Select Board Meeting

October 14, 2020

6:02 pm meeting called to order by Neil.

Select Board members present: Mike Bedini, Ericka Oleson and Neil Oleson.

Select board members absent: None

Others present: Jim White, Christine Dobbert, Vicki Winchell, Ron Bosley, Jon Oleson, Jennifer Bean, Katherine Richter, Terry Green, Jason Green, Ron White, Becky Bedard, Mike Gleason, Judy Oleson, Marilyn Brown, Terry Culpepper-Rysz, Bret Billings, Ruth Boyce

Ericka Oleson made a motion to approve the minutes from the 9/30/20 meeting for regular meeting and executive session. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.

Selectmen:

* Trick or Treat will take place on Halloween night, October 31, 2020 from 5:30-7:30. Residents are encouraged to practice social distancing and CDC precautions. The Fire Department reported they will participate as usual in trick or treat with a slightly different procedure. They will allow one family in the fire house at a time to trick or treat.
* Joint meeting took place with the Library Trustees to discuss the replacement of Library Director or temporary closure of the Library until COVID concerns have subsided.
  + Neil questioned how many residents visit the Library. Becky Bedard replied the Library has 4 elderly visitors weekly, plus other residents utilize curbside delivery, as well as home delivery. Sixty items also go in/out of the Library through the CW Mars program.
  + Ericka questioned how many visitors were there pre-COVID to which Becky responded there were approximately 15-20 per week but occasionally upwards of 30 people. Visitors would increase during the winter months.
  + Mike asked if the directors knew of anyone interested in the Interim Director position. Katherine Richter was the Assist Library Director and would like the Interim position. She was been running the Library after the departure of the Director, with the assistance of Terry Culpepper-Rysz.
  + Becky also pointed out they have other ideas for the Library moving forward. They would like to start to work more with the school to arrange a pickup/delivery service. There is also Wi-Fi and laptops available for public use should anyone need to come in and utilize this service. Ericka did ask how many people are allowed in the library at one time since it is a small space. With the limited capacity rules set forth by the state five is the current maximum of people allowed at once time in the Library.
  + Mike recommended keeping the library open since so many people use it and came to the meeting tonight in support of the Library. Ericka questioned the safety of doing such as well as the expense of it.
  + Jennifer Bean pointed out if the Library were to close the town could lose the State Aid funding as well as the inter-library loan program.
  + Mike asked how many hours per week is the Library open to which Terry replied they are open Wednesday and Thursdays for 5 hours each day. Becky also mentioned they are considering reducing time on those days and then having Saturday hours.

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* + Mike commented again that since so many people showed up in support of the Library and are concerned about it, his opinion is to keep it open.
  + Mike made a motion to appoint Katherine Richter as Interim Library Director. Ericka Seconded. Unanimous.
  + Selectmen agreed Katherine’s rate of pay will be increased to $14.50 per hour from her current rate of $13.50 per hour. Because this is an Interim position the position of permanent Library Director will be posted.
* Mike made a motion to appoint Tom Brule, Jon Oleson and Gabe Oleson to the Board of Appeals and to appoint Jon Oleson to the Conservation Commission. Ericka seconded. Unanimous.
* Bret Billings, Manice Center attended to update the Selectboard on plans for the Manice Center. Their current hope is to reopen to campers for the 2021 summer season. If they can open at that time, then it will be 20 months the center has been without campers. He requested the Selectmen contact Representative Barret and Senator Hinds to request the Camp Relief Funds. The Selectboard requested Christine draft a letter in support of this for the Manice Center.
* Mike brought up the fact that several residents are very displeased with the telephone service they are receiving with their Wi-Valley internet. Several have lost their telephone service for extended periods of time. This is very concerning in the event of an emergency and someone needs to contract 9-1-1. Christine said there is another internet meeting on October 29, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

Christine Dobbert, Town Administrator:

* Cherry Sheet figures have been released and they are about the same as originally proposed.
* The school is still in the running to receive help from the Massachusetts School Building Authority to redo the windows and doors at the school. If selected, the MSBA would reimburse the town approximately 72-73% of the costs of the project. The school needs to hire engineers. It is recommended to change the wording of tonight’s Special Town Meeting article 2 to include the terminology “to include engineer” since they are not changing the funding amount requested.
* Since Terry Culpepper-Rysz will be continuing to work at the Library the town will need to find someone new for cleaning the town offices and senior center. Christine has no problem maintaining town hall for now. Selectboard recommended posting the position to see if anyone is interested in it.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

* Dealt with last storm. There were a lot of trees down. All the brush has been cleaned up.
* Truck 5 up and almost complete
* Working on Phelps Road by Estes and Cote’s houses.
* Getting the trucks ready for inspection.
* Putting gravel on South County Road, lower Church Road and Peanut Hill Road then they are caught up for the winter.

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* Received an A+ on the yearly landfill inspection. Mike asked Jim if there has been any luck on locating a new container for the landfill. Jim replied there has not been time to search for one yet. Mike also commented that Eric is doing a great job at running the Landfill.

Mike Gleason, Fire Department:

* Radio repeater is working great.

Public Comment:

* Ron Bosley brought up that at the last meeting he inquired about the upkeep of cemeteries located on private land and was told the town does not maintain them because they are located on private land. Ron questioned the fact that the Nathan Drury cemetery is on private land however the town does provide the upkeep of it. Neil responded he believes there is an easement to the town for this cemetery and that is why they maintain it

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6:47 pm Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ericka seconded. Unanimous.