

2017 - Minutes of March 6, 13, 20, 27 Meetings

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2017

6:30 PM: Open meeting. Quorum present: Curt Wilton (CW), Chair; Earl Moffatt (EM); Peter Skorput (PS). Also present: Admin Asst Mark Webber (AA). Press present: Local Yokel.

Board reviews and approves previous meeting minutes.
Board reviews and approves weekly warrants.

6:50 PM: CW opens the regular portion of the meeting.

CW notes that all Surplus Equipment bids are in order after reviewing last week's bid opening.

EM makes a motion to award, as high bidder, Troy's Garage, the used Chevy pick-up truck at \$277.00. PS seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

EM makes a motion to award, as high bidder, Troy's Garage, the used Kubota tractor at \$3,077.00. PS seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

CW notes that the used Council on Aging (COA) van was accidentally hit by a highway vehicle while in storage following the closing of bids. CW furnishes a repair estimate from a local body shop in the amount of \$1,473.20. Discussion follows as to whether to repair the damage and ship it off to auction or offer it to the high bidder without making repairs. Board decides to offer it as is to the high bidder at his submitted bid before making a decision.

7:00 PM: Chief of Police Marc Portieri gives his monthly update to the Board. Chief introduces part-time police officer candidate Jacob Stringer. Mr. Stringer currently is a part time officer in Lenox and Stockbridge and has all required certifications and training. Additionally, he has Fire Academy training. EM makes a motion to appoint Mr. Stringer as a part-time police officer through the period ending June 30, 2017. PS seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0. Officer Stringer is instructed to be sworn in by the Town Clerk before beginning work. Chief Portieri proposes a new parking ticket system, which is the product of Plymouth County Cooperative and is used by multiple cities and towns across the state. Currently, local parking tickets are treated as a non-criminal disposition matter and are largely ignored. With the new system, offenders would have their license and registration renewals flagged if the fines are not paid. There would be no additional cost to the Town and the Town would receive the ticket revenues. Board is interested but wishes to research the program further before agreeing. Chief states that he will be meeting with Turnpark owners in the next week to try and get a sense of their level of activity once they open for business this year. Chief has scheduled intermittent overnight shifts to cover early morning speeders through town and for school bus safety.

Other business/discussion/action items:

- CW will coordinate with Foresight Engineering and Maxymillian and the W.S. ConsCom for the repair of the Shaker Mill Dam retaining wall. Work will be conducted under a 30-day emergency order.
- Parks and Recreation member Roland Dudney presents the Committee's FY 2018 budget and capital items request. A fence between the Village School outdoor basketball court and parking area is discussed to address safety concerns. Mr. Dudney notes that he has a previous proposal estimate for the fence and that there is adequate balance in the current year budget to cover the cost. Board agrees to go ahead with installing the fence. Board also agrees to allow Parks and Recreation to submit a grant application for new playground equipment at the Village School. Board thanks Mr. Dudney for his efforts.
- CW recuses himself from the Selectmen's role and leaves the table and presents the FY 2018 Highway Department budget to the Board. No action is taken, as the Board and FinCom will be reviewing all budget submittals during the month of March.
- AA reports that the Town's annual audit is underway and that the auditors will be in Town of and on for the next 3 weeks.
- Board has a general discussion about staffing at the Transfer Station. Board of Health is in charge of operations and staffing and is addressing temporary help options.

- Board continues last meeting's discussion on the W.S. Fire Department services study and recommendations. CW asks to review the current new member application and process of appointing new members. Following discussion, AA will draft an updated version for review at future meeting. CW thanks Peter for furnishing required insurance forms filled out by roster so that there is an accurate accounting of active members in the event of an accident. Peter then explains the hiring process for new members. Six-month probation is standard. Recruits are required to pass Fire Safety training and are observed by the Chief during the probation period. No recruit is exposed to dangerous situations until the Chief is satisfied that they are capably trained. CW states that he is trying to help Peter with improving the Department by addressing the recommendations of the Municipal Resources Inc (MRI) study. CW stresses that paperwork and record keeping are important. CW would like to meet new recruits when they are appointed so that they feel involved. CW suggests monthly updates to the Selectmen from the Chief, just as the Chief of Police currently does. Peter will follow up with required NIMS 100 and 700 on line training of all members. CW notes that progress is being made in response to the MRI report. Peter notes that two new members are currently in training. CW addresses MRI recommendation of simultaneous notification of area Departments to improve response numbers and time. CW asks Peter to contact Richmond, Alford, Stockbridge and any other abutting Departments to discuss simultaneous notification on calls and report back to the Board with his findings. CW notes that public safety is the Board's primary concern and that he and the Board is not interested in micromanaging the Department. Peter notes that Engine 1 is the subject of some manufacturer's recalls which are being addressed.

9:00 PM: There being no further business to come before the Board, EM makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. PS seconds the motion. Vote taken , 3-0 in favor.

Meeting minutes approved by:

Curt Wilton, Chair

Earl Moffatt

Peter Skorput

Date: _____