

Town Of Mercer Selectman Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2020  
Approved 1/16/2020

Meeting Opens: 7:00 p.m. by Gary M.

Present: 2nd Selectman Gary Mosher, 3rd Selectman Jerry Redlevske, Tax Collector: Yolanda Violette. Secretary Tammy Lamphere. Forester: Daren Turner. Residents: Tina Gardner, Ricky Parlin, Dari Hurley, Fred Laplante, Rick Loadwick, Harriett Varney, Chris Beeuwkes, Joel Lamphere, Myke Bartholf, Bjarki Gunnarsson, Donnie and Julie Howard, Dennis Obert and Steve Moore.

Guests: Charlie Baeder, Nathaniel Maynard, Hillary Lister and Adam Keene

**Forestry Update:** Daren presented an update on the activity at the Mercer woodlot. He is pleased with the quality of work and the quantity of loads being harvested. Using the work week of Monday through Sunday, as of last week, there were 30 loads harvested. The total amount paid to the town is \$8758. Indian Stream has been hand cut and the wood from that area is of lower value. The weather makes that area priority. Once that is cut, Jerry will be able to harvest the higher quality wood.

Daren brought up the discussion on whether or not the town might opt to sell the woodlot. From 1992-2004 both woodlots have generated \$150,000 to the town. This winter the project could yield \$40,000. He strongly encourages residents to visit the woodlot on Elm Street to see the work being done and the quality of wood growing for the next harvest. Daren stated that the next harvest in 10-15 years will be very valuable. With an updated forestry plan, the town could see yields of \$60,000 to \$80,000. If the town votes to sell the woodlots, Daren would adjust the current forestry plan, and mark trees that are on the border of being ready and let the logger take those trees. He strongly suggests that the town get a land appraisal from an independent appraisal agent of fair market value. There could be 5 to 6 house lots there or if harvested the way it is being done now, it could be an investment property for someone to hunt and log on in the future. There is also the option to put an asking price that includes the future harvest. Give that price a year on the market to see if it sells. If not, revisit the forest plan, cut more wood off and decrease the asking price.

**7 Lakes Alliance:** Charlie Baeder submitted three different articles to selectman for them to decide which is best to put in front of the towns people this year. The three areas that are involved are Bacon Rd, Pond Rd (\$30,000 Grant) and the bog culvert (boat landing) (\$30,000 Grant). With this grant comes the understanding that the each town match it. There are options of either matching the full amount in one year or a payment plan of \$30,000 in two years. The selectman chose the two year plan. There is a possibility that the grant could be extended an extra year. The culvert is a great concern, the highest priority. There was an estimate of \$150,000 for repairs. Smithfield has applied for a \$90,000 culvert grant to help defer the cost of repairing this culvert. Smithfield will be notified within 30 days if they were awarded the money. There was much discussion on this project and Charlie has offered to attend the budget meeting (dependent on the birth of his grandchild) to explain this project to the budget committee.

**Marijuana Cultivating Facility:** Nathaniel Maynard addressed the town asking if the town would be open to a pot farm. He is interested in purchasing 10-30 acres and building a state of the art indoor grow house. He brought along his attorney/lobbyist, Hillary Lister, who explained the benefits, laws and options of such a project. Some of the benefits mentioned were tax

revenue, job opportunities and willingness to be compliant with the town. There would be no retail store, no odor and not visible from the road. Gary M was open to their project but stated that more research needed to be done. Hillary will provide articles that she prepared to other towns. Tina G. asked if the two other facilities in town were being charged a licensing fee? Gary thought that they would not be subject to any fees under a grandfather clause. Gary will investigate.

**Mercer Rescue:** Adam Keene submitted an article asking the town for \$5240. This is an increase of \$1240 over last year. He explained that \$750 of the \$1000 would allow the 5 volunteers to attend continuing education classes which they need credits for to update their licenses. \$250 would cover the cost of needed supplies and medications. Adam also suggested that \$240 of the Mercer rescue budget be put in a Capital Reserve. This account would accrue yearly and cover the cost of AED batteries. These batteries were purchased last year but need to be replaced every 4 years at a cost of \$400. The Capital Reserve would be available to cover the cost of the batteries when needed. Mercer rescue responded to 90 calls last year. Only 5 calls were not covered by MR which was because of a contract issue.

**Global Warming:** Chris Beeuwkes presented his article to mitigate action on Climate Change. He is not asking for a monetary amount. Chris would like the town to consider the importance of global warming. He offered three options but after discussing it with Gary, decided to offer one option, the support of Carbon Free Initiative (HR 763). After a debate of Chris vs Joel Lamphere and Bjarki Gunnarsson, Gary decided that the Selectman will decide whether or not to put the article in the warrant. Please contact Chris for any questions anyone may have on the subject.

**Oil Tank Update:** As of January 9, 2020, 90% of the work on the oil tank has been done. Inspection of the inside of the tank founded it to be pitted on both the inside and outside. The person working on the tank estimated that, within a year, the tank would have begun to leak.

**C.E.R.T Trailer:** Yolanda informed the selectman that the trailer will need to be reregistered. There was discussion on selling it. Jerry will contact Jessie Crandall (Cert Manager) to see what the trailer is storing. There was also the discussion on paying the TDS bill. Yolanda was instructed to pay the bill.

**Winter Roads:** There has been one salt deliver with the expected delivery of other in a few days. Everyone is thrilled with Donnie and his boys on the winter roads.

**Timber Harvest Report:** Signed by 2nd Selectman, Gary.

**Warrant:** Preview 2-0  
Warrant signed 2-0

**Annual Warrant:** The annual report was presented to the selectman. Each article was read and discussed. Changes were made as needed.

**December 30, 2019 Minutes:** Approved 2-0

**Schedule of upcoming meeting:** Budget Meeting: January 16, 2020. Selectman Meeting: January 23, 2020

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:30 p.m.