

Town of Mercer Selectman Meeting Minutes  
December 30, 2019  
Approved January 9, 2020

Meeting Open: 7:00 PM

Present: Selectman Vern Worthen, Gary Mosher, and Jerry Redlevske. Tax Collector-Town Treasure: Yolanda Violette. Secretary: Tammy Lamphere. Residents: Joel Lamphere, Dari and Bruce Hurley, Tina and Rob (AKA Big Dog Shit Stirer) Gardner, Myke B., Fred Laplante, Darcy Welch, Richard Loabe, Fred and Bonnie Merry and Dennis Olbert.

Citizens Inquires:

- **Oil Tank Update:** Dari Hurley asked for update on the oil tank and chimney liner. Gary informed the residents that he has an appointment with Precision Tank on 12-31-2019, at the MCC, to go over the any questions that were asked by the residents at prior meetings. (Sludge, codes, pumping of fuel)
  
- The chimney lining will be done in January, weather permitting.
  
- **Vern Worthen/Two Johns Update:** Vern spoke with Two Johns Plumbing about the poor quality of workmanship involving the furnace. Two Johns was willing to repair and bring furnace up to code but because they are not licensed, it was not an option. Vern (the contractor for the installation of the furnace) refused to reimburse the town the \$1900 it cost to repair the furnace.
  
- **Camera at Salt Shed:** Donnie Howard would like to install cameras at the salt shed. It would protect his equipment and keep watch on the amount of sand/salt removed by others. Maybe we'll see Vern finally move his junk out of Donnie's way. **Approved 3-0**
  
- This request brought to light that there is a need for repairs of the salt shed. Residents had a few great suggestions. One was to post signs limiting the amount of sand/salt removed by individuals. Bruce H. suggested that metal gates be hung. He volunteered himself and Rob G. to install the gates if the town purchased them. Gary M. mentioned that Smithfield and Norridgewock both have small sheds with s&s for residents. Gary also volunteered to get quotes on doors. Dari H. thought that the town should offer a "Bucket Brigade" for seniors. This would involve volunteers to bring any senior #2-5 gallon buckets of s&s for their walkways.
  
- **Discussion on the liquidation of the CERT building:** All agreed that the building would serve the town better if it were sold. Dari H. mentioned that Keenan Auction might be the best way to unburden the town. Dari H. has submitted an article for the March 7, 2020 Annual Town Meeting asking the residents to vote to sell the CERT building.
  
- **Discussion on liquidation of Town Forest:** Jerry R. suggested that if the town decided to sell the town forest, Daren Turner should be notified because the forestry plan may need to be amended. Gary M said he would speak to Darren and ask him to come to a selectman meeting and further discuss options.

- **Summer Roads:** Fred M questioned the lack of ditching on all town roads but was more so asking about Beech Hill Road ditching and the gravel patch that he felt was extreme. Vern assured him it was a necessary. Mr. Merry also has concerns about the water running across the roads in places and his driveway. He stated that he has done some repair work himself.
- Joel Lamphere of Lamphere Excavation (a Mercer resident) was asked for his opinion on the roads. His reply was that one major issue is that there should be better quality gravel used on these projects. Paying more for good gravel is cheaper in the long run because a higher quality gravel will give more compressive strength used in much smaller quantities. It also makes for much better grading and there are no large rocks to pop out and make pot holes.
- Gary M. stated that work has been done. It's the responsibility of the townspeople to come to meetings and give input.
- **Articles:** Citizens wanted clarification on how articles are handled. Vern stated that no article is discarded. Rob G. suggested that, in the future, a panel be put together to collect all articles. The panel would discard duplicate articles and correct any wording. Fred explained that the budget committee is already overseeing this. Articles need to be submitted by January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Town Forest Update:** Gary M. stopped by to see the work being done on Elm Street. He reported that things are moving along.

**Community News:** Jane and Ken Wallace sent a Thank you card for the Holiday Basket.

**Other:** Gary M. stated that Charlie Baeder from 7 Lakes Alliance will be here on January 9, 2020 Selectman meeting to discuss the grant for work the Pond Road.

**Warrant:**

Preview approved 3-0

Warrant signed 3-0

**December 19 Minutes:** Approved 3-0, December 5<sup>th</sup> minutes were amended.

**Next Meetings:** January 9 - Prepare annual Warrant.

March 7- Annual Meeting.

January 16 - Budget Committee meets with Selectman to review money articles on the town meeting warrants.

January 23<sup>rd</sup> - Finalize the warrant

**Adjourned:** 8:12 pm