

Town Notes

2/10/2020

Present: Joe Freeman, Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Brian Jones, Nathan McCann, Gwen Littlefield, Erna Keller, Travis Price, Laura Greeley, and Alyssa Brugger.

Selectmen Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.

Meeting Called to Order 6:00pm

Public Works Director Travis reports roads are plowed and sanded. Steve discusses the importance of having towns own Public Works department both for cost and time savings. Discussion of budget concerns between Selectmen and Travis regarding winter/summer roads. Travis would like the expense total broken down into what that entails. Brian summarizes town would rather overcalculate rather than under, still cheaper than surrounding towns. Selectmen do not want to have roads contracted because then town would be strapped. Steve will be gathering local towns costs for contracted roads. This breakdown and price comparison will be included in town report.

Discussion of the town acquiring the Post Office in 2011, instead of receiving \$800 a year in taxes, the town now receives \$10,000 a year in leasing. That agreement requires town to repair exterior. Post Office heats, plows, and maintains interior.

Citizen Issues: Nathan wondering what penalty would be if someone was "mudding" on public road. Would following through with this stop some of the damage on roads like Mitchell Road. Ron feels this would be difficult to accomplish, the first time would probably be a warning, and then maybe a summons the second time around. Unfortunately, it would be their word versus towns word.

Nathan is asking if town can make proposals to town, Ron explains you can write out a warrant article and put it in front of Selectmen, then it would move on to town meeting. The second option is to go through Town Clerk for a special town meeting.

Treasurer Erna reports next meeting will be Tuesday February 18, 2020 at 6pm. Monday is a holiday; office will be closed. Payroll is \$5,124.54, A/P this week \$6,621.27, ending checkbook balance \$115, 718.06. Next week deputy treasurer would like to take a Notary class, with \$50 fee handled by town. Ron makes motion to approve class and fee, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous. Steve makes motion to approve payroll and A/P warrant, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Town Official Reports: Resident interested in solid waste position, waiting on them to contact Steve.

Planning Board meeting tomorrow, they will be discussing report for town.

Historical Society, two keys- one has access to town office with code, the other is a key for election hall (no alarm system). Town would like to limit access to town office, move Historical work to town election hall. Discussion of making sure heat is turned off after use of election hall.

Parks and Rec. Easter Festivities April 5th will be using election hall.

Ron clarifies cemetery budget for upcoming year, increases are for road repairs and stone repairs.

Old Business: Ron needs to setup a meeting between Freedom Selectmen and town of Montville to finalize plowing bill. Discussion of Unity Area Recycling Center will also be discussed. Steve discusses letter Brian wrote for Sallyanne dedication; Steve had some notes to add, he will discuss writing up something for Sallyanne with Tyler.

Steve developed a spreadsheet for post office showing the profit from town owning and leasing building. Total income for town for a 10-year period: \$77,490.00. Annual lease will be \$10,610 for next 5 years. Brian makes motion to approve lease agreement, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous. This will be included in the town report.

New Business: 2 abatements, town will need to talk with Jackie, will also need to discuss issues with homestead act.

Brian discusses LD1, which deals with cap on property taxes. Brian would like to pursue the LD1 issue, so the town can get some clarification on how the state reaches their numbers.

Town minutes from Sallyanne, Brian would like his translation connected to her original written notes.

Brian makes motion to accept and put on file, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Timberwood Lane amended petition put forth from residence, would like to change status of road to private with foot traffic only, unless written permission from one of the abutting landowners. Couple issues with petition, one is language issues- need to consult lawyer who knows laws, second is two public cemeteries on end of that road. Brian makes a motion to reject putting this article on warrant for 2020 specifically for issues with access to two cemeteries, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Selectmen bring up paving bond, they will explicitly state in warrant that paving bond will be paid by excise tax instead of fund balance for audit/treasury reasons. This will require an article.

Brian, Steve, and Ron will meet Friday morning (2/14/20) at 8am to review warrants for town report. Ron makes motion to recess meeting until 2/14/20 to finalize warrants for town report, Brian seconds motion. Unanimous.

Meeting recessed until Feb. 14th at 8:30am.