

SELECTMEN MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2019

(Approved 4/25/2019)

- **Meeting** opened by Vern Worthen at 7:05 pm. Present were Selectmen Vern Worthen, Gary Mosher, Gerry Redlevske, Secretary Fran Varney, Fred LaPlante, Normand Gagnon, Donnie and Julia Howard, Tammy Lamphere, Jesse Crandall, Chad Crandall, Jake and Ginger Daku. and Mellori Worthen.
- **Citizens' requests, statements and responses:**
 - (1) Normand Gagnon made a statement about the plowing history of the discontinued section of the Decker Road. He said that Scott and Donnie Howard did not charge to plow the extra section of the road leading to the Normand Gagnon home, that they were good and decent people who were helping out an older couple. He also said that he never asked Vern to plow. Normand Gagnon left the meeting right after his statement. Vern Worthen clarified that the discussion about plowing was between Vern and Ronald Gagnon, not with Normand Gagnon.
 - (2) Chad Crandall and Jake Daku presented the request of Blue Sky Labs, LLC for the Selectmen to consider holding a special town meeting for residents of Mercer to consider allowing existing Class I, Division I extraction facilities to operate marijuana products manufacturing facilities licensed pursuant to 28-B M.R.S. sections 101 et seq. within the Town of Mercer. They offered the Selectmen and others present the opportunity to take a tour of the facility. The facility is not open to the general public, nor will the operation of the facility involve traffic or onsite customers. There is currently an operation capable of supporting four full time employees, and depending on future licensing, there is potential for up to 16 employees. Gary asked approximately how long before the State's regulations will be in place for the adult use market legalized in 2016. Chad answered approximately two months. The Selectmen were in consensus as to holding the special town meeting. They scheduled an informational meeting for May 16, at which time Attorney Hannah King of Drummond Woodsum would be present to answer questions. They tentatively scheduled the special town meeting for June 6th.
 - (3) Tammy Lamphere noted that recent grading has helped condition of West Sandy River Road (except for an area near the Whitneys).
 - (4) Jesse Crandall
 - 1 – Jesse suggested starting a Road Committee – The Selectmen had no objection.
 - 2 - Jesse suggested the town needs a change in its form of government in the front office with the Town setting salaries and determining open office hours. The Selectmen were in consensus that the annual town meeting would be the most appropriate time for a town vote on this matter.
 - 3 – Jesse suggested another article for the town meeting, to see if the voters would vote to stipulate that Selectmen not bid on town contracts, of if they won a bid, that they resign from office. Also, consensus that this vote be held at the annual town meeting.
- **Roads** – Donnie continuing with touch grading. Rome Road near Foster place needs work.
- **Earth Day clean up** – Julia Howard and others organizing it for Rome Road on April 21st. Vern will let Derek know that they can bring the trash collected to transfer station for free.
- **Fred LaPlante** - distributed copies of town policy, tax assessing papers and other papers from years when he was Selectman so the Town can dispose of duplicates and file what the town wants to keep. He has road information on a floppy disk from when there was a Road Committee with

Bob Burr. Fred is willing to help others who would like to work on a road committee, but not be in charge of it.

- **Minutes of March 21st** – approved 3-0
- **Discussion/action on Yolanda's agenda list**
 - 1- Road work done includes filling near former Burr place on Beech Hill Road, Pond Road near Toth place, tree removal on Elm Street, work on Corson Road, some grading on Decker Road (a difficult job).
 - 2- 30 day notices went out for 60 unpaid 2018 taxes
 - 3- Original bags ordered for transfer station will be used for two months, but Town only accepted 23 boxes until it is shown that the quality is up to standard. If quality is acceptable, Town will accept whole order at 5% discount. If quality is unacceptable, Town will return them.
 - 4- Tree growth applications approved and signed.
 - 5- County Budget reviewed – Mercer's share is up 1.9%, total is \$151,183.02.
- **Next meeting** will be April 25 at 7 pm. Daren Turner will be present to update our town forest harvesting information. The Budget Committee organizational meeting is scheduled for 7:30. At least five Budget Committee members will be there.
- **Warrant preview** reviewed and approved.
- **SAD 54 meeting** minutes were received.
- **Annual state sales analysis** review with Justin will be April 17 at 9 am.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Secretary Fran Varney