

Minutes

Selectmen's Meeting

March 1, 2016

Opening:

Meeting opened at 6:37 p.m. People present were:

Selectmen: Chris R., Penny S. & Emily N.

Employee: Samantha

Guests: Tony Avila, Charles Schaeffer, Dan McCormick & RSU #3 Superintendent, Paul Austin

Public Feedback: None

Minutes: The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted as amended.

"PERC stated that Fiberight is doing a smear campaign."

"In Emily's opinion, it looks like MRC is waging a smear campaign against PERC."

Treasurer: Account balances were reviewed and accepted as amended. Noting that the total balance at the bottom was incorrect and has been corrected to reflect the total non-budgeted amount spent ytd is \$5,064.73 and the ytd budgeted expenses total spent is \$38,679.61.

Old Business:

Roads- Emily discussed different options and costs regarding possible road work. She is trying to anticipate voter needs and inquiries. She received and relayed some possible loan information. To take out a \$1.5 million loan at 2.38% over 6 ½ years, the Town would pay \$121,000. in interest with the repayment of \$250,000. a year. There are still some questions about the actual amount of work that needs to be done (i.e.: what is the condition of the base of the roads). If the Town does not take a loan: at \$270,000. A year road work could extend out to the year 2021 assuming that everything runs smoothly as planned and on time. Emily is trying to gather as much information as possible to share with the Townspeople so that they can decide what the best route to take for our roads is.

Chris has been asked if individuals can have the "fill" from doing culvert and/road work this summer. He has suggested that the contractor's have a release form in their trucks so that if they are asked for the materials that they and the Town would be released from any and all liabilities. Samantha will look into to finding such a form and having it ready for the summer crews.

Tax Acquired Properties- Of the 4 parcels that were tax acquired in January, only one has not been brought to a resolution yet. We are waiting for specific wording from MMA before proceeding to the next step.

New Business:

- The Selectmen unanimously approved a request for a CMP town pole permit.
- The Selectmen unanimously approved a liquor license for Unity College.
- The Selectmen unanimously approved signing a Quit Claim Deed for the Dalzell property, Map 15, Lot 9-1.
- Samantha informed the Selectmen that the Dept. of Motor Vehicles plan on changing the way registrations are printed. The Town should look into purchasing a laser printer for

the upcoming change. The State is not providing printers or funding for printers at this time.

Comprehensive Plan/ Land Use- Chris suggested that we should collect all of the information from the 2 committees together and send out for an RFP to finally conclude the work so that the Comp Plan and the Land Use Ordinance can go to the voters. He said that right now, it doesn't seem as though any work is being done. So if all of the data can be gathered and something put together that it a good compromise, perhaps it would be something that the voters could approve. He thinks it may take additional funds. Emily believes that there is already enough funding in place because there are still some available billable hours with Planning Decisions as well as what was not expended in the 2015 budget. Both Emily and Penny suggested working with KVCOG instead of sending out for an RFP.

Superintendent Paul Austin- The Superintendent came to introduce himself to the Selectmen. He wants everyone to know that he has an open door policy and encourages people to go and talk to him regarding their questions and concerns. He said he knows and understands that the towns are already burden with a high tax bill and that he had hoped to not have a greater than 1% increase to the school budget this year. However, he said that the money that is supposed to come from the State continues to be less. Therefore, the municipal portion of the school bills will likely go up approx. 5.73% but that he didn't know what the exact dollar figure for Unity would be. Emily estimated about a \$6,000/month increase to Unity. Paul said there were a couple of LD bills that are stalled out in Augusta that might offer some additional school funding. Emily asked him to give her that information. Penny asked about the low student performance numbers. Why is Mt. View ranked 95th out of 135 schools? Why aren't students prepared to enter college? Why are students who don't do their homework or attend regularly given an extra week for catch up while tax payers are paying for "Exploratory Week" which sends students skiing and dancing and cooking for a week instead of being in school? Paul said the RSU3 is trying to fight disengagement. Therefore, we try to get them in to school. Chris talked about the lack of "skills training" for the students. The kids just aren't being taught skills that will benefit them beyond school. This is a problem that is affecting today's workforce. Emily asked about distant learning to help with the capacity issues. Right now it is working well for adult education but it has not been offered to the students yet.

Other Business:

Emily has suggested sitting down with the Budget Committee regarding obtaining loans for the road work. She wants to reiterate that the "loan" for the work and "what roads" get the work are two separate matters. Right now, we just need to see if a loan is the right thing for the town.

Penny wants to have a discussion about an Article in the Maine Townsman regarding the use of email and social media. The misuse of electronic media by someone who represents the Town can be a big liability. She stated that "one must be very careful in what one writes for the public to see". It is important to note that even if someone is using their "private" account, if somehow they are using it to represent the town in any way then it is no longer private. Penny thinks that the Selectmen should consider adopting a policy that would extend to the volunteer members of boards and committees to reduce town liability.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35