

Town of Mercer  
Municipal Officer's Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2020  
(Approved 3/26/2020)

**Present:**

Municipal Officers: 1st Selectman-Ricky Parlin (newly elected), 2nd Selectman-Gary Moser (re-elected), 3rd Selectwoman-Dari Hurley (newly elected), Yolanda Violette- Tax Collector/Treasurer/Clerk, Tammy Lamphere-Secretary Rick Loadwick, Dennis Obert, Julia and Donnie Howard, Joel Lamphere, Bjarki Gunnarson, Donna Parlin, Fran Varney, Fred Laplante, Chris Beeuwkes, Denis Culley (Briefly)

**Meeting Open:** Ricky P. opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

**Citizens Comments:**

- Rick Loadwick Welcomed the New Board and Thanked Them!
- Dennis Culley stopped in to wish the new board well and to let them know they had the support of many in town

**Old Business:**

-Boundary Line Agreement: Discussion on how to proceed with new information that one of the properties, that abuts the Town Forest, has an additional owner - The Zulieve's, that did not sign off on the boundary agreement. Dari suggested that a Title Attorney be hired to do the title search and draw up a new document. Ricky and Gary felt as though the Zulieve's were not contesting the agreement but only wanted to be included on the agreement. A motion was made by Gary to contact Boynton and Pickett, the survey company who was originally hired and who filed the agreement, and have them draw up a new agreement and include the Zulieve's. The motion was seconded by Ricky Parlin. The vote was 2 in favor, 1 opposed (Dari Hurley)

-Vern Worthen's Loose Ends: As of today, 3-12-2020, Mr. Worthen had still not removed his plow equipment and personal property from the Salt Shed nor had he turned in the keys to all the municipal buildings and the Town's road signs. There has been 5 verbal requests and 1 letter.

Dari suggested that the town turn this situation over to the Dept. of Motor Vehicles of Abandoned Vehicles for the Truck. There would be a \$5 fee and a form filled out. The State would send a letter to the registered owner of the vehicle. Ricky thought that the town should send Mr. Worthen one more letter to warn him of this action. Gary's thought was either the town waits for Mr. Worthen to do nothing or hire a lawyer, which although, would not be cost effective, would give the town legal standing. The residents all agreed that the best course was to focus on the truck. A motion was made to complete the application to the State of Maine and pay the \$5 fee. The vote was 3-0.

The application was signed by all 3 Municipal Officers.

The next loose end with Mr. Worthen is that he has not returned road signs or the keys to the Municipal buildings. Mr. Worthen has been asked multiple times (in person and via email) to return these town properties. Fred Laplante suggested that the town change the keys to the locks. There was discussion on contacting the Sheriff Department or the Town Constable, David Welch. A motion was made to contact the Somerset County Sheriff Department. The vote was 2-1 (Gary Mosher).

**Appointing a Health Officer.** With the outbreak of the Corona Virus, there is an urgency to fill this position. Yolanda reached out to Nicole Ray. Nicole had not replied by this meeting. Gary surmised that she was not interested. Adam Keene had mentioned to Yolanda that a Mercer resident, who was a retired nurse, who may be interested. Ricky mentioned that his daughter, Heidi Dubois may be interested. There will be a follow up with those interested at the next Municipal Officers Meeting (March 26, 2020)

### **New Business:**

**Workshops:** The newly elected Municipal Officers (MO's) have decided that there is so much to discuss that it would be beneficial to hold workshops on the other Thursdays of March and April. These workshops will discuss multiple issues but voting on the issues will be done at the MO's normally scheduled meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays.

**These workshops which will be held on the other Thursdays at 3:15**

March 19, April 2, April 16 and April 30.

**New MO Meeting Time: 6 pm, Voted 3-0 Meetings will now open at 6 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursday.**

Next meetings will be March 26<sup>th</sup>, April 9<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**March 31, 2020:** Justin from the State Assessors Office will be at the Town Office at 10:00 am

**April 1st:** Assessor will be available for discussion of property assessments for the residents of Mercer at: 11am-1pm & 6pm-7pm

**Posted Road Sign Ordinance:** Tabled to a later date. The Select Board will research for next year. To put in front of the Town at a Special Town meeting or the Annual Town Meeting an ordinance for posted roads.

**Town Attorney:** Gary spoke to Mary Denison who was referred by Denis Culley. Mary charges \$200 per hour. Dari reached out to Amanda Meader who works with our sister town, New Sharon. Amanda has an extensive background in Municipalities and MMA. Her fee is \$175/hr A motion was made to hire Amanda Meader. Voted 3-0.

**Marijuana Ordinance:** This topic needs much attention and the MO's would like to gather facts from nearby towns, MMA, Amanda Meader, and business practices. This will be discussed at an upcoming workshop and a public hearing was discussed to allow input from the Towns people on their thoughts about Marijuana businesses in town, which will be held at a later date.

**Winter Road Contract:** the MO's have been reviewing various contracts from other towns and MMA. Dari has done a great deal of research and asked that Donnie Howard and Joel Lamphere join the MO's at the March 19th workshop. Both agreed. Gary stated that one of the conditions must be included was knowing exactly what the bid person has for equipment.

**Bids for Culverts:** Beech Hill Road and Pond Road. The bid needs to be written up and advertised. MO's will discuss the bid process with Amanda Meader. This will be discussed a future workshop.

**Gutters for MCC:** Gary has investigated the water that collects on the floor of the basement. He has discovered that the water is coming in from the run off from the roof and runs right into the boiler room and the Oil Tank area. The damage is visible in the concrete and the new oil tanks need to be protected. Gary reached out to two gutter companies. Only one returned Gary's call. Get 'r Done Gutters came and gave an estimate of \$975.00. This estimate is for 81' of galvanized seamless gutters. Joel Lamphere has offered to donate the use of his core driller to pipe the sub pump exhaust through the wall instead of through the door opening. This will let the fire door seal and close.

**Filters for MCC:** Ricky has investigated the filters for the heating units. He believes they have not been changed since 1990. The filters are in dire need of replacement. They are causing the furnace to work much harder than it should. There are multiple filters with different sizes. The more common sizes can be purchased at Home Depot. A 12 pack approximately \$70.00 The other filters will need to be ordered from the oil burner company, ABT Plumbing. A motion was made to change the filters. Vote 3-0. Ricky volunteered to install the new filters and clean the units.

**General Assistance Administrator:** Ricky Parlin has accepted the position.

**Realtors for Sale of Old Town Office:** The Old Town Office, on 75 Main Street, was approved at the Annual Town Meeting to be sold. The board has tabled this discussion till the April 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop.

**Mowing for MCC & Cemeteries:** Motion was made that Justin Furbush continue his mowing services for the 2020 Season at the same rates as prior years. Voted 3-0

**Mail & Other:** MSAD 54 Minutes, Corona Virus info, sample contracts for services, Budget SS, Training & MMA were presented to the Select Board for their review.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

February 13<sup>th</sup>: Gary Approved (Vern submitted a written approval)

March 3<sup>rd</sup>: Gary approved (Jerry submitted a written approval)

**Approval of Warrant:**

Motion to Approve as written, plus the \$5 check added for the Abandoned Property request.

Gary did ask Harriett to explain the Tax Levy Limit. Harriett did explain and thought maybe Justin could talk about it more when he comes for his visit on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Adjourned: 9:20**

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Lamphere