenner asked if there was any money presently in the tennis court reserve account. They noted that the account has some. Terry noted that the fire department had been cut as well. He noted that the Tennis court should do a fundraiser, like the fire department has had to do to fund their repaving. Barb noted that getting the reserve built up, it would require \$10,000.00 to resurface our tennis court.

Doon noted that in the budget this year there was an increase of the Recycling and that was separated out from the budget for discussion. He noted it was two and a half cents on the budget. Lizzy asked if the recycling is billed based on what our average amount is. Doon noted that it's a yearly set fee. Lizzy noted that recycling has increased because China isn't taking all our mixed recyclables. She noted that we should be more aware of our usage and trying to reduce the amount we use. Doon noted one of the concerns is what we carefully sort out and bring to recycle is actually getting recycled. Doon noted that if we did away with recycling, we would have a lot more trash on the sides of the road. He noted that it

plays into keeping the town looking nice. He noted that removing the barrels off the park stopped people from dropping off their trash. Martha noted that doing the composting is also another service Fast Trash will provide. Nancy noted the wonderful fundraising for the kids with bottle returns is a great opportunity for them to set up when recycling occurs.

Larry shared his appreciation for the management of \$480,000 in grant money and \$720,000 in tax money. He noted that the town is managed well. He noted we need more gravel and paving for the roads. He suggested more money for the roads. He thought that there was a typo in the salaries for the selectboard. He couldn't believe it and thought the selectboard deserved more.

Doon extended a thanks to Larry Straus to have the foresight to hire an assistant to do the paperwork around grants. He said it was a wise move. He noted Joan pulls a lot of weight in the amount of paperwork she does. He noted her focus is on state roads for large Grant work. Doon noted that there is demand for anyone who might have time and interest to research grants. Doon noted that there is great interest in more volunteers for our town and its committees.

Doon moved to adjourn the Pre-Town meeting at 6:52 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith