

Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2015

Attendees:

Carol Olsen

Mike Kuban

Mike Button (via phone)

Carl Hubbell

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Adjustments to Agenda:**

Additions and Deletions were discussed. Carol Olsen added Water Department billing would become item 7 on the agenda with adjournment becoming item 8.

**Approval of Minutes:**

a. Mike Kuban moved to approve the October 29, 2014 minutes as written with Michael Button seconding the motion. All were in favor and it was so moved.

b. Mike Kuban moved to approve the December 30, 2014 and January 6, 2015 meeting minutes as written with Michael Button seconding the motion. All were in favor and it was so moved.

**Approve the Annual Warning and Budget:**

a. Michael Button reported he met with Jane Cushman, Treasurer, and changed the actual spent for highway operations by \$8,000.00. The board discussed the highway operations line item and upon further review they were comfortable with the proposed budget created for the 2015 year. It represents a five and a half percent increase in the municipal budget to be raised by taxes which is primarily driven by the money on hand left over this year. Mike Button reported he had a conversation with Mr. Douglas Lyford on the budgeted amount for bridges and culverts. Mr. Lyford expressed discontent about the amount allocated for that line item. He is exploring grant funding opportunities for Moxley Bridge and is worried there will not be enough money for a matching grant. The Board maintains their funding for this line item is consistent with the past amounts budgeted and until the Town receives a grant, the Town would not know the matching amount needed. Moxley Bridge is a historic landmark and the Board feels the need more than ever for a Capital Budget Plan and it should encompass bridges in its scope of work. Mr. Lyford could have approached the Board at earlier in the year to express his desire for a larger budget amount for bridges and culverts. Mr. Lyford was invited to come to Town Meeting, as all line items from the budget may be amended from the floor as needed. The Board discussed the warning for Town meeting. Mike Button reported two positions for Auditor this year as Mr. Nolan Riegler had phoned him to report he would be residing in a different Town and gave a verbal resignation.

b. Water /Sewer Funds not discussed.

Mike Kuban moved to approve the annual Town Warning and Budget as written with Michael Button seconding the motion. All were in favor and it was so moved.

**Orange County Sheriff Department Contract:**

Carol Olsen reported Karen Lathrop had contacted Sheriff Bohnyak as tasked and received verbal permission from Sheriff Bohnyak to cross out Section Five of the agreement which was "Administrative Costs". Mike Kuban also noted the amended Section Twelve, "Pending acceptance of budget at Town Meeting". The Board agreed on \$12,000.00 for contract agreement. Mike Kuban moved to approved the contract with Orange County Sheriff's Department for 2015 with Mike Button seconding the motion. All were in favor and it was so moved.

**Highway Department:**

a. Mike K moved to adopt the State Road and Bridge Standards as written with Mike Button seconding the motion. All were in favor and it was so moved. The Selectboard signed the document.

b. Board already signed a Certificate of Highway Mileage but the State sent the form around with an incorrect year and this is a corrected copy for the Board to sign.

c. Mike Kuban informed the Board nothing new to report on garage project but would like to invite Chuck Goodling and any other Dubois & King representative to the February 3, 2015 Selectboard meeting to discuss the next phase of the project and whether we will be using their services. There was debate on whether the Board should discuss this ahead of time. Mike Kuban stated Dubois & King would be responsible for management of the project and billing but would not provide a full time clerk of the works. He thought the amount for the next phase was \$40,000.00 Mike reiterated this would be an informational meeting only. The Board would like Mike Kuban to contact the contractor, Mr. Ruggles from Ruggco Inc. with questions on construction management they feel needed. There is a question of duplication of services that need to be ironed out. Mike Button feels Karen Lathrop should be kept in the loop and if Mike Kuban has a face to face meeting to please include Karen.

d. Mike asked if Karen left literature on bridge 9 and 11 for the Board concerning the update on them. Carol stated the two eight day closures make more sense to her than the four day closures with half a bridge. She has concerns on how it will impact the annual flea market, school graduation, not to mention Tunbridge Fair. The Board agreed they should appoint one of themselves as a Selectboard representative to bring these concerns to the State at the next public meeting scheduled for this summer. Mike Kuban has spoken with Linda Kuban and John Upham about coverage and they have assured him it would be simple to relocate one of the two ambulances or fire trucks to cover the side of Town that has the bridge closure. No action taken.

**Solid Waste Department**

a. Carol ask Carl Hubbell if he knew about the Compost Bin Sale. Karen left literature for them to look at. Carl Hubbell offered to take the compost bin sale information to the school to see if they would like to have a fundraiser. There was general discussion on the upcoming changes at the Transfer Station. No action taken.

**Water Department:**

a. Carol stated the Town cannot change how we are billing until we amend the outdated ordinance. She reported Karen Lathrop has received the Village of Newbury's ordinance to compare with our own ordinance for the purpose of updating and amending said ordinance. Carol Olsen gave a general synopsis of what the Town has looked into and what has been done to date on the Water System. Recent repairs to two large leaks in the system has brought the current meter readings to within matching levels of water being pumped out which would let the Town go forward with a new billing system based on an a fixed base fee and a usage fee. Karen to be tasked to check in with VLCT on legal procedures for amendment of an ordinance. Pertaining to the current bills for the three water users that have been shut off, the Board agrees on consistency until amended water/sewer ordinance is in place and bills will not be sent to them. Mr. Hubbell expressed many people will not be in favor of this change to the water billing.

**Adjournment:**

Mike Kuban moved to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. with Mike Button seconding the motion. All were in favor and it was so moved.

