

2019 - Minutes of February 6, 20 Meetings

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes February 6, 2019

6:30 PM: Open Meeting
Quorum present: Bernie Fallon (BF); Chair; Peter Skorput (PS); Doane Perry (DP). Also present: AdminAsst Mark Webber (AA). No press present. Meeting is being broadcast on local access cable channel 190.

Board reviews and approves previous meeting minutes as corrected.
Board reviews and approves weekly payroll and vendor warrants.

6:50 PM: BF opens the regular part of the meeting by welcoming Highway Superintendent Curt Wilton (CW). CW wishes to create dedicated positions in his department, specifically: foreman; mechanic and; equipment operator. Currently, the three highway employees are without titles and CW feels it is important to establish responsibilities, a chain of command and the makings of a succession plan once he retires. CW would like to name Jamie Boyer as foreman with John Lyford as mechanic and Zach Levesque as equipment operator. All would still share the normal workload and activities but would have specific duties and responsibilities as well. Formal job descriptions are being developed. BF and Board approve of the new structure and note that organizational structure is important. Board further notes that the Police Department recently established a chain of command as well. CW adds that he has a very strong crew and wishes to retain them and prevent 'poaching' from other municipal highway departments.

CW informs the Board that he has been in discussion with his counterpart in Richmond regarding the joint purchase of a small excavator to be shared by the two towns. Each town spends several thousand dollars a year renting this type of equipment and the purchase of a shared unit would pay for itself in less than five years. The useful life of this machine would be a minimum of 15 years. CW states that the purchase proposal has been well received by the Richmond selectmen and, with the Board's blessing, will develop budget figures for the spring annual town meeting. The Board unanimously support the proposal and notes that the two highway departments have been working cooperatively over the years. CW adds that this arrangement wouldn't work with non-abutting towns or those that haven't fostered good relationships.

Other business/discussion/action items:

- DP and CW discuss their recent viewing of the area along the Williams River beginning at the Harris St. bridge and ending at the sewer treatment plant on Moscow Rd. DP notes that the area would make for a pleasant recreational area and may boost utilization of that quadrant of downtown when combined with the pending purchase of approximately 3 acres of National Grid land adjacent to Moscow Rd. DP notes that a large section of the area is shown as a single parcel which is currently in tax title and will eventually become property of the Town and that a river walk/recreational area might be the highest and best use for the property. DP and CW will continue to develop plans for the area.
- BF makes a motion to move forward with joint discussions with the Richmond Board of Selectmen for the purpose of developing a shared town administrator position. PS seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor. A joint meeting among the two boards is tentatively scheduled for February 20th.
- Resident Adam Boscarino addresses the Board regarding a proposal for a runner's road race in Town tentatively scheduled for May 4th. The race would be sponsored by Berkshire Running Center and would be a fund raiser for the Town's Parks and Recreation department. The event would also complement Adam's National Honor Society activities. Board gives its support to the race and asks Adam to meet with the Chief of Police to coordinate activities and race route and to report back to the Board at a future meeting.

7:55 PM: With all other business finalized, BF makes a motion to enter executive session per MGL Ch 30A, Sec. 21(a)(1)..."to discuss complaints or charges against a public officer" and not to return to open session upon its completion. DP seconds the motion. Voice vote taken: BS, aye; DP, aye; PS, abstain.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Meeting minutes approved by:

Bernie Fallon, Chair

Peter Skorput

Doane Perry

Date: _____