Select Board Meeting

June 10, 2020

6:00 pm meeting called to order by Neil.

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

Select board members absent: None

Others present: Cindy Bosley, Ron Bosley, Jim White, Mike Tatro, Stephanie Pare, Christine Dobbert and Vicki Winchell

Ericka Oleson made a motion to approve the minutes from the 5/20/20 meeting. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.

Ericka Oleson made a motion to appoint Cindy Bosley to the BRTA Advisory Board. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous. Cindy accepted this position.

Selectmen:

* Neil announced the heating oil for the town has been locked in at $1.5641 and the Diesel is $1.89 plus $0.24 MA road tax.
* Mike Tatro, National Grid representative appeared on behalf of a property owner requesting to add 2 additional poles on Bliss Road to extend the line further down a property. The customer will be going underground from the pole to the building.
  + Ericka made a motion to accept the proposed pole hearing for Bliss Road. Mike Seconded. Unanimous.
* Mike questioned a discussion he wanted clarified that was had while he was absent from a prior meeting regarding renting equipment from a town employee for clarification.
* Mike inquired as to whether Christine was able to get out the letter to the Railroad regarding the excessive air and noise pollution and at the newly repaired Central Shaft Road location. She stated she has not been able to get it out yet but will get it completed this week.
* Mike requested the town check into what would be required to purchase American flags to hang on the poles in town, as so many other towns currently do. Christine will check with National Grid to see if there is any permissions needed by them.
* Neil asked Christine to check into burial rules regarding spreading ashes in Massachusetts.
* Selectmen reviewed Christine’s contact. Ericka made one correction for a typo.
  + Ericka made a motion to accept the agreement for Town Administrator for Fiscal Year 2021 through 2023. Mike Seconded. Unanimous.

Christine Dobbert, Town Administrator:

* An email was received from the Library announcing curbside pickup is opening at the Library. Christine requested guidelines be put in place. She would like the Library personnel to meet with the Selectboard and Board of Health to discuss guidelines and protocols that the Library will put in place to ensure all obligations put forth by the state are in place.

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Christine Dobbert, Town Administrator (continued):

* Stephanie Pare has resigned from Finance Committee as she has accepted the position of director Pupil Services position.
* Annual Town Meeting is all set.
* New voting booths have been ordered and will hopefully delivered in time for the next election. Eight hundred Golf pencils were also ordered for the election so that each person could take it with them to avoid contamination.
* Annual Town Report is almost completed.

Jim White, Highway Supervisor:

* Shingles on the compactor shed need to be replaced. Proposal presented to be done in FY 2021.
* Fixed swale on Whitcocmb Hill that was causing some erosion.
* Replaced culvert by Fran Bergendahl’s home.
* Fixed culvert on Blackstone Road
* Repaired catch basin from Tim Keating’s property to Lookout
* Mowing done on side roads
* Paving on Tunnel completed
* Burial for Boillet done today.
* Highway department has chosen to remain on the normal 5-day, 8-hour work week schedule vs the summer schedule done in the past of a 4-day, 10-hour work week.
* Salt shed shingles have seen their age and need to be replaced. It will need to go out to bid. Christine will put together the information.

Public Comment:

* Cindy Bosley asked for a broad band meeting update.
  + She brought up some of the issues that she has heard people are having with the new broadband system. Specifically, the fact that some are being told to cut down trees (at their own cost) to get better signals and/or to install their own poles. Some feel the problem is getting worse as the foliage grows in, yet at other times people were told the foliage should not be a problem as line of sight does not affect service. She mentioned that it was never said that the residents would need to pay for these costs.
  + Cindy also requested the town keep an eye on the speeds and ensure that they are providing the speeds they contracted for before any final payment is made. She questioned contract payments. Christine stated the town has paid Phase 1 and is about to pay off on Phase 2. There are 4 phases. The service must hit 25/3 to be paid at the end of the phases. Cindy was also concerned that people are not getting the maximum speeds they have signed up for but are getting billed for those speeds.
  + Christine informed everyone the next Broad Band meeting is July 9, 2020.

6:57 pm Ericka made a motion to adjourn regular meeting and move into executive session with meeting closing from executive session. Mike seconded. Unanimous.