Select Board Meeting

January 20, 2021

6:02 pm meeting called to order by Neil Oleson.

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

Select board members absent: None

Others present: Jim White, Christine Dobbert, Vicki Winchell, Terry Green, Jon Oleson, Mike Gleason

Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/6/21 meeting. Ericka Oleson seconded. Unanimous.

Selectmen:

* Terry Green attended tonight’s meeting on behalf of the Library Trustee’s to discuss some concerns that were brought up at their Trustee meeting the night before.
  + The Trustees voted (2-1) to offer Elizabeth (Ellie) DiCristofara the Library Director position.
  + Terry informed the board that the current Interim Library Director, Katherine Ritcher, has resigned from the position, giving the Trustee’s a three-week notice.
  + The Trustees would like to see the Library assistants and part time Library employee’s hourly rate be brought up to the state minimum wage of $13.50 per hour. They have asked that Terry Culpepper-Rysz be brought to the minimum wage and retro paid back to January 1, 2021 when the new minimum wage increase took effect.
  + Terry inquired as to the minimum age a youth could work at the library. The board informed her it is 16 yrs of age, the child would need a work permit and is not permitted to work alone for safety reasons.
* Ericka Oleson made a motion to appoint Elizabeth DiCristofara to the position of Library Director at the hourly rate of $15.00 per hour. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
* Ericka Oleson made a motion to increase the hourly rate of pay for all Library positions, excluding the Library Director position, to the minimum wage rate of $13.50 per hour. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
* Ericka Oleson made a motion to pay Terry Culpepper-Rysz the new rate of $13.50 for her position as the Library Assistant retroactively back to January 1, 2021.

Christine Dobbert, Town Administrator:

* Hoping to send the tax bills out tomorrow.
* Working with Lisa Brown to mail the street census out before Lisa has her surgery.
* EMPG Grant has been completed.
* Balance Sheet submitted and Schedule A will hopefully be submitted by Friday.
* One positive COVID case in town.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

* Crew has been dealing with snow, ice, and rain.
* The crew came in on Monday (Martin Luther King Jr. Day) because two power trucks were stuck on Whitcomb Hill Road.
* Working on top portion of retaining wall near the Charlemont town line by the bridge, cutting back brush.

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Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor (continued):

* Waiting on auger chains for #10. First one was ordered however it was two and a half feet short. Longer one now coming in so that there will be extra to use as a spare.
* Some slight truck repairs being done.

Mike Gleason, Fire Department:

* No Fire Department concerns to update the board with. Discussions took place regarding the steps needed to build a new Fire Department. Suggestions were entertained of possibly doing the project piecemeal (year 1-complete septic, year 2 tackle another expense, etc). No decisions being made at this time as it is difficult to get accurate estimates of projects, products, due to material prices being overly inflated by vendors due to COVID issues.

6:44 pm Ericka Oleson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.