

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 8, 2020, via Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Laurie Colgan; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitor: Game Warden Mike Scott

At 6:04 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: promissory note, radon, bears, workers comp, Ducharme

Public Comment: none

Review and Approval of Minutes: Approved minutes of 6/16/20

Bears: Warden Mike Scott explained that there have been numerous bear complaints this year. Outside the village, people can deal with the issues but in the village it is more difficult for people to keep their trash where bears can't get to it. There is no daily trash service, so they are forced to put their trash outside. Even when the cans are ratcheted, the bears will still come. He feels that it is becoming a public safety issue. Euthanasia is not the answer because there are several bears involved. He suggests having a community dumpster and having residents contribute to the cost of the dumpster. The bears usually stop becoming a problem in September when there is more wild food available. He noted that the bear population is higher than it has been since pre-colonial times, and Marshfield abuts primary bear habitat. The bears are in the Village because they are very territorial and the less successful bears get pushed into marginal areas, the areas where bears and people interact. The attraction of unsecured trash is the issue. This will be an issue next year because sows will teach cubs where to go to find food. The problem will get worse over the years. They will stop being a problem if they are not getting food. Chris asked about dogs. The warden stated that bear dogs are very effective but not a good solution near Route 2. Bobbi has talked to the Village clerk about it to see if she would be willing to coordinate a community dumpster. The Selectboard has no objections to the Village placing a dumpster at the Old Schoolhouse Common.

Solid Waste Districts: Rich contacted Paul Tomasi, Director of NEKWMD. We pay 0.90 per capita. They instituted the fee a couple of years ago for new equipment. If we left the district, we would have to pay approximately \$4,700 to pay off our share of the debt. CVSWD doesn't seem to offer anything extra, so it doesn't make sense to Rich to leave NEKWMD. He also talked to Paul about the cost of the Cabot recycling center. He noted that some of the costs apply solely to Cabot residents, and some of the costs could be covered by an increased bag fee. He feels that the costs that were presented by Cabot include items that Marshfield shouldn't be responsible for. Paul feels that we shouldn't be paying for bulk waste that is only open to Cabot residents, and the attendant collects bags for a private business so the business should pay. The Board will ask to be put on the agenda of a Cabot Selectboard meeting to get more information. Rich will attend a meeting on the Board's behalf. The Board discussed the possibility of having a town-wide waste and recycling contract. Chris will follow up with a couple of haulers to see if they have any ideas.

COVID – Discussion of the Old Schoolhouse Common procedures. The Board will allow the front door to remain unlocked, with a sign that only employees and library patrons can go through the inner doors. Access will be restricted to the library, town office, and tenants only. The Selectboard authorized Bobbi to order a new laptop and install a few outlets to allow for office reorganization for better social distancing. The Board asked Bobbi to look into whether a new door for an alternate entrance to the Library would be eligible as a COVID expense.

Personnel: Shane Brickey should be able to come back to work the week of July 27th.

Ducharme: Chris talked to Gerard Ducharme. He told Chris that most of what is out there was inside the garage. He had to clean everything out to put in a concrete floor. He has already taken two loads to the scrap metal yard. He hopes to have the rest of it cleaned up by the fall. He is not starting a junk business.

Truck Loan: The Board approved a promissory note from the Municipal Equipment Loan Fund in the amount of \$110,000 and authorized Bobbi to sign it on their behalf.

Flag: Mike Baril will donate his time and bucket truck to help fix the flag pole at the Old Schoolhouse Common.

Radon: The fourth air-handling unit is being installed this week. The Board authorized Bobbi to have some outlets installed for the new units.

Personnel: Chris moved at 7:10 to go into exec session. Laurie seconded – all in favor. The Board returned to open session at 7:40.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll, and authorized Rich to sign on behalf of the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the July 8, 2020 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
