

**Select Board
Minutes
June 24, 2014**

Town Hall, 7 pm
Reporter representative

Present: Julie, Peter, Margie, Lisa, JoAnne Mully, Montague

Will Stratford

Will brought in Project Request forms for Chapter 90 expenditures. One of the forms uses state appropriated Rapid Recovery money for unforeseen damage due to a harsh winter and spring. Will will be using the Chapter 90 money from both sources to resurface a section of Amherst Rd. The board signed forms.

The generator at the Safety Complex needs to be replaced. It is a circa 1960 Ford 6 cycle. After a recent breakdown a representative told Will that parts are no longer available. Will got quotes and a new Cummins generator would cost about \$16,000 not including wiring to hook it up which may cost an additional \$2,000. The board asked Margie to see if Jim Field know of any grant possibilities for funding. Will offered to buy it out of the Highway Dept. FY15 budget and get reimbursement at STM in the fall. Margie will check with Brian to see if that is possible.

Gas and diesel bids came in. **Motion: To award the gas bid to O'Connell and the diesel bid to Sandri. Vote: 2-0 in favor.**

Will reviewed materials for a workshop he attended through the Baystate Roads program which dealt with bridges. The state is concerned that a bridge on Shutesbury is experiencing scouring (washing out) of its abutments. Will reviewed the new protocol which includes a highway department employee going to the bridge to observe the water level when NOAA gives a weather report that includes heavy/flooding rain. If the water level is high enough Will is to close the road until the state can conduct an inspection. In order to avoid all of this Will would like to fix the bridge. He is in the process of getting permission from the ConCom and DEP to do so.

Gary Billings

Gary requested replacing Mike Thomas with another part-time employee. **Motion: To appoint Dave Clark to the Police Dept. pending a satisfactory physical at the FY15 rate. Vote: 2-0 in favor.**

Fay Zipkowitz

Fay reported that the state is offering a tick surveillance program to towns. It would cost \$3,000 and no more than 100 ticks could be sent to UMASS for testing for Lyme disease. If an individual were to send a tick in the cost is \$50/tick. Fay and the board could easily see Leverett residents sending in many more than 100 and then later someone else who would like a tick tested is stuck paying \$50. It was agreed to contact Craig Hollingsworth, who recently presented a tick program at the Library to write an educational piece for the Newsletter.

In other BoH news, one of the Biddle properties is in receivership to Tony Witman who the day after the court hearing was seen cleaning the property. He has experience rehabbing dilapidated dwellings.

One Dudleyville Rd. has had a lien put on it for back-taxes. Neighbors reported evidence of the Blinn's moving things out of the house. The BoH will order a completion of Title V if someone is still occupying the house in the next month.

Rich Brazeau (joined the meeting at 8pm)

Rich announced that he will stay on the Selectboard until ATM 2015 and not complete his 3-yr. term. He cited recent health issues, stress, and a letter to the editor of the Montague Reporter as reasons. Rich has devoted much, much time and energy to the many projects which someone will need to follow-up with including: the Sustainability Committee, new Regional School Assessment method, the water systems for the area near the landfill, and Friends of Leverett Pond projects to name a few. He also gave an update for each of the above mentioned projects.

Business:

The minutes of the June 10 meeting were approved as amended adding stronger language to the piece about facilities maintenance.

The Select Board will meet with the Finance Committee for end-of-the year transfers on July 14 at 7pm.

The board accepted and signed the Hazard Mitigation Plan which has been 4 years in the making with MEMA. A final copy will be posted on the town website.

Bob Dean will attend the next Selectboard meeting to discuss the increase in fees through the FRCOG Accounting Program.

Rich will continue to represent the town on the Regional Assessment Committee.

Margie will email the Mayor's for Peace resolution to the Select Board concerning non-nuclear proliferation.

Lisa reported on the Franklin County Regional Dog program. For \$300/yr. the town could join. The main purpose is to provide kennel and adoption services. Lisa will forward to the Dog Officer to see if she is interested.

Re-appointment slips were signed for Town employees (not including School). A discussion ensued about firefighters over the age of 65.

Board and committee re-appointments were made.

Julie asked the board what date would suit everyone for a Selectboard-sponsored Regional School update in preparation for other fall forums. The date of Monday, September 8 was chosen. A CTY message will be sent and flyers hung since there is no Newsletter before that date.

A company proposing net metering contacted Margie. Lisa will give the information the Energy Committee and ask them to report about its suitability for Leverett before the next Sbd. meeting.

The generator bid contract for the fiber buildings was signed.

Motion: To go into executive session to conduct strategy with regard to collective bargaining and litigation and not to return to regular session. Brazeau, aye; d'Ericco, aye; Shively, aye. (9:08 pm).