Select Board Meeting

Sept 1, 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, Cindy Bosley, Ron Bosley, Vicki Winchell, Harry Beverly, Eric Vasquez , Jamie Rathbun,

Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the minutes from the 8/18/21 meeting. Terry Green seconded. Unanimous.

Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the Executive session minutes from the 8/18/21 meeting. Terry Green seconded. Unanimous.

Selectmen:

* Mike Bedini made a motion to nominate Harry Beverly as a member of the Veterans Memorial Committee. Terry Green seconded. Unanimous. The position is in effect until the May 2022 election.
* Eric Vasquez gave a two week notice for his highway department position. He is resigning to accept a position with the North Adams DPW. Christine requested a letter in writing from him to be submitted for his employee file. Discussion was held later in the meeting as to replace Eric or not. The board has chosen to leave as is for now. Mike requested Mike Worth attend the next Selectboard meeting to discuss the portion of his job that will be affected by Eric resigning (swapping days at the compactor).
* Mike Bedini made a motion to approve three business licenses for Margo Van Peterson for Rose and Goat Construction, Rose and Goat Retreat and Best of the Berkshire Realty. Terry Green seconded. Unanimous.
* Mike Bedini made a motion to support the easement for placement of an antenna on Borden Mountain by WiValley. Terry Green seconded. Unanimous.
* Mike Bedini made a motion to accept the highway department union contract for a three year period. Terry Green seconded. Unanimous.
  + Historically the highway super is offered the same increases. An offer will be submitted to Jim for his acceptance or refusal.
* EMPG Grant was signed by the board.
* Selectboard signed a Subordination Agreement for Jamie Rathbun stating that the town is the second lien holder in case the house is sold. This was required due to Jamie and Eric refinancing the home.
* Mike inquired as to who decides the out of district tuition costs for students who tuition into the Florida school district. Christine replied the school committee sets the figure. Mike was wondering if tuition could be used for some of the school repairs. Christine replied any funds received go into free cash.

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* Terry informed the other board members that the Library Trustees would like a joint meeting with the Selectboard, School Committee and the Board of Health. She also mentioned the Library Trustees are meeting on September 20, 2021 with the school committee. Christine asked when the new Library staff start. Terry agreed Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 4pm would be the starting date for them. Terry would also like to do a Library Grand Re-Opening on a Saturday. She will discuss with the school committee to decide on a date and will also discuss placement of the memorial bench for Carolyn Cummings.
* Mike Bedini made a motion to accept Misa Chapell as the Library Director and Molly Lewis as the Library Assistant Director. Terry Green abstained. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
* Mike brought in an email received from Lia King of the Wigwam requesting an official from the town be present to speak at an event she is hosting about the significance of the Hoosac Tunnel to the town. Mike and Christine thought they would both be free to attend.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

* Mowing and Brush Hogging
* Wash out on Tilda Hill Road due to swale that overflowed.
* Tree down Monday on River Road
* The beavers at Towers swamp are costing 2-3 men, 6-10 hours of work weekly dealing with them. Jim would like to contact Patrick Connelly to inquire about safely rehoming these animals. Patrick’s cost is $60 per hour for travel time, gas and setting traps or a flat rate of $150 per beaver caught. It is believed a board of health permit is needed and notification to the surrounding areas needs to be done as well. Christine will contact Luke at DCR as the land is bordered with DCR.
  + Mike Bedini made a motion to pursue eradicating the beavers. Terry Green seconded. Unanimous.
* Need to purchase a 16’ utility trailer. Having a proper trailer will cut out 2-2.5 hrs a day of travel time. Mike suggested checking the gate on the trailer to be purchased as some can be flimsy, as well as looking into pricing at Imperial on Route 7 in Brunswick, NY. Some pricing found so far is:
  + Tractor Supply $3200
  + Granite State Trailer.com $3795 plus $150 delivery
  + Company out of CT $5600-$5700
* Truck 2 has a bad starter. There have been 2 guys putting in 32 hours so far working on it and trying to get one badly positioned bolt off of it therefore would like to send the vehicle out for repairs. Jim suggested Delurey’s for the repair to which the board was in agreement on.

Christine Dobbert, Town Administrator:

* MSBA approved to do the school building project of redoing the windows and sills. The cost is estimated at $1,059,000.00. This will now need to go to town meeting to vote to approve the full amount and the MSBA will then reimburse the town a percentage of the costs.

Public Comment:

* Cindy Bosley inquired as to if there is a bylaw regarding how many unregistered cars can be on someone’s property. Christine replied yes there is.

6:59 pm Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn. Terry Green seconded. Unanimous.