

SELECTBOARD MEETING
January 25, 2018

Present: Dave Tilton John Roberts
 Allison Hope Nanette Rogers
 Greg Barrows

Guests: See attached list

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Cleary advised that Brent Meacham, former Road Foreman, approached him with a packet of information regarding the highway budget. Bill said Brent has contacted other people as well. Brent believes the highway budget was in line when he was employed with the Town and is telling others that to clear his name. Bill expressed concern for Brent's well-being and wanted to make the Selectboard aware of his observation of Brent's health and what Brent was passing around. Bill inquired about the status of the highway budget.

Allison stated that the change in personnel was a difficult change to make. Brent signed documents when he resigned from the position. The Selectboard hopes that Brent will seek help if he needs it. Allison advised that the budget is in good shape. The new Road Foreman, John Roberts, has a different view of how to manage assets, road crew members, etc.

MINUTES

Allison Hope made a motion to approve the January 11, 2018 minutes as written, seconded by Dave Tilton. Motion passed: 2-0.

ICE RINK/BROOMBALL RECOMMENDATIONS

Bobbie Hedley, Julia Andrews and Dan McLean were present to discuss observations and recommendations for the ice rink and Broomball Tournament. They are part of a group of people who got together to organize the Broomball Tournament and put up the ice rink for the 2017-2018 season after they found out the Rec Department would not be offering these activities. The group had a very short time frame to pull everything together for the tournament to be held in January. The group received some help/guidance from people who had been involved in the past. The group would have found it helpful if more information, such a list of things to do and a timeline, had been made available. One thing that made a difference in the amount of funds raised from the tournament was not having any sponsors. The group was unaware that there had been sponsors for prior tournaments and felt the ice rink and tournament would have benefited from these additional funds. All in all, Bobbie stated that folks felt the tournament was fun and awesome. However, she feels a better balance between the Town and volunteer group is needed. With regard to the ice rink in general, Bobbie would like to see a list of rules posted with regard to curfew and rink etiquette.

Julia suggested that Dan and Bobbie receive a stipend from the money that was raised as a token of appreciation. The task of organizing the tournament was much more involved than

anyone thought it would be. Moving forward, Julia felt some sort of compensation for the organizer(s) is appropriate. Dan feels that a sustainability fund for the rink is necessary to ensure its future.

2017 GRAND LIST ERRORS & OMISSIONS

Allison Hope made a motion to accept the list of errors and omissions submitted by the Listers for the 2017 Grand List, seconded by Dave Tilton. Motion passed: 2-0.

TOWN MEETING WARNING

The only change to the warning since it was presented to the Selectboard at the last meeting was an increase of \$5,000 in the budget to cover the maintenance of the sports fields located at the school per the agreements between the Town and School District.

Allison Hope made a motion to approve the warning for the 2018 Annual Town Meeting as presented, seconded by Dave Tilton. Motion passed: 2-0.

NOTICE OF SALE OF MUNICIPAL OWNED PROPERTY

The appeal period for the laying out of Common Road has expired, therefore the Town can proceed with the sale of the Spiller lot. The Town attorney provided a Notice of Sale of Municipal Real Estate for the Spiller lot titled WED18002. The notice is for all the land between the southerly boundary of the Common Road right of way and the buildings on the Spiller lot. If no petition is filed objecting to the sale, it will allow the attorney to proceed with the quiet title action for the "public use dedication area."

The attorney provided two options for the land between the Common Road right of way and the Fleury property. One option would only authorize the Town to release all its right, title and interest in and to the portion of the "public use dedication area" (WED18-003). The second option would convey all the town owned land north of the Fleury property and south of the Common Road right of way as well as release the right, title and interest in and to the portion of the "public use dedication area" (WED 18-004).

As discussed at previous Selectboard meetings, the intent of the Town has been to convey the land it owns south of the Common Road right of way.

Allison Hope made a motion to approve the Notice of Sale of Municipal Owned property entitled WED 18-002 and the Notice of Sale of Municipal Owned Property entitled WED 18-004 as drafted by the Town's attorney, seconded by Dave Tilton. Motion passed: 2-0.

ROAD SCHEDULE

Dave Tilton made a motion to approve the January 11, 2018 through January 25, 2018 Road Schedule, seconded by Allison Hope. Motion passed: 2-0.

EXCESS WEIGHT PERMITS

The Vice Chair signed an excess weight permit for Newport Sand & Gravel/Carroll Concrete Co.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL WARRANTS

The Board approved the accounts payable and payroll warrants.

AUDIT PROPOSALS

Greg advised that three firms submitted proposals in response to the RFP for audit services. All the firms have received positive peer reviews and have been in business for at least 30 years.

The firms' proposals were as follows:

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>
Fothergill Segale & Valley	\$9,500	\$9,800	\$10,100
Kittell, Branagan & Sargent	\$12,500	\$13,000	\$13,500
Sullivan, Powers & Co.	\$13,200	\$13,500	\$13,700

It was noted that Fothergill Segale & Valley has conducted the last three audits for the Town.

Dave Tilton made a motion to accept the proposal submitted by Fothergill Segale & Valley based on cost as well as being satisfied with the services provided by the firm in the past three years, seconded by Allison Hope. Motion passed: 2-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

A resident has requested an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act for Town Meeting. Nanette is looking into options.

Pat Haller provided notice that in the next few weeks, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will be moving in equipment to do some wild-life enhancement patch cuts (large) on his property. Pat provided notice to the Town and school given that the work will be occurring close to one of the school trails and people are likely to see/hear the "destruction." The work is being done in accordance with the property's forestry plan and under a grant from the NRCS.

Allison advised that she attended the closing for the transfer of property owned by David and Lynn Gauthier to the Town and the Pouliots. The process went smoothly.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Tilton, Vice Chair
Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Administrator

TOWN OF WESTFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
GUEST LIST

Date: January 25, 2018

Name (please print)

Address

Bobbie Hedley

1888 VT RT 128

Julia Andrews

29 Audry Ln

Geoff M. Thomas

284 Crary Road

Dan McLean

1888 Route 128

Bill Cleary

56 Beaver Pond Rd.

Laura Rawls

898 OSGOOD Hill Rd