Select Board Meeting

March 31, 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, Stephanie Pare, Eric LeClair, Jon Oleson, Ron Bosley, Cindy Bosley, Mike Gleason, Lawrence Cote, Michael Worth

Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the minutes from the 3/17/21 meeting. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.

Selectmen:

* Eric LeClair appeared before the board to follow up on his concerns expressed at the March 17, 2021 Selectboard meeting regarding the many issues, he (and several other residents) is having with the WI-Valley Internet Service as well as their customer service. Christine informed all the service seems to be working better this week (for most residents) but there is still no word as to why the 900 MHz was having issues. The next broadband meeting is 4/8/21 at 4:30 p.m. and all are encouraged to attend.
* Ericka Oleson made a motion to approve the business license for Hillary Sweeny on Moores Rd, d/b/a Birch and Pearl, for a rental property. Mike Bedini Seconded. Unanimous.
* The Selectboard signed the election warrant. Town elections will take place on May 3, 2021.
* Interviews were held with Lawrence Cote and Michael Worth for the Highway Department Utility Worker position.
  + Michael Worth was interviewed first. When asked why he applied for this position he stated he was hoping to find a position he could retire from. The Board informed him historically the starting rate fell between $15-$17 per hour. Neil informed Michael increases would be given when all licenses were obtained. Michael is working on his CDL, with a goal to have it by mid-summer. He stated he works well with others, has no problem going from being the manager (at his previous position) to being an employee, he is fine with working Saturdays, has no issues being on call and has a full understanding of the position. Michael also pointed out another plus to hiring him is that he is a member of the Florida FD and this would help keep a first responder in town and he would be a dedicated employee. Christine explained the benefits to him.
  + Lawrence Cote was interviewed second. When asked why he applied for this position he stated he is looking to obtain a local position as he has been working out of town for the last few years. Neil explained certain licenses are needed for this position and asked could Larry obtain them. Larry stated he has a 2A and 1C. They are currently expired, but he has no issues taking the necessary tests to renew them. When asked by Ericka for 3 words to describe himself he replied reliable, experience and always there. Christine asked if Larry is ok with overtime work to which Larry replied he has no issues with it and is aware of how demanding the winters can be in town. He is also good with working Saturdays and Holidays when needed. He plans to work well into his 60’s

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Selectmen (continued):

before retiring. As a volunteer fireman he also has experience driving fire trucks and has no issues driving the large highway vehicles. He feels he works well with others and can both take the lead and follow instructions well.

* + The board discussed both candidates.
* Mike Bedini made a motion to offer Michael Worth the Highway Utility Worker position at the rate of $17.00 per hour. Ericka Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
* Mike Bedini made a motion to raise Eric Vasquez’s rate of pay to $17.00 per hour effective Monday, April 5, 2021. Ericka Oleson seconded. Unanimous.

Christine Dobbert, Town Administrator:

* McCann has dropped their previous estimated assessment for the town for the upcoming school year by $22,000.00. There are some grants they intend on applying for that will help ease the financial burden.
* Health insurance interest rates for Fiscal Year 22 will increase 4.28%. The dental costs will decrease $0.46 cents.
* The town has saved .5% off the MIIA insurance
* Property Tax bills are completed and will be mailed by Friday, as well as the election warrant.
* Working on keeping up with the Dog licenses in Lisa Brown’s absence.
* No more resumes have been received for any town openings.
* Highway union representative will attend the April 28, 2021 Selectmen meeting to start union negotiations.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

* Weed wacked Whitcomb Hill Road to Monroe line.
* River Road cleaned up from the winter.
* Swept Town Hall, Senior Center and Church lots as well as Church Road
* Installed tires on the tractor and painted it.
* Lawn mower and the trailer are being worked on.
* Tree cleaned up on South County Road from the storms.
* Mass DOT bringing boulders for highway department use.
* Will start sweeping the roads In 2-3 weeks.

7:03 pm Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ericka Oleson seconded. Unanimous.