

## **Minutes**

### **May 20, 2013**

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. Ron, Chris and Clem were present.

Public Feedback: There have been several complaints about the condition of dirt roads after the recent grading. Kanokolus, Cross, Stagecoach and Town Farm Roads are very muddy with bad ruts. After the roads were graded, we had a heavy rain storm. They will all need to be graded again at the grader operator's expense.

Barry McCormick reported that his recent Customer Appreciation Weekend was a huge success. There were no issues at all. It was brought to the Selectmen's attention that there were a few trucks parked in the "No Parking" zone along Depot Street. Barry said that he wasn't aware of the situation and would have talked to the vehicles owners if he had been.

Barry reported that a Subway restaurant will be located in his store in the near future. A resident from Troy at the meeting was concerned about corporate stores coming to town, not franchises, but corporate stores like Family Dollar. Selectmen reported that the Land Use Committee and Comprehensive Plan Committees are reviewing the ordinances and Comp Plan, and that concern will likely be addressed. He feels that it's important to keep the rural character of Unity.

Barry feels that it's important to keep in mind that Unity doesn't want to drive business away.

Barry also wondered what is being done about the remains of the burned house on Main Street. Selectmen will talk to Charlie Porter on what is being done and what can be done to take care of the debris.

A resident from Troy at the meeting questioned why the Selectmen didn't keep the old high school, renovate it and make it the town office, rather than tear it down. Selectmen reported that they had asked the 3 engineers that bid on the town office project about renovating the old building. The engineers all estimated the project to be near half a million dollars to rehabilitate the building. It's not ADA compliant, there is lead and asbestos that needs to be removed.

Selectmen reviewed and accepted minutes from 5/6/2013 meeting.

Selectmen reviewed account balances. Checkbook is still very low.

Selectmen reviewed and signed Warrant #9 for \$37,283.13.

Old Business: The Town has received the deed for the old high school. An environmental company is coming this week to assess the lead and asbestos in the building. A report will be issued on their findings within 7-10 days. A timeline will be established for progress on the new town office.

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Land Use Ordinance Committee is making progress on their task.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee is working on developing a RFP as a step to “hiring” a consultant to work on the CP with them. The Committee appointed Don Newell as their chairman. Emily Newell and Chia Murdock are co-chairs of the committee. At this point they are brainstorming on what they like about Unity, what direction the town needs to go in, what needs to be changed. They will also be developing a timeline to chart their progress.

Road Work: We have received a bid from someone that mows roadsides. The Selectmen will contact him to do the roadsides this year.

Chris will contact Clyde Rolerson to see if he can spread calcium on our dirt roads after the grading is completed.

Farley & Son received the letter from the Selectmen about terminating their contract. They wanted to know why the contract was terminated, what they could have done better.

The Winter Roads Maintenance specs are being reviewed by the Selectmen prior to the bid notice being advertised again. They will make changes/recommendations on the specs.

Some small maintenance projects on the roads will be started in the near future.

New Business: Selectmen engaged Boyd Snowden for the engineering services for the new town office. The contract was signed at the meeting.

Selectmen reviewed and signed the General Obligation Bond paperwork for borrowing \$250,000 for the new town office. Camden National Bank had the lowest interest rate of 2.25% for 10 years.

Selectmen signed the District Budget Validation Referendum Warrant & Notice of Election for the upcoming June 11<sup>th</sup> vote.

There was a discussion of the effect of the school budget on the 2013 mil rate. There are several “unknowns” at this point, what the State will be doing with Revenue Sharing & Homestead Exemptions, what the assessors will pick up for new valuations this summer, etc. That being said, using last year’s valuations and Revenue Sharing & Homestead figures, the mil rate would increase from 11.75 to 12.67. *This is the worst case scenario.* It is not an accurate figure. Only speculation.

Selectmen appointed Barry McCormick to replace Robert Esposito as a member of the Planning Board.

Selectmen agreed to allow Paula Maxim to give swimming lessons at Kanokolus Beach again this year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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