

Minutes

Selectmen's Meeting

March 15, 2016

Opening:

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. People present were:

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

Employee: Samantha

Guests: Tony Avila, Charles Schaeffer, Bill Allen, Ted Swanson, Dick Booth and Billy Smith

Public Feedback: None

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

Treasurer: Account balances were reviewed and accepted.

Old Business:

- Dennis took care of a culvert wash out on Town Farm Road.
- The Selectmen will use social media to inform the residents on Waning Road that the cutting will be going on again this year. They should have all received a letter last year regarding the same thing and this is a continuance of it. People will still have the choice to keep the wood or donate it.
- Emily presented a rough draft of what it will cost to repair some of the roads. Charlie S. noted that the summer roads budget is only about 1/7th of what it will actually cost to do some of the work. Penny stated that if the voters approved the Town getting a \$1.5 million loan that we would not change the summer roads budget and that we should continue to plan to do 25 miles of road each year. Bill A. said that if we are going to do the roads then we need to make sure that we do them right. He advocated for black top. These estimates don't include the cost of engineers. Dick B. said that the bridge on Berry Rd. needs a guardrail. Dick is retired from DOT and recommends a tri-rail and standard post. He strongly urged that the town contact Waldo County DOT maintenance and see if we could get some help with it. The Selectmen acknowledge that there are sidewalks that are in need of repair.
- Penny met with Tammy from CMP. There will be a LED white light at the corner of Main St. and School St. A light is going to be added to the pole at the intersection of Main St. and Depot St. The light where the old funeral home was being getting changed to a larger LED. It is \$10 more per month to rent but it is cheaper in energy costs. Tony asked about motion detecting technology in order to save on energy costs. Emily noted that it would need to be sensitive enough to be able to detect humans as well as vehicles. Penny also said that she was looking at getting a quote to see about putting in a red/yellow blinking light at Rt 220 and Depot St.

New Business:

- Emily is still working on a couple of articles for the Town Meeting Warrant but expects to have them ready by Friday.
- Bill A. Spoke about MOFGA and The Unity College being tax exempt and he feels that they should pay their fair share. He said that the additional people using the town resources including roads and the fire department. He said that these are multimillion dollar businesses and that the taxpayers are paying the “freight” for all of the extra people. Both of these entities pay taxes to Thorndike and they should pay a portion to Unity. The PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) is a nice gesture but it isn’t required and it isn’t enough. It is nice to have the college here but they continue to build and expand without paying anything to the town. We wouldn’t have to borrow money for roads if those two places paid their fair share. Only the bar and pizza places are benefitting from them.
- Bill Smith spoke the Selectmen regarding the property that was tax acquired in 2014. He lost his property to tax foreclosure because he had made some bad decisions. After the incident with his girlfriend who had passed away he said that everything just went downhill. He said that it has sentimental value as his grandmother had given it to him in 1985. He has married since then. He and his new wife owns 3 other properties. He said that he could pay all that is owed to the town tomorrow. The Selectmen will research the situation before making a decision.
- MRC/Fiberight vs PERC: There is a lot of information out there. Emily says that MRC has had the best interest of the municipalities. She is inclined to stay with MRC. PERC doesn’t offer any protection for us with MRC. If we go with PERC then we will be making future selectmen keep a constant check on PERC instead of being under the umbrella of MRC. This issue is going to be put on the town warrant for the voters to decide. Emily thought perhaps there could be a citizen group who would like to really research this and figure out what all of the details are.

Other Business: None

Meeting Adjourned: 7:40pm