

Selectboard Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

October 9, 2017

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Jim Bowen, Tom Schnabel

Guests: Martha Slater, Frank Russell, Dan Gendron, Terry Severy, Harland McKirryher, Nancy Woolley, Pat Harvey, Mason Wade

Meeting called to order by Doon at 6:15 pm

Agenda Additions: Frank Russell noted that he brought copies of the final Proposal for a potential Rochester/Stockbridge merge. He has enough for everyone and the rest will stay in the Town Office. Doon added an executive session to discuss a lease for the old fire station. Joanne added garbage pickup and possible phone service changes

Guests: Frank gave an overview of the potential merger with Stockbridge. There was unanimous approval by committee members for a PK-6/Choice proposal. The report will be presented to the State BOE on October 18th. If they approve it, there will be votes in both communities on Tuesday November 28th. Tuition will be less costly than the cost of educating them here. They will be meeting with teachers, and will have multi-age classrooms. Dandelion Daycare building will be sold, and if there is no use for the high school within the district, it will be sold back to the town for \$1. He feels it is a good proposal for both.

Joanne mentioned that Mike McIntyre might be cheaper for trash pickup than Able Waste. She has not contacted him about this yet, but will wait to see what the first Able Waste bill looks like. Joanne also mentioned that ECFiber will require internet in each location in order to have a phone. This will increase the cost of each line by \$74.00 per month. Fairpoint has a different option from the current Centrex program we are on, and Joanne is waiting for more information about the details. It would be closer to \$18.00 per line per month but we would need to sign a 3 year lease. Doon noted his concern about the reliability of Fairpoint. Short discussion ensued. It was noted that Comcast offers free internet to towns, and Joanne will also check with Comcast to see what they may offer as well.

Highway: Dan told the board that the truck will be about a month later than expected since Tenco moved their buildings. Doon noted that the roads look well graveled. Dan noted that most of the gravel is going to the Class 2 Road Grant in North Hollow.

Mason asked about the information that Joan was going to research regarding state statutes on snowmobiles on Class 3 Roads. Doon has not heard anything back from her at this time. Mason also thought Joan would be looking into the Selectboard's decision process for after October 30th. Doon has not heard on that either at this time. Doon made a note to follow up with Joan for the next meeting.

Utilities: Terry told the board that he has a pump (#2 inside the building) down. Hopefully by the end of the week it will be repaired. Tom gave Terry a back light that emits light in the color temperature of

approximately what the sun emits. This should help Terry get more accurate PH readings on wells, and enable him to document those readings via email to a town account.

Minutes from the special Selectboard meeting on September 25th were brought up for approval. Harland told the board that there was more information divulged in the meeting than is in the minutes. He believes that there is pertinent stuff that should have been recorded and if the tape is gone in a year, if someone wanted to research this, they only have the minutes. Doon explained that there was no tape involved, this was only about walking the road. Harland specifically noted that Chris Mattrick had said that the Forest Service water barred the road in 1975, and that it seems like the whole road issue is treated under the assumption that it was thrown up in 1938. Tom questioned who is assuming that. Harland also noted he called Becky last week and spoke to her about the minutes from the last meeting and told her he wanted a word for word accounting of the general discussion that occurred after he asked about the snowmobiles on unplowed class 3 roads. He emailed the office today and let them know that he has not seen the change. Confusion as to which set of minutes he was talking about and he clarified that it was the 9/25/17 evening meeting. Doon noted that we don't really do word for word minutes but Harland noted that when he says something it is pretty much word for word, but when the Selectboard speaks, it goes under general discussion. This goes back to a conversation he had with Tom about biased minutes, which Tom does not remember. Harland noted that there were things said that should have been in the minutes. Tom noted that the board is not required to have a word for word translation. Harland said they are biased. Tom said it is bulletined or abbreviated, but not biased. Harland reiterated that his comments are word for word, but Selectboard is general discussion. Harland asked why it would be a problem to have the word for word discussion where he has requested it, and Tom responded that it can be because discussion can go back and forth. Harland noted that it was a short discussion, and that he wanted to see where it was written that motorized vehicles can be used on the road. Martha asked for clarification about what meeting Harland was asking for more discussion, and Harland explained again that it was the evening meeting. Doon responded that this is why we don't have word for word minutes because it would be a bible every meeting. Harland wants to see the back and forth, and Tom agreed that this is his personal opinion and that it is valid. Harland also questioned Tom questioning people who signed the petition. He asked if Tom had questioned anyone other than the people who work for him. Tom did question some people and stated it is his right to do so and it was a personal poll that he took. Doon noted that Harland wants the board to take on the topic and gather information. Harland noted that he is worried about the way things go down in town these days. Doon stated that the minutes are to document decisions and the topics, not about word for word, it's about information. Joanne explained that she was away when he called the office and did not see the note until tonight. She is sure she can go back to the minutes and add the word for word. Doon disagreed, he doesn't think we need word to word but more the pertinent points of the information. Doon asked if Harland thought there was something specific missing, and again, Harland reiterated he wanted the back and forth discussion to be entered word for word. Doon reiterated that he does not think word for word needs to be part of the minutes. Harland asked what the problem is to do this, and Doon noted that the minutes will be coming out looking like a book. Harland wants the short general discussion entered into the minutes. The board spoke between each other, and Tom left it to Joanne to decide. Nancy asked if statutes specify how specific minutes have to be, and Tom noted it is very general, highlights of the meeting. Tom asked Harland what discussion he is talking about, and Harland explained that they were talking about the laws and stuff that he would like to see added to the minutes. Doon read the section of minutes that Harland is questioning, and asked if it was the wording of short

discussion ensued that he wants changed, which it is. Doon will research and see what we are required to do for minutes, and Harland asked him to also research what they should do when given specific requests. The minutes from the regular Selectboard meeting on 9/25/17 were tabled until the next meeting. Going back to the minutes from the Special Selectboard meeting, which Harland feels are disorganized? Doon made motion to approve the special meeting minutes, seconded by Tom. So voted. Harland noted that he is trying to do his part as a citizen to be sure democracy truly works.

Mason noted that in reference to the walk, it was an official meeting that Doon called to order, there were 2-3 paid employees on site and in reference to what Harland is saying, if someone in 10 years wanted to know what happened, these minutes don't reflect what happened, dragging us all through that day. No one dragged anyone, per the board, but Mason noted that he lost a day of work. Doon reiterated that this was not the hearing, just a meeting to view the road. Joanne and Becky are not open to the public that day, and Dan is the Road Foreman. Mason asked what the meat of the little description even comes close to what was learned, which is what the public should be able to view 20 years from now. Tom noted no decisions were made, Harland said there is information that should be in the minutes, and the board reminded him that all this will be discussed in the hearing. Joanne explained that she tries to do word for word so Harland will feel that his voice is being heard, and she does for Mason because he hasn't felt like his voice is being heard. After these meeting minutes, she will do what is required by statute only. Discussion continued. Mason questions the idea of recording a public meeting as there was a lot of participation and a lot of information provided and the minutes don't reflect that. Doon noted that the point is well taken that the clearer the information in the minutes is, the better. He told Harland he will take his input and endeavor to improve going forward, and obviously there will be much more information from the hearing on the 30th. He explained that he wanted to just walk the road so he would have better information for the meetings, and that it was interesting to hear Bruce talk about the people who lived in the area, but that is not what he went to learn. Harland thinks that the things related to what the walk was for should be included in the minutes. Tom attended so he could see the road and understand it. It was an official meeting because two board members were in attendance at the same time.

Joanne will get the details of that meeting and add to it.

Regular meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Bills and warrants will be signed after the executive session.

Motion to enter executive session at 7pm, so voted.

Exited executive session at 7:50 pm, with no action taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell