

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting of August 22, 2019

(Approved Sept. 12, 2019)

Meeting opened at 7:06. Present: Selectmen Vern Worthen, Gary Mosher and Jerry Redlevske, Tax Collector-Treasurer Yolanda Violette, Secretary Fran Varney, Amy Downing, Fred LaPlante, Aaron Gordon, Adam Keene.

MINUTES The August 8 minutes were approved with one correction 3-0.

CITIZEN REQUESTS

(1) Amy Downing who owns property on North Pond inquired about the increase in valuation of North Pond properties this year, and whether the increase affected a single class of property. Vern Worthen responded that the assessors' decision to increase the front foot value of North Pond properties was based on sales data and the state sales analysis. The data has shown that in the past Mercer's assessment on North Pond properties has generally been at or near 85% of the selling price. A chart with data was circulated.

Vern also stated that Mercer voters appropriated more money at the 2019 annual town meeting for different purposes, including additional summer road projects, increased salt and mix on winter roads, and that the MSAD 54 and Somerset County budgets also increased, resulting in a higher mil rate for all properties.

(2) Fred LaPlante inquired if there was any schedule for work on Ladd Road. Response - no date scheduled as yet.

MOTION at 7:33 pm FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION ON A PERSONNEL MATTER 3-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDED at 8:20 pm

REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED 3-0

TOWN FOREST BOUNDARY LINE AGREEMENT - The survey line is not clearly marked. Selectmen will ask Will Boynton to come to a meeting to clarify. 3-0

CITIZEN REQUEST - Resident requested tax abatement based on measurements of structure. Abatement of \$173 approved 3-0

ROADSIDE MOWING

- Yolanda noted that Rte 137 is a state road and Rick doesn't mow state roads (response from Rick when asked why he didn't mow it).
- Vern wanted clarification as to the number of miles billed.
- Aggressive Cut is doing a chipping and grinding project in Norridgewock with new equipment and would come to Mercer to do two miles' work where needed at \$1000 per mile.
- Jerry will check with Rick about the \$2000 proposal.

NORTH POND

- Mercer received a Thank You note from North Pond Association for \$2000 donation.
- Charlie Baeder reported that the bog project near the boat landing received grant approval, but the details are not yet known.

DAM ON MAIN STREET

Mr. Parker (Fish and Game) discussed our concerns with the bridge. The State says the Town maintains the road and bridge and the State owns both sides of the road. Town plans to add surface, fill the crack and fix the hole.

LADD ROAD PROJECT SATURDAY AUGUST 24 AT 9AM

Gary is organizing the project. One resident has offered to pay for dumpster fees. A second resident will pay for a second dumpster if it is needed. Other residents have offered to donate money to help rent the dumpster, others may volunteer to help. Some items may be worth money to someone. There are 8 tires that Gary will take to transfer station.

TRANSFER STATION - Metal pile has been hauled way.

SUMMER ROADS

- (1) Elm Street culvert work was finished, and people on the road thanked the town for the great job done, in less time than anticipated. The steel barrier was installed at Indian Stream. While they were working on Elm Street, they removed the berm near Frederick's Corner Road to help with water drainage.
- (2) Continued discussion on West Sandy River surface. Different surfaces to consider include the gravel Mercer usually uses, a crushed product, and paving. Costs were compared.
- (3) Gary is checking into the culvert on Beech Hill Road.
- (4) Turnaround on Rome-Mercer line is done.
- (5) Paving information: Vern has talked with Pike. He will also talk with Tom of Pro Seal. Depending on prices and timelines for the work being done, he will schedule the LRAP Beech Hill Road paving with one or the other contractor. If the price is right and if the project is feasible with the money appropriated at town meeting for West Sandy River Road, Selectmen agreed 3-0 that Vern should schedule paving on a portion of West Sandy River Road (with other surface on remaining portion), resulting in 20 years when the paved portion will not need to have money spent on grading.
- (6) If money allows, two culverts on Pond Road need to be worked on, either replaced or a band aid applied, at least cold patch.
- (7) Location of ditching still to be determined.

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING

Roof work needs to be done on the building entrance, and on the pellet boiler roof. Vern wants to check with insurance company (Flint) if the pellet boiler roof is covered by insurance.

WARRANT PREVIEW - approved 3-0. Mercer is current with MSAD 54.

FINAL WARRANT signed.

NEXT MEETINGS - September 12 and 26, October 10 and 24.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Fran Varney