

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting of July 25, 2019

(approved August 8, 2019)

Meeting opened at 7:05. Present: Selectmen Vern Worthen and Jerry Redlevske, Tax Collector-Treasurer Yolanda Violette, Secretary Fran Varney, Donnie Howard, Alan Swanson, Joel and Tammy Lamphere, Bruce and Dari Hurley.

**CITIZENS' REQUESTS:**

- (1) A trash issue on Ladd Road: Residents on Bacon Road and Ladd Road have concerns about a large amount of unsightly and open trash existing on Ladd Road (Map 2 Lot 8-1). A former camper at the property, now deceased, left the trash; his family picked up some of the mess, but not all. The owner of the property is being contacted. None of the trash belongs to Alan Swanson, a nearby owner who camps there during the summer, but he is willing to help clean it up. The town was asked to check into options and solutions. Vern will find out the cost of a 40 yard dumpster, Gary will check with neighbors to inquire about sharing the cost. This matter will be discussed at the next meeting.
- (2) North Pond properties' valuation: At the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Selectmen reviewed state analyses spreadsheets, and discussed a 15% increase on North Pond properties based on the sales data indicating that the properties on North Pond generally sell for 15 to 20% more than the town's assessed values. Bruce and Dari Hurley, who have a place on the Pond, asked for additional information. Fran will send them valuation charts prepared for Mercer by evaluation team Parker and Mayo which determined the basic standard North Pond waterfront lot, and the factors which adjust properties with greater than 100-foot frontage and smaller or larger depths than 200 feet.
- (3) West Sandy Road project: Joel detailed the road work that has taken place so far on West Sandy River Road, and the positive results of the grading and ditching work. Options were discussed for finishing the project, whether to use the gravel usually used in town, and the possible use of reclaim materials. Joel mentioned that crushed ledge might be available as nearby as New Sharon and might result in a better surface. Vern and Gerry discussed the options with Donnie, and Vern will look into the crushed ledge pricing from Lenny Meader in New Sharon before the next meeting.

**REPORTS and CITIZENS' REQUESTS THROUGH YOLANDA:**

- (1) Snowplow turnaround at end of Ladd Road: Rome Selectmen will split the cost of the gravel needed with Mercer. .
- (2) Transfer Station winter wood: Yolanda will contact Anthony DeGregory to order a cord of wood. 2-0
- (3) Bog Stream grant: Charlie Baeder let the town know that Mercer will not receive this Bog Stream grant because the project is not fish related.
- (4) Mercer Dam: Charlie Baeder suggested using crushed stone for the hole near the bridge.
- (5) Culvert work on Pond Road: needs to be done near the two holes in road.

- (6) Elm Street work and Dig Safe notification: Dig Safe has not responded, Vern will inquire because the town is sure there is a line there. Vern will contact David Kincaid about this project.
- (7) Note from Gary Mosher: He cannot attend this meeting but sent message that he would like to see assessing increase on all properties, not just the Pond properties.
- (8) Stop sign on Pond Road: Vern will get the sign to Gary, and Gary will put it up.
- (9) Boundary line agreement for Town Forest Harvest: Selectmen voted 2-0 to draw up agreement using gulley as boundary line to send to the abutting landowner to sign. Yolanda will call Boynton Survey to get line description.

Minutes from July 11: Approved as modified 2-0.

Warrant Preview: Approved 2-0. Warrant signed. 2-0.

Old Minutes (6/13): Approved correction from “Merry” to “Murray” in July 13 minutes 2-0.

2019 Tax Commitment: The Selectmen present voted to apply the 15% increase to the front footage valuation on North Pond properties. 2-0. The 2019 Tax Commitment with mil rate of 17.3 was signed by Vernon Worthen and Norman Redlevske.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Fran Varney