

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting of September 12, 2019

(Approved Sept. 26, 2019)

Meeting opened at 7:07. Present: Selectmen Vern Worthen, Gary Mosher, Jerry Redlevske (at 7:50 pm), Tax Collector-Treasurer Yolanda Violette, Secretary Fran Varney, Cole Belanger, Aaron Gordon, Adam Keene, Fred LaPlante, Donnie Howard.

MINUTES The August 22 minutes were approved 2-0.

RECYCLING LICENSE APPLICATION: Cole Belanger applied to renew his Automobile Recycling Permit, which is expiring after five years. Abutters were notified. No abutter responded to the notice or came to this meeting. Selectmen reviewed the application. Vern and Gary were in agreement that one of them will visit to inspect the business this week.

FIRST RESPONDERS: Aaron Gordon and Adam Keene were present to request workers' compensation and medical malpractice insurance coverage for the First Responders to cover their activities while on the job, from when they leave home to respond to a call, until the matter is declared all clear. MMA provides such insurance to other towns for about \$1500. Yolanda checked the town's 2019 budget and about \$3000 remains of the originally appropriated \$4000, with no additional training or equipment costs anticipated in 2019. This request will be on agenda on September 26, meanwhile the emergency dispatcher has been notified not to call Mercer Rescue.

LADD ROAD PROJECT: At no expense to the Town, donors and volunteers contributed financially and with volunteer labor to resolve the accumulated junk and trash. The Town thanks the following people for their donations and volunteer work: Michael Bartholf, Bjarki Gunnarsson, Fred LaPlante, Donnie Howard (MS&G), Alan Swanson, and Gary Mosher.

SAD/RSU 54: Selectmen signed the school district warrant for a \$950,000.00 bond for improvements to the high school facility and grounds. A public hearing will be held on October 3rd. Selectmen received the School Board minutes.

TAX BILL DISCOUNT: Yolanda received confirmation from MMA that she was right not to give discount to a taxpayer a day after the discount period ended. (1) The town office hours are clearly posted. (2) The tax bill clearly states that the discount period is 30 days. (3) Taxpayer had two options on August 26, the last discount day - to pay in person at the town office, or to mail payment postmarked August 26.

CITIZEN COMPLAINT: Landowner was blocked from accessing his property by a resident on East Sandy River Road. Town will send a certified letter to resident explaining that the road is a town way and must not be blocked.

CEMETERIES: Hampshire Hill Cemetery is vastly improved. Arbormore can trim all the trees for \$1200, or one tree for \$500. This might not be possible in the 2019 budget.

ROADSIDE MOWING: Option - Mercer can pay for trimming on Rt 2 and Rt 137 and then seek reimbursement from the State.

The two-mile chipping and grinding project may not fit in the budget this year, it is too soon to tell. If budget allows, the non-CMP side of the roads most in need of trimming will be done.

BOUNDARY LINE AGREEMENT: Selectmen signed four originals. Two will be sent to abutter for her signature with one being returned to the Town to file.

SALT SHED: The door needs to be fixed or replaced. The wind blew it right off, so it may need replacing.

MERCER COMMUNITY CENTER:

Graffiti has been reported on the side entrance door (to the gym). [NOTE: On Monday September 16, Yolanda reported that she has removed the graffiti from the door.]

Austin Foss of ABT Plumbing Heating & Cooling has done a preliminary inspection of the building's heating system. There are some code issues to deal with before winter. Gary will contact Austin and schedule a meeting with him to discuss more in detail before the next meeting on Sept. 26.

STATE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FUND FOR MAINE RESIDENTS: The Town received notice from Maine State Treasurer explaining the program and requesting list of homestead property owners who qualify for this relief by November 1st.

SUMMER ROADS

- Culvert near Merry's and ditching near Jones' on Beech Hill Road are done.
- Gary checked two culverts on Beech Hill Road, and they are rotted.
- The next culvert work will be two culverts on Ladd Road and one on Tibbetts Road.
- Jerry will take care of fallen fir tree on edge of Decker Road.
- LRAP paving on Beech Hill Road should be done in September.
- West Sandy River surface work is to happen soon, then Pond Road culvert work.
- Ditching project \$10,000 may be spent ½ on Elm Street and ½ on Bacon Road.
- Culvert at shed which cannot be used by Town can be taken away, as is.
- One or two more gradings, depending on weather.

WARRANT PREVIEW - approved 3-0.

ABANDONED ROADS PROJECT: Fran will contact MMA for more details. She plans to come to the next meeting with a few roads ready to discuss.

FINAL WARRANT signed.

NEXT MEETINGS - September 26 (GA ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE), October 10 and 24.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Fran Varney