

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

December 27, 2021

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests Present: Kristen LaPell, Tony Goupee, David Harvey

Guests Present on Zoom: Martha Slater, Troy LaPell, Robert Franks

Doon called the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Public Comment: Doon limited the comments to five minutes for each comment. Re

Prior Meeting Minutes: Doon moved to approve the December 13, selectboard meeting minutes. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Signed Letter Responding to Auditors Findings: Doon noted the auditor suggested the following four findings for the town: to create a formal capital assets policy (Doon felt this was something the board has been talking about); consult with an attorney to clarify the legally permitted uses of funds maintained by the Trustees of the Public Funds (Doon noted this is in the works currently with the Trustees); to expand the procurement policy to include the use of purchase orders (Doon thought we should set the threshold at \$5,000.00) and the final finding to periodically create a physical inventory of equipment and town assets (Doon noted we just completed a thorough one when they closed the constables office). Pat noted they will take every item under consideration. Doon moved to approve the letter responding to the auditor with the support of the selectboard. Pat seconded. All in favor. So, voted.

Joan Updates: Joan did not have anything to report. Still awaiting the monies from FEMA. Doon asked if we would receive the monies from FEMA before the next fiscal year begins. Joan noted it's been unpredictable.

Library Updates: Tony shared there will be Porch Pickup and now browsing by appointment inside the library. Tony felt to check with the Herald for updates to the library. Tony shared the board of the library trustees would like to schedule a meeting with the selectboard to discuss and resolve some issues between the selectboard and the trustees. He shared they hope to avoid surprises like the petition for their budget. He said the 5 elected trustees believe the voters expect them to preserve and maintain a working library which includes budgeting for it. Other issues to clarify as well. Tony shared with the board they would provide a letter to include the issues beforehand. Doon suggested putting them on the next agenda to discuss their concerns. Discussion about the Library being an appropriation and the reason behind the petition.

Highway Updates: Doon thanked the highway department for working Christmas Eve and through Christmas to keep our roads safe.

Utilities updates: Terry was not present.

Energy Coordinator Update: Jeff was not present

Public Comment: Dave Harvey spoke about snow removal and the amount of room in front of the Hardware. He shared that he is inheriting snow from the town contracted sidewalk snow removal. He said he felt it wasn't fair to leave it in front of his store and asked the board to speak to the contractor. They spoke about the storm drain in front that could be a hazard. Doon noted they would speak with the contractor. Discussion continued with the contractor using the wrong size equipment and the mess it was leaving around town. Pat said we would need to check on the status of the purchase of the new equipment more adequate for the contract. Board agreed. Pat reminded the snow that falls out of the sky on your property belongs to you and you are not supposed to push it across the road to give to your neighbors. She noted this is enforceable and in our ordinances.

Robert Franks made a comment that the road crew did an excellent job. Robert made two questions. He asked Pat Harvey to explain the reason why she made an exclusive email account. She responded it was easier to have a separate account made.

His second question was to the town clerk to describe the process of creating the minutes for each meeting and who approves what is put in the town record. Julie stated she creates minutes from content from the meeting to be approved by the selectboard.

Doon noted the minutes are basically to cover decisions and topics are not verbatim.

Doon moved to adjourn,

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith