

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting of November 7, 2019

(Approved Nov. 21, 2019)

Meeting opened at 7:01. Present: Selectmen Gary Mosher and Jerry Redlevske, Tax Collector-Treasurer Yolanda Violette, Secretary Fran Varney, Adam Keene, Aaron Gordon, Fred LaPlante, Donnie Howard, Julia Howard, Steve Whitney, Dari Hurley, Lori Redlevske, Tammy Lamphere, Ray Charles.

MINUTES: The October 24 minutes were approved 2-0.

FIRST RESPONDERS: Adam Keene was appointed Executive Director of Mercer First Responders, and Aaron Gordon was appointed Deputy Director.

CITIZENS:

- Steve Whitney described issues with the Bacon Road – water running down the road instead of into ditches, gravel road being down to bedrock, inadequate room for two cars, and the berm problem. He requested a Selectmen looks at the problem, and one will go tomorrow.
- Tammy Lamphere said Joel has some ideas to save money.

MERCER COMMUNITY CENTER:

- Dari Hurley inquired about the date of installation of the pellet stove, the anticipated longevity of the system, and ABT's inspection which listed code violations in the system. One reason the town voted to install pellet stoves was the high price of oil. It was established that the system was installed 7 years ago, that the code was the same then as now, that Vern Worthen won the bid for the contract and subcontracted it out. The system was used for about 6 years, and was not used in 2018-19 winter.
- Ray Charles asked who will pay for fixing code violations which total approximately \$3200. The answer was that Vern as Contractor is responsible for paying to bring the pellet system up to code.
- Gerry said town's insurance might pay for the other repairs to the pellet system (about \$4500) caused by snow damage.
- There are also code violations in the oil furnace system installed in 2018, which will cost \$1900 to fix. Vern Worthen had the winning bid, and subcontracted out the oil furnace installation. Vern is responsible to pay for fixing these violations.

WINTER PLOW CONTRACT

- On Wednesday, Nov. 6, Gary and Jerry inspected Vern's equipment. Vern was not present.
- Some is ready, some is not ready. Some is not inspected or registered. There were no chains.
- The certificate of insurance has not been submitted to the town office.
- Citizens - a snowstorm is coming in a few days, what will happen?

- Gary – Vern has to be in compliance before he can plow. If Vern is not in compliance, then he is in breach of the contract. No payment has been made on the contract, but the first payment is due Nov. 15.
- Citizens' questions/comments – what was the bidding process? might other contractors have been interested if they realized a bid \$15,000 higher than 2017-2018 might be accepted? Bidding should have started earlier in the year, perhaps spring rather than summer. Inspection date should be earlier and a firm date. Was there a conflict of interest?
- Gary asked Donnie if Selectmen inspected every year when the Howards had the contract. Donnie said there was an inspection the first year of the contract, but not every year.
- Gary asked Donnie if the Howards' plows were always inspected. Donnie said inspection stickers were required for insurance. Sometimes a light would go out and need to be replaced as soon as possible.
- Tonight's difficult choice is choosing between roads needing sanding and plowing versus using equipment that may still need to be inspected, registered and insured before going on the road. It was mentioned that Belgrade contractor was out sanding at this time.

SUMMER ROADS

- Beech Hill Road was being paved Thursday; West Sandy River Road will be paved Friday.
- The worst portions of Rome Road, Pond Road and Elm Street were graded.
- Ray said he thought more money was being spent on Bacon Road than on Rome Road.
- Needed gravel will be used on holes on Brown Road and Wills Road.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS – Town will purchase turkey pies this year from Mercer Community Club. Yolanda will know the number of pies needed for the next meeting.

ANNUAL AUDIT -

Keel Hood audit will increase by \$150 to \$3450. Approved 2-0.

Waterville Humane Society contract will increase from \$900 to \$1100.

ELECTIONS – Yolanda asked if the town election date could be moved from Friday, March 6 to Tuesday, March 3, the presidential primary date. It would be more convenient to hire ballot clerks, and more convenient for voters, to have both on the same day. Citizens at the meeting agreed. Perhaps the number of voters will increase. Approved 2-0. This means nomination papers will be available Monday, November 25.

Tammy asked about having a bake sale. Yolanda said there will be a bake sale on the November 2020 election day.

2017 TAX LIEN FORECLOSURES - there are five at this time.

OTHER MATTERS –

- Medical marijuana workshop to be held December 4 in Solon from 3 to 5.
- Boundary line agreement is recorded, Daren Turner will be at meeting November 21.
- SAD 54 School Board minutes received.

WARRANT PREVIEW – First winter contract installment payment will be held back until Vern is in compliance with all contract terms.

MAIN STREET BRIDGE AND DAM - Gary met with MEMA about the Main St. bridge and dam. The state is responsible for the dam, and the Town is responsible for the road. Gary noted that sometimes dam problems are sometimes responsible for road problems. Also noted that the bracket in cement needs to be bolted down,

GRANTS

- Charlie Baeder said there will be no culvert grant on Pond Road, as no fish are in the brook there.
- Mercer along with Smithfield received a grant for the shared Bog Stream culvert, which may become a bridge.
- Yolanda submitted grant application for exterior lighting at the MCC.

OTHER

Dari Hurley asked if Mercer received any rebate for their purchase of pellet stove system. Yolanda will look into it.

Jerry will go to Steve Whitney's tomorrow to look at his Bacon Road issues.

Warrant signed. 2-0.

Next meetings: November 21; December 5, 19 and 30; January 9 – Regular meeting and any warrant articles from citizens for March 7 annual town meeting are due; January 16 – Budget Committee meets with Selectmen; January 23 – Regular meeting and finalize the Annual Town meeting warrant..

Adjourned 8:33 pm

Respectfully submitted, Fran Varney