Select Board Meeting

March 17, 2021

6:00 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, Seth Bean, Stephanie Pare, Eric LeClair, Jon Oleson, Ron Bosley, Cindy Bosley, Mike Gleason

Ericka Oleson made a motion to approve the minutes from the 3/3/21 meeting. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.

Selectmen:

* Ericka Oleson made a motion to appoint Allison Perkins to the position of Inspector of Animals. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
* Letter of resignation was accepted from Jacob White resigning from his highway department position.
* Christine presented the board with a letter from town resident Mae Embry requesting sanding be done for seniors in town. The Selectboard discussed and felt that is not something the town can offer as they cannot take responsibility for private property. It was noted however that in case of emergency the Fire Department can always (and has) contact the highway department for help if necessary. Christine will send Mae a letter with this information and let Mae know if she should ever need help to contact the town.
* Chapter 90 funds will be $160,949.00 for Fiscal Year 2022.
* National Grid notified the town they will be doing vegetation maintenance in the future.
* Resumes were received and reviewed for the Library Assistant and the Highway Department Utilities positions. The Selectboard chose two applicants to be called in for interviews at the next Selectmen’s meeting on March 31, 2021. The ad is still running for a couple more weeks. If more applications are received the board has given Christine permission to invite any other qualified applicants to the meeting for an interview.
* Steve Brayman has received the email from WiValley today offering him payment for an easement for the pole issue that was discussed at the March 3, 2021 Selectmen’s meeting. He said he will discuss the offer with his family.
* Seth Bean, Assessor, attended tonight’s meeting to present a posting and job description for the Assistant Assessor/Principal Assessor position to be posted. He noted to the board that the law states this position should report to the Assessors. He presented the rate of $12,000 per year. The figure discussed at the last meeting was $11,000 per year. The final rate is to be determined.

Select Board Meeting

March 17, 2021

Selectmen (continued):

* Eric LeClair appeared before the board to express his concerns and discuss the many issues he (and several other residents) is having with the WiValley Internet Service as well as their customer service.
  + As of the date of this meeting, Eric’s internet stopped working the previous Thursday and has not worked since. He has pointed out this is the case for several in town, making it near impossible to school or work from home, as so many are during this epidemic. Eric has asked if there is a completion date for the project? Who is to be held accountable for this? Christine replied the completion date has been extended several times. Eric also pointed out he was told there was to be a Technology Fee of $3 that will now be added to the invoices and considering people are already not getting what they pay for this fee seems unnecessary.
  + Ron Bosley spoke out mentioning that Mr. Lark is the head of the Broadband Committee and while he should be advocating on behalf of the towns it often seems as though he is a WiValley employee, frequently making excuses for them.
  + Neil asked if WiValley could be invited to a Selectboard meeting to answer to these issues. Ericka pointed out that the town really does not have anything to hold against them as they have extensions and are working as well as they can. Christine will email Brian asap tomorrow as well as call Carolyn at the state level.
  + Once the project is completed, the town owns the poles and WiValley owns the equipment and will be responsible for maintaining it.
  + Still waiting for Borden Mountain pole to be installed.

Christine Dobbert, Town Administrator:

* Working on budgets; some requests have been received by town departments. Cherry sheet figures are estimates used only to build the budget for now until the state releases the actual figures.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

* Brush chipped down on River Road
* Maintaining trucks
* Worked on plates for loader, cleaning up and painting tractor so it is ready for summer
* Guardrail Solutions reviewed some guard rails that need to be replaced. The estimates for replacements are $5090.00 on Monroe Road and $1317.00 on North County Road. This will be paid out of the Road Maintenance account.
* Crack sealing is being planned at the Charlemont/Savoy bridge.
* Blacktop overlay to be done on Upper Church Road, North Church Road and South County East using Chapter 90 funds.
* Truck 3 is up and running well.
* Crew will start sweeping in a few weeks and planning to do the catch basins in July.

Select Board Meeting

March 17, 2021

Mike Gleason, Fire Chief:

* Installing posts on North County Road lot and the highway department putting some material in to firm it up a bit.
* Mike Gleason asked if there was any new information on the new Fire Department. Neil stated he received plans from the company that builds the building, and he has given a set of the plans to the building inspector. He has not heard back from her as of this meeting. Christine is going to text her and ask her to get in touch with the board.

7:27 pm Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.