

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 3, 2015

Present: Jim Ameden, Steve Prouty, Paul Gordon, Cathy Aragi, Wayne Blanchard, Kevin Beattie, Duane Hart, GNAT TV, Tina Labeau, Everett Hammond, Kelly Pajala, Mallory Hopkins (Chester Telegraph), Sharon Crossman, Bruce Frauman, Melvin Twitchell, Chris Blackey, Travis, Oliver Olsen

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

**Additions and deletions to the agenda-** None

**Correspondence-** The following correspondence was passed around: Newsletter from Valley Cares, Inc., recycling correspondence, application for a solar project, DEC application letter, Policing committee letters

**Announcements-** None

**Pay orders-** Pay orders were signed.

### Visitors and Concerned Citizens

**Everett Hammond, project engineer for the Lowell Lake Road culvert-** Everett showed some photos of the almost completed project.

Change Order #1 changes the guardrails to a box beam type and adds a cost of \$5070 to the contract amount. A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve and sign Change Order #1.

Electrical conduit- There was an electrical wire through the old culvert that supplied power to the adjacent barn. Everett recommends that a power line not be put under the road to replace it. The board agreed and Kevin will convey to the landowner that the electrical wire will not be replaced under the road.

If everything goes well this week, the road should be open for the weekend. There will still need to be a shortterm closure to install the guardrails.

**Main Street road closure on Halloween-** Members of the Champion Fire Co. and Chris Blackey from the Baptist Church asked the board about closing Main Street during the "Trunk or Treat" event sponsored by the two organizations. The proposed closure would be 5-8 PM on Halloween. The board agreed to the road closure. Champion and the church will handle signage. We will put out notice of the closure in advance.

### Town Officials Business-

**Community Resilience Organization report-** Bruce Frauman reported on the activities and direction of efforts of the committee. The first organized meeting was held on July 14<sup>th</sup>. They are working on assessing the community's ability to respond to a large scale emergency.

**Planning Commission and After the Flood group-** Sharon Crossman spoke in behalf of the two groups. She reported on meeting with the Carltons, who own property adjacent to the former Barker property. She asked whether the selectboard supports moving ahead with efforts on the "Buyout #2 and #3" projects (former Barker, Morris, and Baccash properties). Jim asked if the plan is still the same as what was voted down by the board at the 6/15 meeting. Sharon responded that changes have been made in response to input from the Parks Board and others. Jim also stated that he feels that the location of the Barker/Morris properties is not a good place for traffic getting on and off Rte. 11 and is close to Williams Park.

Paul spoke in favor of proceeding with some form of improvements and made a motion to proceed with the “Buyout #2” (Barker/Morris) project with changes recently made by the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded. Cathy made a motion to amend the motion to remove bench(es) from the plan. Cathy’s motion to amend was not seconded and was dropped. Paul’s original motion was defeated with a vote of two yes and three no.

A motion was made and seconded to proceed with “Buyout #3” (Baccash), with the pine trees removed and the bench removed from the plan. The motion was passed with a vote of four yes and Paul voting no.

Sharon confirmed with the board that the Buyout #2 project won’t be going forward and the grant award should be returned to the funder.

**Minutes-** Minutes of July 20<sup>th</sup> and revised minutes of June 15<sup>th</sup> were unanimously approved and signed.

## **Roads and bridges-**

**Overweight permits-** Applications from William E. Dailey and TAM, Inc. were unanimously approved.

**Better Back Roads project on West River Street-** The board discussed the question about the need to obtain local zoning permits for culvert replacements in the Flood Hazard Area. The bylaws are written to comply with federal floodplain requirements. Oliver Olsen spoke to the importance of complying with federal requirements. The Town will look into whether an exemption can be created for replacing highway culverts. A motion was made and unanimously passed to sign the Better Back Roads agreement for the above project.

**Underground storage tank-** Duane advised the board that new requirements are being put into place regarding testing and maintenance.

Duane informed the board that he wants to plan on going to the VLCT Town Fair in October.

**Transfer Station-** The septage field haying is completed.

**Liquor Board-** None

## **Old business-**

**Policies, job descriptions, and ordinances-** The board agreed that a special work meeting needs to be held to make progress. A meeting is scheduled for next Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

**Town Administrator position-** Paul read a draft of an advertisement for the position. A motion was made and unanimously passed to move ahead with advertising.

**Champion lease agreement-** The Town is still waiting to hear from Champion about the draft agreement. The agreement was tabled until next meeting.

## **New Business-**

**Policing committee-** The board agreed by consensus on the following eight citizens for the committee: Marge Fish, Wendy Arace, Maryann Morris, Peter Pagnucco, Joel Kuhlberg, Neal McIntyre, Duane Hart, and Rusty Rosenthal. For the ninth person, a motion was made and seconded to name Mike Arace. Some concern was expressed about naming two persons in the same family to the committee. After discussion

the motion was passed with four yes and Cathy no. The board agreed by consensus to name two alternates: Darcy Duval and Steve Lyon.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to name the above nine persons and two alternates to the committee.

**Town properties oversight-** Cathy presented an idea for oversight of town properties. The board will further discussion at a future meeting.

**Engineering and floodwater study agreement for 2331 North Main Street-** The board signed the agreement with Eckman Engineering.

**Wood Heat Initiative-** The board verified that the Town doesn't have an interest in heating town buildings with wood at this time.

**Genser closing signature authority-** The board verified that Kevin would have signature authority at an upcoming closing on the Annex property.

**Dry hydrant at the mill pond-** Jim asked if the Town would put No Parking signs around the hydrant.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18.