

Select Board

Minutes

February 3, 2015

Leverett Town Hall, 7 pm

Present: Rich, Julie, Peter, Margie, Lisa Finance Com. Members: Gregg, Tom, Tom David Detmold:
Montague Reporter Resident: JoAnn

The Peace Commission came in and took a picture with the Select Board with a statement signed by the board to be sent to Mayor's for Peace.

Budget Hearings:

Buildings:

John Kuczek presented his budget with 3.5 and 8% reductions as requested. John is hoping to lock in heating oil prices at the current (low) rate and save most of the money that way. It was acknowledged that those dollars will probably go towards the rising cost of electricity. Savings will not be "cut" but left to account for increases in other line items.

John had several capital requests for the buildings. The first was to rehab the old garage. He stated that all 3 public safety departments have equipment stored in the building and that it is falling apart. It needs a new roof, windows and doors and the concrete needs to be repaired. Last year John got a quote for the renovations for \$75,000.

His second request for \$4,600 was for the refinishing of the Town Hall floor in the foyer, the stairs and the upstairs main room.

The last was for a new floor and paint in the Treasurer's Office for \$2,000.

John stated the urgency of a capital program for the Town buildings. This comes up every year at budget hearing time. John stated that although relatively new the buildings are of similar age and will be needing roofs etc. He gave recommendations for air conditioning in the Town Hall for FY'17, a new septic system at Town Hall in FY'18, and a new well for Town Hall in FY'19.

Transfer Station:

Neil Brazeau presented his budget with the above mentioned percentage cuts which were made in the maintenance line item. He felt it was the only place to cut but was reluctant since there is much that needs to be done at the station. He also could make cuts in the number of times he requests hauling for scrap metal.

Neil also had a list of capital requests: new railings are needed at the recycling containers, railings are needed in front of the scrap metal container, the concrete pads need replacing, a new scale is needed (\$10,000) and new windows and a door are needed on the office. Neil has called Will who said the Highway Dept. would help replace the railings at the recycling container but he has not done it yet.

The board agreed that the fee structure may need to be changed to cover these expenses. It appeared from the list that the whole station needs rebuilding.

Neil will be leaving his position in May. The board asked if he could get cost estimates for the capital projects before then so a discussion about the future of the station (vs. trash pick-up) could happen at Town Meeting.

Library:

Ashley Blais gave budgets with reductions in the materials budget. She felt that was the only place to make up the necessary savings. There is a portion of state money that the town could be eligible for if her materials line went up a bit. She explained that since she is getting paid less than the previous Library Director that the town has had to submit a waiver to meet certification requirements of the Board of Library Commissioners. She felt that the CW Mars fee is necessary since without it books can't be borrowed from other libraries and that Leverett does a lot of borrowing.

Business:

The minutes of January 6 were approved as written.

Motion: To appoint Sage Durham and Nevin Murray as Jr. Transfer Station Attendants at the rate of \$14.07/hour pending physicals and work permits. Vote: 3-0 in favor.

The board signed the substantially complete documents from Siemens. They will wait to sign the closeout documents until Siemens has paid TJ Conway and one issue about a valve is addressed.

The following items were signed:

Two requests for reserve fund transfers, FCSWMD certification form, thank you's, Betsy's nomination support letter, Chapter 90 reimbursement.

Roy Kimmel

Roy had heard that there had been discussion about closing the Transfer Station. The board thought that he might like to help research the pros and cons of running, staffing, and maintaining the station vs. hiring trash haulers to pick up trash and recycling. Roy just wanted to tell the board that closing the station is a terrible idea and that they need to pay the people who work there more money.

Neil outlined what he saw as clear benefits of keeping it open including the composting program, reuse of books, clothes, and household items (AKA the Take-It-Or-Leave-It) the construction and bulky item collection and recycling.

The board will work on a survey for the next newsletter to gauge reaction to trash pick-up.

The board discussed the various roles that the Fire Chief holds. With the new chief, the Forest Fire Warden will be incorporated into the chief title. Inspections will stay as they currently are.

Minutes taken by Lisa Stratford.

Meeting adjourned: 9:45 pm.