

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Laurie Colgan and Christopher Martin; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Health Officer James Arisman; Animal Control Officer Mia Roethlein; Listers Meg Eberhardt and Kathleen Hayes; School Board Chair Patrick Healy; Wes Cate (Energy Committee)

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: Old Schoolhouse Common

Public Comment: none

Review and Approval of Minutes: approved minutes of January 8, 2019 and approved minutes of January 17, 2019 with one minor change.

Dog and Health Complaints: Health Officer James Arisman received a complaint from Greg Breer about living conditions and the treatment of dogs in an apartment in his residence at 108 Folsom Hill Road. He visited the apartment with Greg and found unclean conditions and dogs living in crates. There is a strong odor of urine that is permeating the entire building. He sent a notice of violation to the tenant but has not been able to reinspect. He notified Animal Control Officer Mia Roethlein. She reviewed the photos and the report. She issued a notice of violation. She has also received a complaint from another neighbor. Mia is attempting to convince the tenants to give up the dogs. If they refuse, the Town can ask for a warrant to seize the dogs. She spoke with one of the tenants, Zack Pierce. He indicated that he has moved out and left the care to the other tenant, Alyssa Pierce. The Board discussed whether or not to issue a health order. Greg is seeking an eviction but that can take time. James and Mia will continue to work on this and report back to the Selectboard at their next meeting.

GMP Dam Update: Rich Baker updated the Board on the status of the case before the Public Utilities Commission. The dam safety inspection found that although the emergency spillway is not likely to be needed, it is in bad shape and needs to be fixed by 2020. The notification procedure is outlined in the GMP emergency response plan but it does not include individual notifications – GMP contacts the Fire Department. The hope is that VTAlert could be used to notify residents. Someone from VTAlert will attend the next Selectboard meeting to explain how it works. The Fire Department will be asked to attend to discuss the VTAlert system and the siren at the fire station. Rich noted that the system could be used for other issues in town. Regarding the emergency spillway, he feels that we can rely on the PUC to make sure everything is taken care of. If we are not happy with the PUC findings, we could appeal the permit but we would need to hire an attorney. Rich questions whether the Town should hire an attorney. He doesn't think we should at this point. Chris and Laurie agreed, noting that there are many people watching the process.

Wes Cate asked whether the Plainfield siren could also be used. That could be discussed at the next meeting.

Reappraisal: The Listers have prepared a draft Request for Proposal for a reappraisal. The Board and Listers discussed minor changes to the draft. The Listers will incorporate the suggested changes and they will bring another draft to the next meeting. The Town is not mandated to reappraise yet, but appraisal firms are booking a few years out.

School Budget: Patrick Healy addressed the Board about the proposed school budget. The tax rate in Marshfield is increasing by 6.5¢, mostly due to a decrease in the number of students. The budget as prepared includes a decrease of 4.5 positions. He noted that enrollment has been declining steadily over at least the last 10 years. He explained that moving to the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union is going to save approximately \$60,000. He noted that someone has expressed interest in the school board position, but since town meeting is so close, the Board will let people know that there is a vacancy, and wait for the voters to elect a replacement.

Town Report: The Board completed their report for inclusion in the town report.

Warning for Town Meeting: The Selectboard signed the Warning for Town Meeting.

Old Schoolhouse Common: The Board approved a request from the National Honor Society to waive the rental fee for their fundraiser.

Request for Increased Comp Time: An employee asked to be allowed to accrue more than the allowed 40 hours of comp time. The Board did not approve the request, but will allow the employee to take 40 hours of unpaid time if requested.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the January 22, 2019 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
