

Town of Mercer
Municipal Officer's Meeting Minutes (draft)
June 25, 2020

Meeting Opens: 6:02

Present: 1st MO Ricky Parlin, 2nd MO Gary Mosher, 3rd MO Dari Hurley, Yolanda Violette (Town Clerk, Treasurer, Tax Collector), Tammy Lamphere (Minutes)

Residents: Mike B, Barbara Van Burgel

Guest: Joe Lewandowski (winter plow contractor)

Citizens Inquiry: None

Old Business:

-For The Record:

-A workshop was held on June 4, 2020 at 3:15 pm. Items for discussion were culverts, The Burr's commercial tax question, ditching and brush cutting the road sides.

A workshop was held on June 18, 2020 at 2:30 pm. Item discussed was culvert contracts. At 3:00 pm, there was a meeting held at Pond Road with Charlie Baeder and Travis Warren discuss upcoming work. A workshop was held on June 23, 2020 at 3:15. Items discussed were tax commitment information. Harriet Varney, Yolanda Violette, Ricky Parlin, Dari Hurley and Gary Mosher. Highlights of workshops will be included in the minutes.

-**Winter Roads Update:** Joe Lewandowski brought in a copy of Liability Insurance. The winter contract has been signed by all 3 MO and Joe.

-**Assessing:** Discussion was held on increasing the base lot by \$2000.00 or raising the mil rate 2 points. Yolanda warned that raising base rates too high will affect what the town pays toward the school and the county. Gary stated that one or the other be increased but not both. Fran and Yolanda will put numbers together before Commitment.

-**Boundary Line Agreement Update:** As of 4:25 AM today, Andrew and Stuart Zuillieve have executed the deed to Amanda Meader. Lora Mills has recently married and relocated. Amanda would still like to have Lora sign new deed.

-**Grading:** The dry weather has slowed down the grading. Hopefully, forecasted rain will soften WSRR, ESRR, Bacon, and Brown Road. Elm Street was graded. Ricky raked out the end of a residents driveway which was very rocky. The resident sent a greatly appreciated Thank You!

-**Commercial Tax Abatement Update:** Bob and Mary Burr had asked the town for tax relief because their restaurant was closed due to COVID -19 . MMA was consulted and the abatement was denied. Yolanda asked if the Burr's had been contacted to which was replied no. Ricky stated that he would contact them in person and that a letter would be mailed to The Burr's with a copy of the response the town received from the MMA lawyer.

New Business:

-**Beaver Trapping:** Gary wants to hold off on trapping beavers on Elm Street. The water is low and not an issue right now. Dorothea Beeuwkes alerted Dari that the beavers are building under the bridge on Route #2. Ricky will investigate this.

-**Road Repair:** Steve Whitney alerted Ricky that there was a big hole, in the road, by the boat launch on Beech Hill Rd. Ricky filled it in with rocks and cold patch.

-**Culverts:** Frank Olsen from Broad Cove Associates met with the 3 MO's. This company sells high-strength steel reinforced HDPE pipe. Mr. Olsen looked at every culvert in town. Although he was there to give prices, Mr. Olsen also had ideas and suggestions on what could be done with ditching and maintenance to increase the longevity of the culverts that are in good condition.

-**Contract Extensions :** Mercer Sand and Gravel's grading contract was extended to July 16, 2020. Lamphere Excavation's ditching contract was extended to July 30, 2020. Dari will have both contractors sign.

-Winter Sand Bids:

1. Warren and Kincaid: \$10.50 yard delivered. Must be ordered between August 1st-October 15th. Minimum 1800 yards
2. Len Poulin, Inc.: \$8.00 yard delivered. Minimum 2500 yards.

The town needs 2300 yards delivered in September. Gary will speak with Poulin and see if they can be flexible on the minimum. Joe Lewandowski, the winter plow contractor, agreed to inspect the winter sand from the Poulin pit, in Smithfield, Maine.

-Pond Road: Charlie Baeder, Travis Warren, Ricky Parlin and Rick Labbe inspected four culverts on Pond Road. Three of them were ok. The fourth needs to be reset. The plan would be to reuse it, if possible, and lower it 6-8”.

-Road Plan: Gary is meeting, on Monday, June 29 th, with Paul Brown to create a Road Plan. Mr. Brown works for the State of Maine D.O.T Department, with road review.

-Game Camera: Dari installed a camera at the sand/salt shed. There are two warning signs posted also.

-Representative Shelley Rudnicki: Gary suggested that the town contact Shelley and invite her to the MO meeting. Gary thought Shelley could keep the town up to date on State government issues. Dari will call her.

-Fire Department Contract - The Town of Mercer received a letter of agreement from the Norridgewock Fire Dept. The agreement would cover Mercer for two years. The MO's would like to modify it to one year. This would give the town time to inquire about other local fire departments that might be willing to cover Mercer. Gary attended a Smithfield Selectmen Meeting and spoke to the 2nd Selectman who is also the Fire Chief. Smithfield is open to covering Mercer residents. Gary plans to meet with Mr. LaBelle, the Town Manager of Norridgewock, about the fire department contract. He will also speak to surrounding area fire departments. Gary would also like to invite the fire chief of Smithfield to the next workshop.

-Solar Panel Tax: The Beeuwkes's asked the town for a tax exemption on their solar panel. The town does not tax solar panels.

-Workshop Notification: Gary made motion that a continuous workshop notice be posted on the town website. Dari seconded it. **Vote 3-0.** Workshop highlights must be included in minutes.

-Culvert Contract Bids: Will be discussed at the next scheduled workshop on July 2, 2020

-Recording of MO Meetings: Dari made a motion for town to record meetings and store recordings in the cloud. Town would need to purchase a recorder. Gary seconded it. **Vote 3-0.**

Upcoming MO Meetings:

July 9, 2020. July 23, 2020

Approval of Warrant:

Gary made a motion to accept the warrant, seconded by Dari. **Vote 3-0**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Corrections need to be addressed. Connections will be presented at next MO meeting.

Adjournment:

Ricky made a motion at 8:50 pm to adjourn, seconded by Gary. **Vote 3-0**

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Lamphere