Select Board Meeting

July 7, 2021

6:01 pm meeting called to order by Neil Oleson.

Select Board members present: Mike Bedini, Terry Green, Neil Oleson

Select board members absent: None

Others present: Jim White, Christine Dobbert, Vicki Winchell, Cindy Bosley, Ron Bosley, Rose Rathbun, Jacob White, Heidi Dugal, Becky Bedard, Gus Muller, Jessica Matthews, Eric Ford, Mike Gleason, Paul Malinowski, Ron White,

Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the minutes from the 6/23/21 meeting. Terry Green seconded. Unanimous.

Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the Executive session minutes from the 6/23/21 meeting. Terry Green seconded. Unanimous.

Selectmen:

* Gus Muller and Jessica Matthews, local filmmakers/musicians attended the meeting seeking permission to use a 100-yard section of South County Road to film a scene for their upcoming short film. They anticipate a small crew of about 10-15 people and plan to shoot 1-3 hours on Saturday, July 10, 2021. They will clear the road when any cars need to pass through. Jim will put up some road signage to warn any oncoming traffic. The board saw no issues with this.
* Heidi Dugal brought up for discussion raising the salaries for the Library Director and Assistant Director positions. Library requested rate increases to $18 and $15 per hour for the Director and Assistant Director positions. The Director position requires a degree, and it is difficult to find a qualified candidate for the lower wages. She brought up the question regarding remaining with the state or making the library a “town” library as the state has several requirements. Neil mentioned the library budget had already been approved at town meeting and asked if there was room to increase the wages. Terry felt due to the COVID closures, there was not much spent on salary last year allowing the library to utilize the funds to purchase many necessities. Therefore, it should not be difficult to stay within budget with new increased hourly rates. The Selectmen instructed Christine to run a help wanted ad with new rates of $18/$15 per hour for the positions. Terry will also advertise the positions on a library related site.
* Paul Malinowski attended the meeting seeking information on how to make an offer on a pickup truck the town is no longer using because the motor is blown. Christine stated she will need to check with the state to see if the town has owned it long enough and is able to sell it and if so, she will need to put it out to bid.

Public Comment:

* Heidi Dugal mentioned the school can no longer utilize the shuttle bus due to liability concerns and asked if the Senior Center can use it. Christine replied yes.
* Ron Bosley asked if there are any upcoming properties for auction. Christine was not sure where the Treasurer/Collector currently is in the process.

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Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

* Culverts on Upper Church Road
* Cemetery work
* Ditch work on Tilda Hill Road
* Cutting swales
* Doug on vacation this week. Jim out on Friday, 7/9/21.

Christine Dobbert, Town Administrator:

* EMPG Grant – submitting $2395 in reimbursements to the grant.
* Met with Representative John Barrett who suggested applying for the ARPA Funds. It is recommended to set up a separate interest earning bank account with these funds because what is not spent by year end must be reimbursed back, with interest.
* Scheduled a public informational meeting to be held on July 20, 2021, at 6 pm with Selectboard, Peter Larkin from MBI, Representative Barrett and Wi-Valley representatives. The meeting will take place at the Senior Center as several town residents will most likely attend.
* Followed up with the DEP regarding the issues with the railroad and Central Shaft. The DEP did complete an air quality test which came back ok. Mark at DEP is going to follow up with the railroad to see why the fans are still running 24/7 since the railroad said once the work was completed the fans would only run when a train passes through (as it used to be before the cave in).
* Emailed Scanlon to inquire as to when the town audit would take place.
* Completed the highway department job descriptions for the board to review. Terry is working on the steps to be instituted.
* On vacation July 14, 15, and 16th.

Mike Gleason, Fire Department:

* Mike asked Neil if he had spoken with the building inspector regarding questions about a new fire house. Neil talked with her, and it looks like the building is ok. Mike asked what the next steps are. Neil felt they should take down the size as he does not think a $2-3 million project would pass at the town meeting. Christine will work with the fire department to create various options to present to the town residents showing costs and the effect it would have on tax rates and increases. They agreed to take this fiscal year to gather all data to have ready to present at town meeting next June (2022).

7:03 pm Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and enter Executive Session. Terry Green seconded. Unanimous.

7:28 pm Mike Bedini made a motion to reopen the regular meeting and adjourn at 7:28 pm. Terry Green seconded. Unanimous.