Select Board Meeting

May 13, 2020

6:00 pm meeting called to order by Ericka.

Select Board members present: Ericka Oleson, and Neil Oleson.

Select board members absent: Mike Bedini

Others present: Christine Dobbert, Vicki Winchell.

Ericka made a motion to approve the minutes from the 3/18/20 meeting. Neil seconded. Unanimous.

Christine Dobbert, Town Administrator:

* Budget Review Fiscal Year 2021
  + Salaries increased slightly on several board positions. Most have been level funded for several years.
  + Snow, Roads and Bridges is up slightly for FY21. This account did not deficit spend this year.
  + School Repairs: The only large scale project is to repoint and seal the bricks outside of the school.
  + Stabilization Account: Adding $300,000 into the account in FY21. This brings the account close to $2 million dollars (approximately $1.9 million)
  + Town Administrator Salary: Proposed a 3 year contract with the first year salary to be increased to $55,000 per year to fall in line with other area Town Administrator salaries. Year 2 and 3 would then see a 2% increase per year.
* Covid-19: There are no COVID-19 related expenses for the town therefore no claims to submit to the state for reimbursement.
* There will not be a Selectmen Meeting held on May 27, 2020.
* Presented the Town Election Warrant to be signed in preparation for posting the warrant. Both Neil and Ericka signed the warrant.
* Highway Union Contract: Union representative will be attending the June 24, 2020 Selectmen meeting for contract negotiations. The following addendums have been updated for review at the June 24th meeting:
  + Section 5.8 - Summer hours will include (4) 10 hour work days. If a holiday falls during that week the holiday is paid at 8 hours then the employee must use 2 hours of vacation time to make up the difference.
  + Section 5.1 - defined normal work day hours
  + Section 15.4 - clarified sick time; all employees after 1 year earn sick time. It is to be prorated for less service time. Discussions need to be made on reviewing buyout of sick time however.
* Christine recommends Highway employees review a $35 per month stipend to be used for their personal cell phone expenses vs the town paying their cell phone contracts.

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Christine Dobbert, Town Administrator (continued):

* Salt Shed Repair Proposals: Two bids were received. Anthony Arigoni submitted a bid for $2600 and Danny Clark submitted a bid for $2100. Although Mr. Arigoni’s bid was slightly higher the Selectmen agreed to award the job to him because he has done other projects for the town in the past with excellent quality
* Avin Grid would like to have the Selectmen sign a Memo of Understanding. Ericka recommended waiting to sign this until the annual town meeting to be certain the town has voted to approve the funds.
* National Grid has requested a pole hearing to install 2 poles on Bliss Road. A hearing date has been set for the June 10, 2020 Selectmen meeting.
* Commonwealth Choice power supply aggregation plan will be from 11/20/20 through 11/20/2023. The new rate will be .09603 per KW hr, a drop from 11 cents. The new rate will be locked in for residents for 3 years. There is also a greener choice residents can opt in that is at a rate of .13217 per KW hr.
* MIIA Insurance agreement signed for Fiscal Year 2021. Costs are approximately the same as last year, $48,511.
* Christine sent a letter out stating WI-Valley is an essential business.
* A-1 Septic bought the Paver for $6000.
* A $6600 incentive has been received from National Grid for the LED turnover.

Highway Department (as reported by Christine Dobbert, Town Administrator):

* Warner Brothers has offered to extend their contract so they can do River Road for approximately $40,000. A cost much less than normal.
* Blackstone Road: A culvert collapsed. Jim was able to contact Berkshire Regional Planning and ordered extra culverts so as to fix the Blackstone culvert and have extra on hand.
* Painting will take place this week.
* Fixing the railing at town hall to the side door that is rotted.

Selectmen:

* Review of Fiscal Year 2021 budget. Neil would like to talk to the school regarding questions for their budget. He would also like to know the number of Florida resident students attending Drury, McCann, Bart and any other area schools. As well as the number of Florida residents attending the Gabriel Abbott Pre-School program vs the number of school choice/tuition students and how many teachers and aids there are working at Gabriel Abbott Memorial School. The Selectmen have asked Christine to invite the Superintendent and Business Manager to attend a budget meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 5pm.

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Selectmen (continued):

* Ericka discussed the wants of the Highway department to purchase the same type of tractor that was being used belonging to Doug Miller. It is recommended to look into renting one vs purchasing one outright at this time due to the costs. Christine will review the possibility of renting the tractor from Doug Miller and drawing up a rental agreement to use his tractor when needed. All parties will also keep a lookout for one to purchase at a good price in the future.
* Ericka made a motion to appoint Alice Perkins for Inspector of Animals. Neil Second. Unanimous.
* Agreement signed by Neil and Ericka agreeing for Colonial Power Group to be the management of the town power supply.
* Review of a letter of intent from Select willing to go into agreement with the town asking for a proposal on Bliss Road for Solar Array. Selectmen would like Christine to invite them to a future meeting in June to discuss this further in person.
* Selectmen reviewed a request from Derrick Shoester, Berkshire Regional Planning that is being brought public by Franklin County trying to get Route 2 nominated as a National Scenic Byway. Ericka and Neil signed the letter showing their support for this cause.
* Selectmen reported a letter of resignation from Keisha Wissman, resigning from the school.
* Corrected Warrants signed.

7:05 p.m. Ericka motioned to adjourn the meeting. Neil seconded. Unanimous.